



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2026

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

Present: Chair: B. Doyle, Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, S. Gibson, L. Passmore, E. Thomas, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, T. Waldschmidt, L. Whiton, Student Trustees: P. Singh, R. Staats, H. Thompson

Administration: Director: J. Roberto, Superintendents: D. Atanas, K. Graham, L. Thompson, J. Tozer, R. Vankerbroeck, J. White, R. Wyszynski, Associate Director: L. Munro Senior Manager R. Strang, Senior Executive Assistant C. Dero, Recording Secretary: K. Ireland-Aitken

A - 1 **Opening (6:30 p.m.)**

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Doyle confirmed roll call and welcomed Student Trustee-elect Ruby Sanghera to the meeting, who will join Student Trustee Thompson and Student Trustee Staats, both returning for the 2026–27 school year.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:31 p.m.)**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

Carried

(d) **Welcome to Open Session/Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Chair Doyle read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Mohawk Teaching**

Trustee VanEvery-Albert provided a Mohawk Teaching.

(f) **Call to Order**

Chair Doyle called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

(g) **Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended to include the Special Policy and Program Committee report as a laydown for Alternative Education and be reflected in the revised package. A memorial for Tumbler Ridge was shared by the Chair of the Board.

Carried

(h) **Memorial**

Chair Doyle read a memorial to honour the staff, students, and families of Peace River South School District No. 59 in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.



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(i) **In-Camera Report**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

That the Board direct the Chair of the Board to issue an invitation to the Minister of Education to discuss governance with the Board of Trustees.

Recorded Vote

Vice-Chair Gibson – no

Trustee VanEvery-Albert – yes

Trustee Sault – yes

Trustee Whiton – yes

Trustee Passmore – no

Trustee Waldschmidt – no

Trustee Sloat – yes

Trustee Collver – yes

Trustee Anderson – no

Trustee Thomas – no

Trustee Bradford – yes

Chair Doyle – yes

Carried

(j) **Learn Lead Inspire Awards**

Director Roberto presented a Learn Lead Inspire Award to crossing guard Terry Osborne of Banbury Heights in recognition of her warmth, attentiveness, and commitment to student safety. Through her daily interactions, she fosters trust, connection, and a welcoming school community.

Director Roberto presented a Learn Lead Inspire Award to Violet Lamont, a student at Paris District High School, in recognition of her exceptional commitment to service, leadership, and community involvement, including more than 1,100 hours of volunteer service and contributions to her school's music program.

Director Roberto presented a Learn Lead Inspire Award to Meghan Daley, an educator at Jarvis Public School, in recognition of her lasting impact on students and families through her commitment to inclusive, supportive learning environments and her compassionate leadership in supporting students and families facing complex circumstances.

(k) **Student Showcase**

Superintendent Graham introduced Neely Chase and Dave Tunikaitis, who presented the Broken Spokes program, a partnership between the Youth Impact Centre, Dunnville Secondary School, Haldimand County, and the Reach-Ahead Transportation Technology course. The program provides students with hands-on learning through bicycle refurbishment while contributing positively to the community.

Superintendent Atanas introduced the Words Matter campaign. The campaign equips educators with practical tools and empowers students to respond to discriminatory language. As part of the presentation, students Adele from River Heights School and Joel from Russell Reid Public School shared poetry connected to the campaign.



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(I) **Delegation** – Nil

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board accept the February 23, 2026 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

(a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) Annual Board meeting dated November 24, 2025

(ii) Regular Board meeting dated November 24, 2025

(b) Receive the minutes of:

(i) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee dated May 29, 2025

(ii) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee dated October 23, 2025

(iii) Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee dated October 23, 2025

(iv) Special Education Advisory Committee dated November 6, 2025

(v) Student Senate dated November 20, 2025

(vi) Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 4, 2025

(vii) Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 8, 2026

Carried

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Special Education Advisory Committee Report dated January 8, 2026**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

That the Board approve the appointment of Lorraine DeJong as a Community Representative on SEAC, the appointment of Tiffany Morgan as the representative for Lansdowne Children's Centre, and the appointment of Nicole Schween as the representative for Woodview Mental Health & Autism Services.

