



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release
June 23, 2016

Grand Erie's New Direction Reflected in Budget

Brantford, ON – Grand Erie approved its 2016-17 operating budget in the amount of \$301 million and used its recently approved 2016-2020 multi-year plan to direct the placement of resources.

“Success for every student is at the centre of our new multi-year plan and this budget,” said David Dean, Chair of the Board. “In order to meet our goals set in the four-year plan, we have aligned our annual budget to achieve these outcomes.”

The indicators that will support the Board's goal and the connection to this year's budget highlights include:

- **Achievement:** The Compensatory Education Plan will continue to provide supports in the amount of \$1.7 million directing more staff and learning resources to schools with the greatest needs. In addition, funds from the Ministry of Education are being utilized to support a Renewed Math Strategy.
- **Well-Being:** Staffing for Educational Assistants is set to increase by three positions to support the health and safety needs of students across the system.
- **Equity:** A new itinerant English-as-a-Second Language teacher will be hired to support Grand Erie's new Canadian students. A renewed commitment to the Safe and Accepting Schools portfolio in the amount of \$545,000 will also be in place.
- **Environment:** School Condition Improvement funding in the amount of \$750,000 will continue to support the renewal of specialized program classrooms.
- **Technology:** The Educational Technology Initiative will move forward in its seventh year in the amount of \$2.5 million to bring more computers and educational software to the classroom. Two itinerant teaching positions will continue to support the initiative.
- **Community:** Parent engagement funds will increase to \$50,000 to support School Councils and provide opportunities to enhance parent involvement.

The 2016-17 operating budget has increased by 0.75 per cent from the previous year. The year-over-year rate of enrolment decrease for 2016-17 is projected to be 1.56 per cent compared to a high annual decline rate of 2.45 per cent in 2007-08. Elementary enrolment has stabilized with the implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten now complete. The five-year projected trend sees total enrolment leveling at approximately 26,000 students.

“We're setting a new direction in the Grand Erie District School Board with a focus on students and staff in a culture of high expectations,” said Brenda Blancher, Director of Education. “Our multi-year plan has focused our resources and energies, which is reflected in this year's budget, and demonstrates our commitment to student achievement and well-being.”

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