



The Leader

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Regular Meeting of the Board

September 23, 2024

All reports for this meeting can be found [here](#).

Learn Lead Inspire Awards

Learn Lead Inspire awards honour the students, staff members and community members whose efforts each day stand out in contributing to Grand Erie's collective goals and priorities in building a culture of learning, well-being and belonging.

Charlie Yetman – École Confédération

Charlie Yetman exemplifies the spirit of the Learn Lead Inspire vision through her kind-hearted nature and dedication to personal growth. Through her talent for craft and textile arts, she has expanded her leadership capacity and used these disciplines to build up those around her. Charlie shares her skills readily, teaching peers various techniques, and in doing so, inspires others to see their own capabilities and creative potential. Her commitment to her craft has paid off. Recently, Charlie attended a national competition hosted by Quilt Canada, and took home the top prize in the youth category. She looks forward to entering the competition next year and competing in the adult category. She continues to pursue her passions both in and outside school, adding crocheting and knitting to her creative practices. She is the first to offer a helping hand, listens with an open mind, and consistently pushes herself to be the best learner and leader she can – a true inspiration to her teachers and peers.



Above: Charlie Yetman's family shared in her honour.



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Learn Lead Inspire Awards Contd.

Barkev Poladian – École Confédération

Barkev Poladian, vice-principal at École Confédération, is an authentic leader. As an administrator, he is honest and open, building trust by showing vulnerability. He builds meaningful, authentic connections with team members, seeing each person's unique needs and aspirations. With students, staff, and families, he prioritizes needs effectively and offers support through a compassionate lens. Barkev motivates others by sharing a compelling vision for what is possible through creative thinking and problem-solving. He embodies Grand Erie's Learn Lead Inspire vision by fostering a culture of innovation, creating excitement and energy around shared goals, and inspiring and empowering team members to embrace growth and learning opportunities. As a leader, Barkev models resilience. In the face of adversity, he maintains professionalism, kindness, and optimism, keeping perspective on what is truly important. His compassion and steadfast commitment are an ongoing example of the Board's mission to build a culture of learning, well-being and belonging.



Above: Barkev Poladian's family accepted the award on his behalf while he attended virtually

Construction Updates

A status update on major projects happening across Grand Erie was provided, including details of progress and schedules for completion. The Caledonia joint-use elementary school has received Ministry approval to proceed and the tender has been released, with the general construction contract awarded to Tambro Construction Ltd with work now underway. The school is on track to open its doors in September 2025. The South-West Brantford joint-use elementary school also has Ministry approval to proceed, with general construction awarded to Aquicon Construction and work underway. Expected completion is September 2026. The child-care extension at Banbury Heights Elementary School is in progress, with general construction being handled by TRP Construction.



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Reflections on Summer Learning

Grand Erie continued to offer rich and engaging learning options this past summer, building on past success and launching new, innovative programs to enhance language, math and technology skills, offer credits, make new connections and prepare for a smooth transition into the 2024-25 school year. Camp SAIL hosted 125 students in grades 2 to 4 across five sites over three weeks working on math and literacy and engaging games and theme days, providing an educational summer camp environment. Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) hosted skilled trades camps, with nearly 200 students taking part in specialized areas including welding, small engines and hospitality. Additional qualifications courses were offered to educators, with 157 taking part in a variety of curriculum areas. In addition, the Summer Institute supported staff professional development with 240 participants and 21 sessions overall, aligning with Grand Erie's Learning and Operating Plan.



Director's Report Highlights

Grand Beginnings

The first day of school brought students and staff ready to learn, lead and inspire in the year ahead. Director Roberto visited Graham Bell-Victoria Public School and Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School where the positive energy was high, and social media was abuzz with the same enthusiasm. Safety was also a focus, with Grand Erie partnering with Brantford Police and Fire on hand to ensure the first day, and every day, allows students to put their best feet forward. Four schools were selected to receive on-site representation from police and first responders this year including Cedarland Public School, King George School, Russell Reid Public School and Walter Gretzky Elementary School.





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Summer Facility Improvements

Summer is always a busy time for the Facility Services team. Over the past few months, many upgrade projects were completed including gymnasium improvements at Dunnville Secondary School and Jarvis Public School, learning commons completions at Brier Park Public School and Grand Erie Learning Alternatives, and dozens of other projects across the district.

Supporting Safety

Once again, Grand Erie is pleased to support the Children's Safety Village of Brant. Over the years, this charitable foundation has provided thousands of learners with hands-on personal safety training and school safety patroller training.



In Memoriam

In-memoriam statements were read to honour Luke Johnson, a Grade 2 student at Lakewood Elementary School, and Erica Smith, a Grade 11 student at Paris District High School. We offer our deepest condolences to Luke's and Erica's families, friends, the Lakewood Elementary School and Paris District High School communities and everyone connected to these losses.

Multi-Year Plan Stories

In 2021, Grand Erie approved a new strategic direction to guide the school board's work. At the centre of this multi-year plan is the vision to Learn, Lead and Inspire, and a mission to build a culture of Learning, Well-Being and Belonging for each learner. Here are some of the most recent stories related to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Well-Being

- School Zone Safety Makes for a Grand Beginning
- Grand Erie Goes Green Again with EcoSchools

Belonging

- Grand Erie Adding Space to Serve Growing Community
- Breaking Ground in West Brant