Carried

(b) **Policy and Program Committee Report dated January 12, 2026**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: S. Gibson

THAT the Board approve the draft School Year Calendars 2026-27.

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Secondary by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT the Board approve the following draft policies:

(i) Emergency Planning Policy (SO-05)

(ii) Use of Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy (IT-04)

(iii) Conflict of Interest Related to Hiring, Selection, Promotion and Evaluation of Employees Policy (HR-07)



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- (iv) Harassment and Objectionable Behaviour Policy (HR-05)
- (v) Health & Safety Policy (HS-01)
- (vi) Community Planning and Facility Partnership Policy (FA-11)
- (vii) Community Use of Schools Policy (FA-04)
- (viii) Fundraising Policy (SO-01)."

Carried

(c) **Finance Committee Report dated February 9, 2026**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Board approve the establishment of the Grand Erie Learning Foundation as an incorporated entity.

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in the Board Approved Transportation Review report for the 2026-27 School Year.

Carried

(d) **Special Policy and Program Committee dated February 23, 2026**

Presented as printed.

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

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

(a) **Director's Report – January 2026**

Presented as published.

(b) **Director's Report – February 2026**

Presented as published.

F - 1 **Student Trustees' Report**

(a) **Student Senate Report (January 26, 2026)**

Presented as printed.

G - 1 **New Business - Action / Information Items**

(a) **Strategic Plan Update 2026-30 (January 26, 2026)**

Presented as printed.

(b) **Appointment of Non-Board Audit Committee Member Report (January 26, 2026)**

Presented as printed.

Moved by: J. Bradford



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Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the re-appointment of Ed Hodgins as Non-Board Audit Committee member for a three-year term ending January 31, 2029.

Carried

(c) **Student Trustee Selection 2026-27**

Presented as printed.

(d) **Trustee Determination & Distribution Report**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board designate no municipal area as a low population area for the regular election of 2026.

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Board approve the number of Trustees to be elected in the regular election of 2026 for each municipality set as:

- (i) City of Brantford – 4 Trustees, elected at large;
- (ii) Brant County and Norfolk County Wards 3 & 7 – 2 Trustees, elected at large;
- (iii) Haldimand County – 2 Trustees elected at large; and
- (iv) Norfolk County less Ward 3 & 7 – 2 Trustees, elected at large.

Carried

H - 1 **Appointments to the OPSBA Board of Directors and Identification of (Voting) Delegate**

(a) **Appointment of Scrutineers**

Superintendents K. Graham and J. White were appointed Scrutineers.

(b) **Method of Naming**

Nominations for the OPSBA Board of Directors Member and Voting Delegate were made by email submission.

(c) **Nominations for OPSBA Board of Directors Member and Voting Delegate**

Trustees Bradford and Sloat self-nominated.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert

THAT nominations for the position of OPSBA Board of Directors Member and Voting Delegate be closed.

Carried

Ballots were distributed, collected, and tabulated.



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Trustee Bradford was declared elected as OPSBA Board of Directors Member and Voting Delegate; therefore, an election was required for an Alternate Voting Delegate.

(d) **Nominations for OPSBA Alternate Voting Delegate**

Chair Doyle nominated Trustee Waldschmidt who accepted the nomination. Trustee Sloat self-nominated.

Moved by: S. Gibson

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT nominations for the position of OPSBA Alternate Voting Delegate be closed.

Carried

Ballots were distributed, collected, and tabulated.

Trustee Waldschmidt was declared OPSBA Alternate Voting Delegate.

(e) **Motion to Destroy Ballots**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the ballots be destroyed.

Carried


I - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

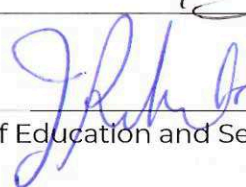
Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 9:07p.m.

Carried



Chair B. Doyle



Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto