



Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

A - 1 **Opening Call to Order**

(a) Roll Call

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest

(c) Welcome/Land Acknowledgement

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, as the longstanding peoples of this territory. We honour, recognize, and respect these communities as well as all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples who reside within the Grand Erie District School Board. We are all stewards of these lands and waters where we now gather, learn and play, and commit to working together in the spirit of Reconciliation.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

"THAT the Finance Committee Meeting agenda be approved."

C - 1 **Approval of the Minutes**

* *"THAT the Minutes of the Finance Committee dated April 8, 2024 be approved."*

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous Meetings**

E - 1 **New Business**

* (a) Core Education De-Brief 2024-25 (R. Wyszynski) (I)

(b) Budget Survey 2024-25 (R. Wyszynski) (I)

F - 1 **Other Business**

G - 1 **Adjournment**

"THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned."

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** June 10, 2024



Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Committee Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: G. Anderson, S. Gibson, L. Passmore, T. Sault, E. Thomas, T. Waldschmidt

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: P. Ashe, J. Tozer, R. Wyszynski, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken, Executive Assistant: C. Dero

Regrets: Trustee J. Bradford

Guests: Manager C. Smith, Manager A. Van Doorn

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair B. Doyle at 6:30 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

(b) **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** – Nil

(c) **Welcome/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Committee Chair B. Doyle read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Finance Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **February 12, 2024**

Moved by: L. Passmore

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Minutes of the Finance Committee dated February 12, 2024, be approved.

Carried

D - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes/Previous Meetings** – Nil

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Quarterly Budget Report**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Budget Process Update**

Presented as printed.

In response to a question, enrolment projections for Paris, Southwest Brantford and Caledonia are planned accordingly through boundary reviews and new builds.

F - 1 **Other Business** – Nil



Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

G - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** June 10, 2024



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Rafal Wyszynski, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer
RE: **Core Education De-Brief 2024-25**
DATE: May 6, 2024

Background

Providing updates during the development of the budget is a critical phase within the budget process. This involves a comprehensive review of various factors that impact the Grand Erie District School Board's (Grand Erie) finances. This report will summarize the Ministry's recently announced Education Funding model to the sector.

Information

The 2024-25 funding formula has been significantly restructured for the first time in 25 years. To align with the "Better Schools and Student Outcomes" the formula has been made simpler to understand, strengthens school board accountability and renames the funding model to match its intended purpose.

Core Education Funding (Core Ed) is the restructured version of Grants for Student Needs (GSN). It will comprise of six funding pillars and 28 allocations, supporting the "back to basics" focus for the 2024-25 school year. Total funding is estimated to be \$29.0 billion, \$28.6 billion of Core Ed and \$402.9 million of Responsive Education Programs (REP) and External Partner Funding (FEP).

Highlights

- Core Education Funding, (CER), was released April 26, 2024.
- Capital Funding becomes Building, Expanding and Renewing Schools (BERS).
- Responsive Education Programs (REP) replaces Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF).
- Third Party Funding has been renamed Funding for External Partners (FEP).

Restructuring the Funding Formula

To expand accountability a new School Board Financial Transparency Tool, which includes an easy-to-follow financial dashboard for each school board, has been created.

- The tool and dashboards will convey key financial and non-financial information in an easy-to-understand format which will be posted on the Ontario.ca website, such as how much funding is received, how funding is spent, and class size information. Users will be able to compare this information between school boards, to a regional average as well as to the provincial average.
- To ensure access to all parents, school boards will be required to create an "Enhanced Reporting" section on the home page of their public facing websites and post a link to the School Board Financial Transparency Tool on the Ontario.ca website.

The six funding pillars of Core Education (Core Ed) are as follows:

- 1. Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF):** The Classroom Staffing Fund supports most staff that work in classrooms, including teachers, early childhood educators (ECEs) in kindergarten classrooms and some Educational Assistants (EAs). Note that the primary source of funding for EAs is the Special Education Fund.
- 2. Learning Resources Fund (LRF):** The Learning Resources Fund supports the costs of staffing typically required outside of the classroom to support student needs, such as teacher-librarians/library technicians, guidance counsellors, mental health workers, school management staff, as well as non-staffing classroom costs such as learning materials and classroom equipment.
- 3. Special Education Fund (SEF):** The Special Education Fund supports positive outcomes for students with special education needs. This funding is for the additional costs of the programs, services and/or equipment these students may require.
- 4. School Facilities Fund (SFF):** The School Facilities Fund supports operating (including cleaning and utilities), maintaining, renovating, and renewing school buildings. It also provides additional support for students in rural and northern communities.
- 5. Student Transportation Fund (STF):** The Student Transportation Fund supports the transportation of students between home and school.
- 6. School Board Administration Fund (SBAF):** The School Board Administration Fund supports governance and administration costs for the operation of the school board, including its board offices and facilities, as well as for parent engagement activities.

Key Investments and Updates

- Labour related: Updates to salary benchmarks and other funding elements are being made to reflect:
 - A \$1 per hour increase in education worker salary benchmarks in the 2024–25 school year over the 2023–24 school year. This reflects the ratified Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW) and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) education workers central agreements, and a labour provision for other education worker unions.
 - A 1.25% increase for teacher salary benchmarks in the 2024–25 school year over the 2023–24 school year as a labour provision.
 - The Principals' and Vice-Principals' terms and conditions of employment, which expired August 31, 2023. Salary benchmarks for these staff remain unchanged in the 2024–25 school year from the 2023–24 school year, until such time as new terms and conditions are reached.
 - Employee Life and Health Trust benefits funding amounts are being adjusted for CUPE, OCEW, ETFO teachers and education workers to reflect the negotiated increases for the 2024–25 school year as part of their 2022-26 central terms. The funding will also be adjusted for the 2022-23 (retroactive) and 2023-24 (in-year) school years for ETFO teachers, ETFO education workers and AEFO.
- Census: The Ministry has begun to a five-year phase-in for 2021 Statistics Canada census.
- Updates to the student transportation funding formula.

Transfer of Professional Assessments Funding into Core Ed

- Funding of \$11.5 million for professional assessments is moving from what was previously known as the PPF (now Responsive Education Programs) into Core Ed. This funding is intended for school boards to conduct professional assessments (e.g., speech and language, psycho-educational) and help reduce wait times. It also addresses learning recovery following COVID-19-related learning disruption.

Sunsetting COVID-19 Related Funding

The Safe and Clean Schools Supplement, introduced in 2023-24, was related to COVID-19 and is now being sunset as normal operations in school boards have resumed. This funding, which provided additional support for salaries and benefits costs of additional professionals and paraprofessionals, EAs and custodians, was supplemental to existing amounts in the GSN.

Keeping Up with Costs, Ongoing Implementation, and Other Technical Adjustments

- Non-staff Benchmarks
 - The Ministry is providing a 2 per cent cost update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark in the School Facilities Fund to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e., electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs).
- Supports for Students Fund (SSF)
 - The SSF provides flexible funding to school boards to support the learning needs of students. The SSF is continuing in the 2024–25 school year as agreed to in the 2022-26 central agreements. For employee groups without central agreements, school boards should continue to use this funding for its intended purpose under respective central agreements for appropriate employee groups.
- Summer Learning Program (SLP)
 - The formula within the SLP component of the Continuing Education and Other Programs Allocation within the Learning Resources Fund is being updated to hold each school board's total funding allocation to at least the same amount received in Summer 2023.
- Differentiated Funding for Online Learning
 - The online learning and the in-person and remote learning credit load benchmarks are being updated for the fourth year of a multi-year trajectory. Reflecting the required online credits.

Capital Funding

- School Condition Improvement (SCI) **\$17,331,06**
 - SCI is a capital renewal program that allows school boards to revitalize and renew aged building components that have exceeded or will exceed their useful life cycle. Items eligible for SCI funding are identified through the Ministry's School Facility Condition Assessment Program.
- School Renewal Allocation **\$6,122,828**
 - The School Renewal Allocation (SRA) is now part of the School Facilities Fund under Core Education Funding. This funding allows school boards to revitalize and renew aged building systems and components.
- Capital Planning Capacity **\$163,370**
 - The CPC program is intended to help school boards develop capital plans to effectively manage their capital assets. Identify and develop potential facility partnership opportunities. Provide support to hire third-party services to facilitate municipal/board planning discussions and collaboration.
- Temporary Accommodation Allocation **\$843,031**
 - This funding may be used for portable moves, leases, and purchases, as well as for lease costs for instructional space.

