



# MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release  
June 24, 2015

---

## Grand Erie Budget Renews School Conditions for Better Programs

**Brantford ON** – Trustees approved a \$299 million budget that includes investments to support the renewal of specialized program classrooms such as hospitality spaces, technology shops, and cosmetology rooms as well as the renewal of the Board’s commitment to educational technology.

“Delivering a balanced budget for the upcoming year is a priority,” said Carol Ann Sloat, Chair of the Board. “Difficult decisions were made to continue our investments in quality programming for students.”

Changes in the Ministry of Education’s Funding Formula made this year’s budget process a challenge. Reductions in the Pupil Accommodation and Special Education funding areas presented significant pressures on the Board to allocate its resources equitably.

Despite these financial changes, this budget successfully delivers on a number of program investments that will benefit students. The budget allocates \$750,000 to fund the renewal of specialized program classrooms to support regular instructional courses as well as programs such as Specialist High Skills Majors, Dual Credits and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program.

The Board has successfully upgraded secondary school science labs to meet industry standards in previous years. The renewal of the specialized program classroom allocation will become an intentional item in future budgets to continue the work of updating specialized program spaces in all Grand Erie schools.

Additional programs that will receive funding from the budget include:

- **Compensatory Education** budget includes enhanced allocation of staff and learning resources to schools with the greatest needs
- **Educational Technology Plan** continues with a budget commitment of \$2.5 million and three staff positions to support the ongoing success of the program that contributes to higher levels of student engagement
- **Student Success** remains committed to serving secondary students in alternative school environments through the Turning Point program where 22 classes will continue to serve more than 375 students

“We have to be open-minded in our approach that creatively allows us to balance the budget and protect the programs and services that are important to students,” said Sloat. “Finding efficiencies through our energy reduction and conservation strategy is one way we are able to minimize the impact of the new fiscal pressures.”

- 30 -

**Contact:**

Shawn McKillop  
Manager of Communications and Community Relations  
Office: 519.756.6301 ext. 281147 | Cell: 1.905.978.1417

[www.granderie.ca](http://www.granderie.ca)