Responsive Education Programs (REP) formerly known as Priority and Partnership Funding (PPF)

Grand Erie District School Board	2023-24	2024-25
Critical Physical Security Infrastructure		139,200
De-streaming Implementation Supports	x	39,700
Early Reading Enhancements: Reading Screening Tools	x	175,200
Education Staff to Support Reading Interventions	x	997,900
Entrepreneurship Education Pilot Projects	x	30,000
Experiential Professional Learning for Guidance Teacher-Counsellors	x	46,500
Health Resources, Training and Supports	x	15,800
Indigenous Graduation Coach Program	x	282,800
Learn and Work Bursary	x	21,000
Licences and Supports for Reading Programs and Interventions	x	170,800
Math Achievement Action Plan: Board Math Leads	x	166,600
Math Achievement Action Plan: Digital Math Tools	x	200,100
Math Achievement Action Plan: School Math Facilitators	x	987,200
Mental Health Strategy Supports - Emerging Needs		16,200
Skilled Trades Bursary Program	x	14,000
Special Education Additional Qualifications (AQ) Subsidy for Educators	x	13,400
Special Education Needs Transition Navigators		114,200
Summer Learning for Students with Special Education Needs	x	135,400
Summer Mental Health Supports	x	186,200
Grand Erie District School Board Total		3,752,200

X = 2023-24 PPF

Discontinued REPs:

- Special Education - Professional Assessments
 - Transferred to Core Ed (2023-24: \$154,700)
- Staffing to Support De-Streaming and Transition to High School
 - Funding discontinued (2023-24 \$1.25 million)

Updates to the Funding Formula

Streamlining and simplifying the Education Funding Formula.

The Core Ed formula comprises six funds (previously 18 GSN grants), which contain a total of 28 allocations (previously 77 GSN allocations).

Funding for some programs has been split across multiple funds based on the intent of the allocations.

Fund	Allocations	
I. Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF)	1. CSF – Per Pupil Allocation	
	2. Language Classroom Staffing Allocation	
	3. Local Circumstances Staffing Allocation	
	4. Indigenous Education Classroom Staffing Allocation	
	5. Supplemental Staffing Allocation - Literacy, Numeracy and Other Programs	
II. Learning Resources Fund (LRF)	6. LRF – Per Pupil Allocation	
	7. Language Supports and Local Circumstances Allocation	
	8. Indigenous Education Supports Allocation	
	9. Mental Health and Wellness Allocation	
	10. Student Safety and Well-Being Allocation	
	11. Continuing Education and Other Programs Allocation	
	12. School Management Allocation	
	13. Differentiated Supports Allocation – Demographic, Socioeconomic and Other Indicators	
	III. Special Education Fund (SEF)	14. SEF – Per Pupil Allocation
		15. Differentiated Needs Allocation
16. Complex Supports Allocation		
17. Specialized Equipment Allocation		
IV. School Facilities Fund (SFF)	18. School Operations Allocation	
	19. School Renewal Allocation	
	20. Rural and Northern Education Allocation	
V. Student Transportation Fund (STF)	21. Transportation Services Allocation	
	22. School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation	
	23. Transportation to Provincial or Demonstration Schools Allocation	
VI. School Board Administration Fund (SBAF)	24. Trustees and Parent Engagement Allocation	
	25. Board-Based Staffing Allocation	
	26. Central Employer Bargaining Agency Fees Allocation	
	27. Data Management and Audit Allocation	
	28. Declining Enrolment Adjustment Allocation	

Strengthening Transparency and School Board Accountability

- The following new requirements are being made to strengthen transparency and school board accountability:
 - The Student Safety and Well-being Allocation under the Learning Resources Fund is being limited to student safety and well-being expenses.
 - School facilities and student transportation expenses shall not exceed the total funding generated through the Student Transportation Fund and School Facilities Fund plus up to a maximum of 5 per cent of the total amount generated through the classroom
 - The Ministry will monitor school board compliance with the envelope and review the compliance framework for future years.
 - School boards' total administration spending will now be subject to a school board administration expense limit to bring consistency to school board administration spending. The expense limit is calculated as \$2.1 million per school board plus 3.5 per cent of each school board's total operating expenses.
 - **\$15 million for Grand Erie**

Senior Administration will use this information to develop a balanced 2024-25 Estimates budget. Resources will be allocated to ensure that Ministry initiatives and Grand Erie goals and objectives are reflected in the development of our expenses.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and all the indicators of Learn Lead Inspire.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer