



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, April 28, 2025

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

A - 1 Opening

- (a) Roll Call
- (b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- (c) In-Camera Session **(6:30 pm)**
 - (i) Personnel
 - (ii) Legal
 - (iii) Property
- (d) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement
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.
 - (i) Earth Week Message - Teyhahonteh Miller (C. VanEvery-Albert)
- (e) Call to Order
- (f) Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Agenda be approved."
- (g) Memorials
 - * (i) Julie Vlieger (J. Bradford)
 - * (ii) Andrew Nicholson (L. Whiton)
 - (iii) Pope Francis (B. Doyle)
- (h) In-Camera Report
 - (i) Learn Lead Inspire Awards (J. Roberto)
 - (j) Student Showcase – Thompson Creek Elementary School Skipping Club (J. Roberto, R. Vankerrebroeck)
- (k) Delegation

B - 1 Consent Agenda

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board accept the April 28, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein."

- * (a) Approve the minutes of:
 - (i) Regular Board meeting dated March 24, 2025
- * (b) Receive the minutes of:
 - (i) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee dated December 12, 2024
 - (ii) Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee dated January 30, 2025
 - (iii) Student Senate dated February 27, 2025
 - (iv) Six Nations Advisory Committee dated February 27, 2025
 - (v) Special Education Advisory Committee dated March 6, 2025 (rescheduled from February 6, 2025)
 - (vi) Special Education Advisory Committee dated March 6, 2025
- * (c) Receive the correspondence from:
 - (i) The Children's Safety Village of Brant dated March 7, 2025
 - (ii) Bluewater District School Board dated March 25, 2025
 - (iii) Simcoe County District School Board dated April 17, 2025

Learn

Lead

Inspire



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C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- * (a) [Policy and Program Committee Meeting](#) Report dated April 14, 2025 (S. Gibson)
 - (i) Implications of Friday the 13th, 2025-26 Report
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve Option 1 – Lakewood Elementary School Remains Open to Student/Transportation Runs in Port Dover for February 13 and March 13, 2026."
 - * (ii) Distribution of Materials in Schools Policy (SO-04)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Distribution of Materials in Schools Policy (SO-04)."
 - * (iii) Field Trips and Excursions Policy (SO-15)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Field Trips and Excursions Policy (SO-15)."
 - * (iv) Honouring Indigenous Knowledges, Histories and Perspectives Policy (PR-02)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Honouring Indigenous Knowledges, Histories and Perspectives Policy (PR-02)."
 - * (v) Artificial Intelligence Policy (IT-06)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the Artificial Intelligence Policy (IT-06)."

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

E - 1 Report of the Director

F - 1 Student Trustees' Report

- * (a) Student Senate Report (A. Hill, O. Prince, C. Shields) (I)

G - 1 New Business - Action / Information Items

- (a) [Annual Learning Operation Plan Mid Term Report Update](#) (J. Roberto) (I)
- * (b) Trustees' Expenses Report (R. Wyszynski) (I)
- * (c) Contract Award – Prime Design Consultant for Paris North Elementary School/Childcare (R. Wyszynski)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board approve the contract for Prime Design Consultant Services for the elementary school build in Paris to Snyder Architects for \$758,753."
- * (d) Naming of New Elementary School in Brantford (L. Thompson)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board name the new Brantford Elementary School, Blanche E. Williams Public School."

Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board disband the Brantford Elementary Special Ad Hoc School Naming Committee for the new Brantford Elementary School."
- * (e) Naming of New Elementary School in Caledonia (J. White)
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Board name the new Caledonia Elementary School Grand River Public School."

Learn

Lead

Inspire



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Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board disband the Caledonia Elementary Special Ad Hoc School Naming Committee for the new Caledonia Elementary School."

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

(S. Gibson)

- (a) Appointment of Scrutineers (I)
Superintendents Thompson and White
- (b) Method of Naming (I)
- (c) Nominations for OPSBA Board of Directors Member and Voting Delegate (I)
- (d) Nominations for OPSBA Alternate Voting Delegate (I)
- (e) Motion to Destroy Ballots

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the ballots be destroyed."

I - 1 OPSBA Report

J - 1 Adjournment

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, April 28, 2025

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

MAY

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
			01	02
05	06	07	08	09
12	13	14	15	16
Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.			Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	
19	20	21	22	23
			Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.	
26	27	28	29	30
Regular Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.			Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting 3:30 p.m.	

Learn

Lead

Inspire

In Memoriam

Julie Vlieger, a student
at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Julie Vlieger, a student in Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School's specialized services support class.

To know Julie was to know a girl filled with an irrepressible joy for life. She filled every room she was in with the brightness of her smile and warmth of her laughter. All who knew her are forever changed by her ability to remain positive in the face of adversity and to find the humour in every day. She was an inspiration to the Pauline Johnson school community and will be sorely missed.

Our sincerest condolences go out to Julie's family, friends, colleagues, and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Principal Griffin Cobb
Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on April 28, 2025, by Trustee Bradford.

In Memoriam

Andrew Nicholson, a teacher at Brier Park Public School.

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Andrew Nicholson, a teacher at Brier Park Public School.

Andrew began teaching at Brier Park in 2004 and was known for his kindness, grace, and wonderful sense of humour. His unwavering commitment to his students and colleagues left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege to know him. He coached just about everything there was to coach at Brier Park, took the lead in organizing many musical performances, was a volunteer coach for the North Park football team, and an active member of his church. He exemplified the golden rule of 'treating others the way you want to be treated'.

Our deepest condolences go out to Andrew's family, friends, colleagues, and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Principal Chris McGrath
Brier Park Public School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on April 28, 2025, by Trustee Whiton.



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

7:15 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Chair: S. Gibson, Vice-Chair: T. Waldschmidt, Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, B. Doyle, L. Passmore, E. Thomas, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, L. Whiton, Student Trustees: A. Hill, O. Prince, C. Shields

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

Guests: Senior Manager P. Kuckyt

Regrets: Trustee R. Collver

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

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Gibson confirmed roll call.

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

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

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board move In-Camera.

Carried

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

Vice-Chair Waldschmidt read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

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

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

(g) **Memorial** - Nil

(h) **In-Camera Report**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: L. Passmore

THAT Item B-1-b be approved.



B-1-a-i

Regular Board Meeting

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MINUTES

Recorded Vote:

Vice-Chair Waldschmidt - yes
Trustee VanEvery-Albert - yes
Trustee Sault - yes
Trustee Whiton - no
Trustee Passmore - yes

Trustee Doyle - yes
Trustee Anderson - no
Trustee Thompson - yes
Trustee Bradford - yes
Chair Gibson - yes

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Board join other Ontario School Boards in legal proceedings against Meta Platforms Inc (Facebook & Instagram), ByteDance Ltd (TikTok), and Snap Inc. (Snapchat) for disruption of students' fundamental right to education.

Recorded Vote:

Vice-Chair Waldschmidt - yes
Trustee VanEvery-Albert - yes
Trustee Sault - yes
Trustee Whiton - yes
Trustee Passmore - yes
Trustee Doyle - yes

Trustee Sloat - yes
Trustee Anderson - yes
Trustee Thompson - yes
Trustee Bradford - yes
Chair Gibson - yes

Carried

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT Item C-1-b be approved.

Recorded Vote:

Vice-Chair Waldschmidt - yes
Trustee VanEvery-Albert - yes
Trustee Sault - yes
Trustee Whiton - yes
Trustee Passmore - yes
Trustee Doyle - yes

Trustee Sloat - yes
Trustee Anderson - yes
Trustee Thompson - yes
Trustee Bradford - yes
Chair Gibson - yes

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT Item D-1-a be approved.

Recorded Vote:

Vice-Chair Waldschmidt - yes
Trustee VanEvery-Albert - yes
Trustee Sault - yes
Trustee Whiton - yes

Trustee Sloat - no
Trustee Anderson - yes
Trustee Thompson - yes
Trustee Bradford - yes



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Trustee Passmore – yes

Chair Gibson - yes

Trustee Doyle - yes

Carried

(i) **Learn Lean Inspire Awards**

Director Roberto presented a Learn Lead Inspire Award to Hailey DeDominicis, who attended Greenbrier Public School and North Park Collegiate and Vocational School, for her outstanding contributions to the arts, exemplified by her recent achievement in screenwriting in the Netflix movie *Our Little Secret*.

Director Roberto presented Learn Lead Inspire Awards to the Innovation Hub Team - Chloe Bedard, Jeff Benner, Phil Cline, Emma Dailey, Karen Edgar, Jason Hall, and Miriam Lapeare for transforming the groundbreaking STEAM learning space, a first-of-its-kind at North Park Collegiate and Vocational School designed to foster an ecosystem of exploration, imagination, and essential skills for students in Grades 7 through 12.

(j) **Student Showcase**

(i) **OSSTF/FEESO Student Achievement Provincial Winners**

Director Roberto introduced Hayden Mitchell and Ethan Harrison, both of Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, and Gracie Smith of McKinnon Park Secondary School, all earning top provincial awards for their artistic contributions in visual art, woodworking and creative writing.

(ii) **Brantford Bulldogs Hockey**

Director Roberto showcased the Brantford Bulldogs Ontario Hockey League team, who bring many opportunities to align mutual goals that enhance the lives, education and future pathways of Grand Erie learners.

(k) **Delegation – Nil**

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

THAT the Board accept the March 24, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: B. Doyle

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Regular Board meeting dated February 24, 2025

Receive the minutes of:

(i) Audit Committee dated November 7, 2024

(ii) Six Nations Advisory Committee dated December 12, 2024

Receive the correspondence from:

(i) Bluewater District School Board dated February 25, 2025

Director of Education Highlights

Carried



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, March 24, 2025

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7:15 p.m.

MINUTES

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Special Finance Committee Meeting Report dated March 3, 2025**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board approve the amended school boundaries for École Confédération Elementary School and École Dufferin Public School, as outlined in Figure 1, effective September 1, 2025.

Carried

(b) **Policy and Program Committee Meeting Report dated March 3, 2025**

(i) **Budget Development Process Policy (BU-02)**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Board approve the Budget Development Process Policy (BU-02)

Carried

A recorded vote was requested.

Recorded Vote:

Vice-Chair Waldschmidt - yes

Trustee VanEvery-Albert - yes

Trustee Sault - yes

Trustee Whiton - yes

Trustee Passmore - yes

Trustee Doyle - yes

Trustee Sloat - no

Trustee Anderson - yes

Trustee Thompson - yes

Trustee Bradford - yes

Chair Gibson - yes

Carried

(ii) **Major Construction Policy (FA-01)**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the Major Construction Policy (FA-01).

Carried

(iii) **Boundary Reviews Policy (FA-08)**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the Board approve the Boundary Reviews Policy (FA-08).

Carried

(iv) **Fundraising Policy (SO-01)**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Board approve the Fundraising Policy (SO-01).

Carried



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MINUTES

(v) **Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Board approve the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14).

Carried

(vi) **Community Partnerships Policy (SO-34)**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Board approve the Community Partnerships Policy (SO-34).

Carried

(vii) **Student Concussion and Head Injury Policy (HS-10).**

Moved by: T. Sault

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the Board approve the Student Concussion and Head Injury Policy (HS-10).

Carried

(viii) **Environmental and Climate Change Education and Stewardship Policy (SO-18)**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the Environmental and Climate Change Education and Stewardship Policy (SO-18).

Carried

(c) **Audit Committee Meeting Report dated March 6, 2025**

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board approve the appointment of Millard Rouse & Rosebrugh LLP as external auditors for the 2024-25 financial year.

Carried

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

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

The following highlights were included in the Director's Report:

- Secondary Math Professional Development
- Facility Services Professional Development
- Innovation Hub Hosts Hackathon
- Family STEAM Event
- Hagersville Secondary Schools EarlyOn Program
- Langton Public School - 'You're a Chef' Program
- Rainham Central Public-School Winter Carnival
- Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Managing Kids and Tech Event
- Centre for Excellence Words Matter Campaign
- Staff Take Part in Sledge Hockey
- Youth Citizen of the Year – Hailey Diduck



B-1-a-i

Regular Board Meeting

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Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

F - 1 Student Trustees' Report

(a) OSTA-AECO Report

Presented as printed.

(b) Student Senate Report

Presented as printed.

G - 1 New Business - Action / Information Items

(a) Major Construction Project Report

Presented as printed.

(b) Board Approved Transportation Review

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the transportation route exceptions listed in the Board Approved Transportation Review report for the 2025-26 School Year.

Carried

(c) Renaming of Elgin Avenue Public School

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: E. Thomas

THAT the Board approve the request for the naming of Elgin Avenue Public School in Simcoe and that a Special Ad Hoc Naming Committee be struck in the 2024-25 school year as per the Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities Policy (FA-03).

Carried

(d) Student Trustee Selection 2025-26

Presented as printed.

H - 1 OPSBA Report

Trustee Van Every-Albert noted the following:

- Annual General Meeting – June 14, 2025
- Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education of the Canadian School Boards Association – July 2-5, 2025

I - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Carried

Chair S. Gibson

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024
MS Office Teams Virtual Meeting

B-1-b-i

3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Chair:	J.P. Gauthier, Indigenous Education Teacher Consultant
Trustee:	A. Hill, Student Trustee
Grand Erie Staff:	K. Graham, Superintendent of Education D. Montour, System Principal Leader of Indigenous Education (Acting) R. Mullings, Elementary Principal J. Roberto, Director of Education J. Burnham, Local Association Representative K. Henry, Local Association Representative A. Hill, Brantford Native Housing A. Sault, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
Organizations/ Agencies:	T. Simon, Parent/Family Designate
Parent/Family Designates	
Regrets:	P. Barber, Director of Lifelong Learning of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation R. Collver, Trustee V. King-Jamieson, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Education Pillar Lead K. Sandy, Local Association Representative T. Sault, Trustee J. Shawana, Local Association Representative D. Sowers, Local Association Representative L. Staats, Parent/Family Designate
Absent:	D. Bomberly, Lifelong Learning of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation C. General, Local Association Representative S. George, Parent/Family Designate L. Harris, Local Association Representative L. Silversmith, Local Association Representative R. Skye, Indigenous Education Advocate
Guests:	Nil.
Recording Secretary:	D. Fletcher, Executive Assistant

- A - 1 **Opening**
- (a) Chair Gauthier shared a video on the opening address.
- (b) **Land Acknowledgement Statement**
Superintendent Graham read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- (c) **Introduction of Members & Roll Call**
Introductions and Roll Call were completed.
- (d) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approvals**
The agenda was approved by consensus.
- (e) **Student Trustee Update**



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024
MS Office Teams Virtual Meeting

B-1-b-i

3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Indigenous Student Trustee A. Hill shared that his role provides him the opportunity to attend the following meetings to share in student voice: United Indigenous Student Council (UISC), Board meetings, Six Nations Advisory Committee (SNAC), Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) and Indigenous Student Association (ISA).

Highlights from the UISC included the request for more Board policies and procedures regarding Indigenous Student Association (ISA) as well as improved representation of the ISA Flags at schools. Opportunities for increased communication between staff and students was also discussed.

B - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes and/or Previous meeting**

(a) **Consultation/Board Action Plan (BAP) (From October 24, 2024)**

Recommendations and feedback provided at the last meeting were presented in relation to and aligned to the four funding categories: Using Data to Support Student achievement, Supporting Students, Supporting Educators and Engagement and Awareness Building. The Indigenous Education Team will continue to work through the suggestions and ideas provided.

C - 1 **Approval of Minutes**

(a) **Approval of Minutes - October 24, 2024**

T. Simon moved THAT the minutes of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee held on October 24, 2024, be approved.

D - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Updates – Community**

Committee Members provided updates.

Local area representative K. Henry shared that Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board (NPAAMB) is offering a new program: Lacrosse Training & Employment Program that runs from Jan 21st – March 7th course for ages 18-30. The Oya:na Program provides Course Offerings: Building Our Bundles, Exploring Our Bundles, and Implementing Our Bundles. More information can be found on the website.

Local area representative A. Sault shared that the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) shared that MCFN is offering incentives for the Food Bank for MCFN band members in secondary schools. Information has been distributed to schools. The forms can be found on their website.

E - 1 **Information Items**

(a) **Showcase/Reflection/Information Sharing**

The Indigenous Education Team includes Teacher Consultants, Graduation Coaches, Counsellors, and Team Leaders. Members/Roles of the Indigenous Education Team were shared.

They support Indigenous learners in learnings of the following: authentic artworks, history/languages, development of the Indigenous Knowledge SHSM Programs (Lacrosse @ MPSS and Arts/Cultures at PJCVS), Learning from on the land, transition events to support Grade 7 and 8 students from Six Nations and Mississaugas of the

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Learn

Lead

Inspire



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 12, 2024
MS Office Teams Virtual Meeting

B-1-b-i

3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Credit First Nation, and United Indigenous Student Council (Leadership, advocacy, consensus/team building).

(b) **Indigenous Education Update**
As above

(c) **System Update**
System updates included: The Toronto Holocaust Museum (January 23, 2025), Police Resource Outreach Supporting Education (PROSE), Innovation Hub, You Belong Here Video Campaign, Grand Erie's Artificial Intelligence in Education, Revised Estimates, School Naming, Educational Assistant Professional Development, and Project Search.

J. Boyer and J. Hooper (School Culture and Well-Being) reviewed the Mental Health 3-year Strategy that will support the board from 2025-2028:

- Purpose - provide an understanding of key topics for the 3-year Mental Health Strategy
- Gather feedback and Information on what is Important for you to see reflected in this plan
- Mental Health Strategy 2025-2028: Every Student Every Day: Pillars Include: Identity Affirming, Leading space In Healthy Schools, Collaboration, and partnerships

F - 1 **Next Meeting**
Thursday March 27, 2025.

Committee members were invited to share ideas to reach out to organizations to be part of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee. Vacancies are open for Elders or Knowledge Keepers.

G - 1 **Adjournment**
Chair Gauthier adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

H - 1 **Closing Address** - Nil



B-1-b-ii

Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, January 30, 2025

7:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Present: Committee Chair J. Montague, Director: J. Roberto, Trustees: T. Waldschmidt, Superintendents: J. White, R. Vankerbroeck, Committee Members: G. Stead, D. Dean, P. Kaur, C. Mitchell, K. O'Brian, R. Jakaitis, C. Clarke, N. Waldschmidt

Regrets: C. Clark, L. Woodley, L. Passmore T. Sault, E. Huxley, B. Ramey, H. Smith, L. McCormick

Guests: P. Ashe, W. Kipp, C.A. Sloat

Recorder: S. Fehrman

A - 1 Opening

(a) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Superintendent White at 7:32 p.m.

(b) Roll Call

Roll call was completed

(c) Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement

Superintendent White read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 Approval of Consent Agenda

THAT the Committee accept the January 30, 2025, Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: N. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

(a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee minutes dated October 24, 2024

Carried

C - 1 Inclusion Begins at home – Dr. Andrew B. Campbell

Chair Montague asked that the committee complete the feedback link provided.

D - 1 System Updates

- Centre for Excellence Grand Opening
- The Toronto Holocaust Museum Visits
- Police Resource Outreach Supporting Education (PROSE)
- Secondary Program Review
- Innovation Hub
- AI Guidelines
- School Naming
- Directors Monthly Bulletin
- Family Math Resources
- Mental Health Resources
- Kindergarten Registration
- Conestoga Partnership



B-1-b-ii

Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, January 30, 2025

7:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

(a) **GEPIC Chair Updates**

Chair Montague shared updates about the School Council Orientation, Opening of the Innovation Hub Event and Ministry Parent Involvement

E - 1 **School Highlights**

School Council Chairs and Administrators D. Dean (Elementary), P. Kaur (Elementary) and G. Stead (Secondary) shared highlights of school events and activities.

F - 1 **New Business - Information**

- (a) Superintendent Ashe provided information on a 3-Year Mental Health Strategy. Parent input can be submitted using the link provided [here](#).

G - 1 **Meeting Dates**

Meeting dates scheduled for 2024-2025 School Year

- October 24, 2024
- January 30, 2025
- March 27, 2025
- May 22, 2025

School Council Orientation

- November 21, 2024

H-1 **Next Meeting**

Thursday, March 27, 2025

I-1 **Closing & Adjournment**

Chair Montague adjourned the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.



Student Senate Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Cayuga Secondary School

MINUTES

Present:

Brantford Collegiate Institute, Cayuga Secondary School, Delhi District Secondary School, Dunnville Secondary School, GELA, Hagersville Secondary School, McKinnon Park, Nations New Start, North Park Collegiate, Paris District High School, Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School, Simcoe Composite School, Tollgate Technological Skills Centre, Valley Heights Secondary School, Waterford District High School

Student Trustees:

Student Trustee Aidyn Hill (Indigenous)
Student Trustee Caitlin Shields (South)
Student Trustee Olivia Prince (North)

Administration:

Superintendents Regan Vankerrebroeck and Lisa Munro
Executive Assistants: Rebecca Mason and Kerri Harrison

Recorder:

Rebecca Mason

A - 1 Opening/Welcome

- (a) **Welcome** – Superintendent Vankerrebroeck opened the meeting and welcomed Senators
- (b) **Opening Address** – Stacey Hill
- (c) **Grand Erie Land Acknowledgement** – Student Trustee Prince

B – 1 Approval of the Minutes – November 21, 2024

Moved by: E. Mole

Seconded by: Y. Aburkhes

THAT the minutes of the Student Senate meeting, dated November 21, 2024, be approved.

Carried

C – 1 Candidate Panel

Student Senators listened to candidates vying to represent them in their respected areas.

E – 1 Voting

Successful candidates were voted in:

Ryleigh Staats - Indigenous

Prabhsidak Singh - North

Harper Thompson - South

F – 1 Working Groups: Equity and Diversity Mental Health, and Student Voice

Student Senators broke into working group.

G – 1 Round Table Discussion

Student Senators summarized the working group discussion:

Equity and Diversity Working Group:

- Focus on inclusivity
- Ensuring students with disabilities have the same high school experience



Student Senate Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Cayuga Secondary School

MINUTES

Mental Health and Well-Being Working Group:

- Strengthen student connections through virtual councils and a pen pal system
- Improve communication about student-led events

Student Voice Working Group:

- Increase involvement of grade 9 and 12 students to create a welcoming environment
- Organize engaging activities to help incoming students feel comfortable

H – 1 **Closing** – Student Trustee Hill

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm



Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 27, 2025

1:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Chair:

**Community
Representative(s):
Trustee:**

K. Graham, Superintendent of Education
A. General, Kawenní:io/Gawení: yo Private School
S. Graham, Six Nations Federal Schools Representative
T. Waldschmidt, Trustee
S. Hill, Six Nations Advisor
D. Montour, System Principal Leader of Indigenous Education
(Acting)
D. Powless, Indigenous Education Counsellor
J. Roberto, Director of Education
Carey Vyse, Indigenous Education Counsellor
Carly Vyse, Indigenous Education Counsellor
A. Williams, Community Liaison Worker

**Grand Erie
Staff/Resources
Regrets:**

M. Hill, Cultural Mentor (Hagersville Secondary School)
J. White, Superintendent of Education
C. VanEvery-Albert, Trustee
A. Powless-Bomberry, Six Nations Elected Council Representative
A. Hill Indigenous Student Trustee
E. Thomas, Trustee

Absent

C. VanEvery-Albert, Everlasting Tree School
T. Anderson, Indigenous Services Canada Director of Education
responsible for Six Nations Federal Schools

Guest

Nil

Recording Secretary:

D. Fletcher, Executive Assistant

A - 1 **Opening**

(a) **Ohen: ton Karihwatehkwen**

Hagersville Secondary Student P. Skye provided opening greetings.

(b) **Land Acknowledgment Statement**

Superintendent Graham read the Land Acknowledgment statement.

(c) **Introduction & Roll Call**

Introductions and Roll Call were completed.

(d) **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

(e) **Student Showcase**

Carey Vyse, Indigenous Education Counsellor and M. Hill, Cultural Mentor invited students who attend Hagersville Secondary School students to introduce themselves and share experiences at the school. Common themes included: Positive experiences and relationships with students and teachers and feeling that support and help is easily accessed.

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

THAT Six Nations Advisory Committee accept the February 27, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained herein



Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 27, 2025

1:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Six Nations Advisory Committee minutes dated December 12, 2024

Community Liaison Worker A. Williams moved THAT the minutes of the Six Nations Advisory Committee held on June 13, 2024, be approved.

C - 1 **ESA Staff Roundtable**

(a) **Introductions and Updates from each school**

Common learning initiatives and events across the district included: Workshops (Wellness, Moccasin Making), Girls' Empowerment Group, UISC monthly meetings, Conestoga College Tours, Support with University/College Applications and Funding, Homework Help, Support with Time-tabling/Incoming Transfers/Promotion Meetings, Course Selection, Preparation for Right Fit Event (March 6), and Six Nations Council High Average Awards, Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Program, and school visits from A. Hill, Indigenous Student Trustee.

Brantford Collegiate Institute and Vocational School: Guest Speaker Colin Martin shared Haudenosaunee teachings, Committee formulated for staff to promote Anti-Racism, Inclusion, and Restorative Justice in BCI and Health Services support Tree and Tosh.

Hagersville Secondary School/NewStart Program: PLAR and ISRT meetings, WIND Lacrosse workshop, and Cultural March break camp - connecting with Oneida Nations of the Thames

McKinnon Park Secondary School: Men's Lacrosse team (McMaster Tournament), Grand Erie Student Interview on Lacrosse (Upcoming story on the growth of the Men's Lacrosse Program and Grand Erie's support for the sport), and Ogwehoweh Skills and Trades Training Centre (OSTTC).

Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School: Egodinigohahniyoh Workshop, and Beaded Pins/Ornaments.

A. Williams, Community Liaison Worker works with 9 schools -BCI, CSS, GELA, HSS, NNS, MPSS, NPC, PJCVS, TTSC. Initiatives include working with: Cultural Mentors and Guidance Counsellors, Vice-Principals to support students, Children Mental Health/Girls Group, and students as they advocate through Life skills class and Co-operative Education.

S. Hill new to her role as Acting Six Nations Advisor continues to learn and observe.

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

(a) **Annual General Meeting (May 15, 2025)**

The Six Nations Community Hall has been booked for the event. Communication and Advertising Plan has been created and will be shared out with Community. The format of the event to be finalized.

E - 1 **New Business**

Conversations continue; the current Education Service Agreement will end June 30, 2025.



Six Nations Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 27, 2025

1:00 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

(a) **Partnership Across the District**

Partnerships that have taken place this year working towards Truth and Reconciliation.

- Transitions Grade 8- 9 Regional Session held at Community Hall
- Professional Development Day - Specialized services
- Professional Development Day - Clerical
- Hagersville Secondary School - Land Based Learning Bundle
- Grand Erie Math Achievement Action Plan (GEMAAP)
- Innovation Plan – NNS Partnership: 3D printers, Drone work, Woz ED kits
- Centre of Excellence – Inclusion of Indigenous Names (Haudenosaunee or Anishinaabe)

F - 1 **Information Items**

(a) **System Updates**

System updates included: Distributive Education Clubs of American's Business Competition (DECA) – McKinnon Park Secondary School, St. George German School Learning Commons, Days of Significance, Education Service Agreement (ESA), Monthly Bulletin (Director's Monthly Bulletin), Tech is Grand (Promoted to all schools), School Year Calendar 2025-26, Toronto Holocaust Museum, Kickstart to Kindergarten, Innovation Hub, Paris District High School Hosted "Women in Trades" Event,

(b) **Meeting Dates**

Meeting dates scheduled for 2025:

- April 17, 2025
- May 15, 2025 (Annual General Meeting)
- June 12, 2025

G - 1 **Next Meeting:**

Thursday, April 17, 2025, location to be determined.

H - 1 **Closing Address & Adjournment**

P. Skye, Hagersville Secondary School Student gave the closing address.

Chair Graham adjourned the meeting at 2: 50 p.m.



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday March 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Norfolk Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

Present: Chair: L. DeJong, Vice-Chair K. Jones, Trustees: R. Collver, L. Whiton, Community Representatives: B. Bruce, K. Kelly, L. Nydam Organizations: L. Campbell, C. Gilman, S. Jennions, C. Stefanelli

Administration: Director J. Roberto, Superintendent L. Thompson, Principal Leader Specialized Services: J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor: P. Bagchee, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

Absent with regrets: Trustee Doyle

Absent: Organizations: P. Found

Guests: Trustee Sloat, Superintendents: R. Vankerrebroeck, R. Wyszynski

A - 1 **Opening**

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

Chair DeJong called the rescheduled meeting from February 6, 2025 to order at 6:04 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call. Guests were noted.

(c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Moved by: Kathy Jones

Seconded by: Christina Gilman

THAT the February 2025 agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Welcome New SEAC Member**

Chair DeJong welcomed Simon Jennions, Community Living Brant, to Grand Erie's SEAC.

(b) **Financial Update 2024-25**

(i) **Special Education funding, grants, expenditures and reserves**

Superintendent Wyszynski provided SEAC members with an update on Special Education funding and spending in Grand Erie.

(ii) **Input on 2024-25 budget process**

Grand Erie's annual budget survey be available on the Grand Erie website soon for community feedback on the budget for the 2025-26 school year. Once it becomes available, J. Valstar will send the link to the survey to SEAC members.

(iii) **Finance Committee Meeting Dates**

Finance committee meeting dates are posted on the Grand Erie website. SEAC members were encouraged to observe these meetings for more information on



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday March 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Norfolk Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

Grand Erie's financial process. J. Valstar will send the link to the meeting packages and livestream links to SEAC members.

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

(a) **You Belong Video Series**

SEAC members viewed the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) at Grand Erie from Grand Erie's You Belong video series. In response to a question from the January 9, 2025 SEAC meeting about how the students are selected to appear in the videos, Superintendent Thompson informed SEAC members that the students in the videos are Grand Erie students who have expressed interest in participating in the making of the videos.

(b) **Review of the SEAC Orientation Handbook**

SEAC members discussed the current handbook and suggested some updates. SEAC members were invited to send any other comments/feedback to J. Valstar.

D - 1 **Consent Agenda**

THAT SEAC accept the March 6, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: C. Gilman

(a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) SEAC meeting minutes dated January 9, 2025

(b) Receive the correspondence from:

(i) Algoma District School Board SEAC dated January 21, 2025

(ii) Ottawa Catholic District School Board dated January 27, 2025

(iii) Ottawa Catholic District School Board dated January 30 2025

Carried

Vice Chair Jones requested to pull item D-1 (b) (ii). At this request, Superintendent Thompson provided context to the items in the letter from a Grand Erie lens.

E - 1 **New Business**

(a) **2025 – 26 School Year Calendar**

Superintendent Vankerrebroeck shared the 2025-26 school year calendars for elementary and secondary schools in Grand Erie with SEAC members.

(b) **Specialized Services Program Update**

Superintendent Thompson shared the Specialized Services program update. J. Valstar will send the link to Grand Erie's publications to SEAC members.

(c) **Special Education Plan – Standard 11 – Provincial and Demonstration Schools**

SEAC members reviewed Standard 11 from Grand Erie's Special Education Plan and provided feedback to the Specialized Services Management Team. SEAC members were encouraged to email any further feedback to J. Valstar.



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday March 6, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Education Centre Norfolk Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

F - 1 Information Items

(a) Policies Out for Comment – Nil

(b) Math Counts Newsletters

Presented as printed.

(c) System Updates – Nil

(d) Chair / Vice-Chair Updates

Chair DeJong reminded SEAC members that the April 17, 2025 SEAC meeting will take place at the Centre for Excellence at the Teacher Resource Centre. SEAC members were encouraged to attend this meeting in person to see the new space.

G - 1 Community Updates - Nil

H - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

(a) A Day in the Life of an Educational Assistant

(b) Entry to School Process

(c) Grand Erie's Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP)

(d) SEAC Meeting Dates 2025-26

(e) Review SEAC Terms of Reference (TOR)

I - 1 Next Meeting

Thursday April 17, 2025 in the Centre for Excellence at the Teacher Resource Centre with a virtual option.

J - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: C. Gilman

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Carried



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday March 6, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Education Centre Norfolk Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

Present:

Chair: L. DeJong, Vice-Chair K. Jones, Trustees: R. Collver Community Representatives: B. Bruce, K. Kelly. L. Nydam Organizations: L. Campbell, C. Gilman, S. Jennions, C. Stefanelli

Administration:

Director J. Roberto, Superintendent L. Thompson, Principal Leader Specialized Services: J. Senior, Specialized Services Supervisor: P. Bagchee, Program Coordinators: L. Miedema, L. Sheppard, Recording Secretary: J. Valstar

Absent with regrets: Trustee Doyle

Absent: Trustee Whiton, Organizations: P. Found

Guests: Trustee Sloat, Grand Erie Transition Navigator L. Rowe.

A - 1 **Opening**

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

Chair DeJong called the March 6, 2025 meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. and read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(b) **Roll Call/Reminder of Livestream on YouTube/Closed Captioning reminder**

Recording Secretary J. Valstar confirmed roll call. Guests were noted.

(c) **Agenda Additions/Deletions/Approval**

Moved by: K. Jones

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the March 2025 agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

B - 1 **Timed Items**

(a) **Specialized Services Transition Navigator**

J. Senior introduced Grand Erie's new Transition Navigator, Lisa Rowe, and described her role to SEAC members.

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

(a) **You Belong Video Series**

SEAC members viewed the Multilingual Language Learner Support at Grand Erie from Grand Erie's You Belong video series.

D - 1 **Consent Agenda** - Nil

E - 1 **New Business** - Nil



Special Education Advisory Committee

Thursday March 6, 2025

7:30 p.m.

Education Centre Norfolk Room / MS Teams

MINUTES

F - 1 Information Items

(a) Policies Out for Comment

Vice-Chair Jones encouraged SEAC members to review the following policies that are posted for public feedback and consultation until April 2, 2025.

- (i) Distribution of Materials in Schools (SO-04)
- (ii) Honouring Indigenous Knowledges, Histories and Perspectives (PR-02)

(b) Math Counts Newsletters

Presented as printed.

(c) System Updates

Superintendent Thompson provided SEAC members with system updates within Grand Erie, including Kickstart to Kindergarten, the Women in Trades Workshop, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program Focused Apprenticeship Skills Training Pathway (OYAP FAST), Grade 8 to 9 program selection, and the partnership between Grand Erie and the Special Olympics.

(d) Chair / Vice-Chair Updates - Nil

G - 1 Community Updates - Nil

H - 1 Future Agenda Items and SEAC Committee Planning

- (a) A Day in the Life of an Educational Assistant
- (b) Entry to School Process
- (c) Grand Erie's Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP)
- (d) SEAC Meeting Dates 2025-26
- (e) Review SEAC Terms of Reference (TOR)

I - 1 Next Meeting

Thursday April 17, 2025 in the Centre for Excellence at the Teacher Resource Centre with a virtual option.

J - 1 Adjournment

Moved by: C. Gilman
Seconded by: K. Jones
THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:06 p.m.
Carried



The Children's Safety Village of Brant
 407 Elgin Street, Brantford ON N3S 7P5
www.brantsafetyvillage.ca
 519-720-6950
 Charitable #: 862146123 RR0001

GEDSB Trustees
 349 Erie Ave
 Brantford ON
 N3T 5V3

March 7, 2025

Dear Trustees,

Activities at The Children's Safety Village of Brant are progressing well for our experiential injury-preventing and life-saving safety lessons. The Grade 6 KIDS and Fire programs have been well attended for the past few months with more still to complete. The remainder of the year has classes scheduled for all grades from K-8, which include Internet and Social Media, Bicycle, Fire and Community Helpers safety lessons. We had a total of 4,576 student visits in 2024.

One of the significant and important sources of income for our annual operating budget of approximately \$100,000 is the generous \$10,000 annual funding support from the GEDSB. We also receive support from a variety of foundations, corporations, service clubs and individuals who recognize the great benefits that students derive from the hands-on learning available at the Children's Safety Village. Our Easter (April 19) and Halloween (Oct 25) public events are once again our major fundraisers this year – last year's attendance was approximately 4,500 for the 2 events. We also have a number of dedicated volunteers who provide hundreds of hours of service annually for property and building maintenance and tech support to significantly reduce expenses.

Having reliable sources of income for our regular operating expenses is of great benefit and reassurance as we continue to provide programming facility support. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I respectfully request your generous support of \$10,000 for the 2025 -26 school year so that we can continue to provide an effective and valuable learning experience for the elementary students of Brantford, Brant County, Six Nations of the Grand River and Norfolk County. We truly appreciate the many years of partnership and support from the GEDSB.

Sincerely,

Leo Vos

Leo Vos, DDS
 Board President
vos97@rogers.com
 519 753 2077 (H); 519 732 2077 (C)



Bluewater District School Board

351 1st Avenue North
Chesley ON N0G 1L0
Telephone: (519) 363-2014
Fax: (519) 370-2909
www.bwdsb.on.ca

Sent by email: paul.calandra@pc.ola.org

March 25, 2025

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education

Dear Minister Calandra:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Education. We look forward to our important work together in the future to support the success and well-being of the students we serve.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we are reaching out to bring to your attention the following motion, which passed unanimously at the Regular Meeting of the Board on Tuesday, March 18, 2025:

Moved by Jan Johnstone; Seconded by Katie Lutz

Whereas Bluewater District School Board (BWDSB) is a Canadian entity that prioritizes supporting domestic industries and economic stability; Whereas recent trade policies have created challenges that may negatively impact fair and reciprocal trade between Canada and the United States;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT BWDSB evaluate and implement measures to prioritize the procurement of Canadian products wherever feasible, and to immediately transition away from purchasing from American Suppliers as defined by Supply Ontario, where viable;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that similar procurement measures be considered and implemented province wide.

Like many other communities across Ontario and Canada, there has been a recent groundswell of support in our area for the strengthening of our local, provincial, and Canadian economies. Given the volatile trade situation that is unfolding between Canada and the United States, we are especially concerned about the impacts that this may have on our families, and by extension, our students.

While our board already does a lot to buy domestically, it is especially important now for us to stand with our many education partners and fellow Canadians, in prioritizing local businesses and those within Ontario and Canada, wherever possible. As a show of solidarity, we are strongly encouraging your government to formalize measures that can be implemented across the province ensuring a 'Canada first' approach to procurement.

Sincerely,

Jane Thomson
Chair

Jan Johnstone
Vice-Chair

cc: Paul Vickers, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Chairs of Ontario English Public School Boards

/jp



April 17, 2025

Sent by email: minister.edu@ontario.ca
The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education

Dear Minister Calandra,

I am writing to express the Simcoe County District School Board's strong support for the province of Ontario's initiatives to encourage the purchase of Canadian products. As a publicly funded school board committed to fostering local economic growth and sustainability, we fully endorse the Ministry's efforts to prioritize Canadian goods and services.

In alignment with the Ministry's Broader Public Sector (BPS) Procurement Directive and the Building Ontario Businesses Initiative (BOBI), our procurement practices have consistently adhered to these directives. This ensures our contribution to the development of local businesses and the Ontario economy.

By prioritizing Canadian-made products, we not only support our local industries but also enhance the quality and reliability of the goods and services provided to our students and staff. This commitment reflects our dedication to the principles of sustainability, economic resilience, and community support.

The emphasis on buying Canadian also brings significant benefits to our students. By supporting local businesses, we help create a thriving community that offers more opportunities for student involvement, co-op placements, and future employment. Additionally, using high-quality Canadian-made products in our schools ensures that our students have access to the best resources and learning materials, contributing to their overall educational experience and success.

We believe that the province's efforts to promote buying Canadian will have a significant positive impact on our economy, creating jobs, fostering innovation, and strengthening our communities.

Thank you for your leadership and vision in promoting Canadian products.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dana", written in a cursive style.

Dana Powell, Chairperson
Simcoe County District School Board

-
- c. Board of Trustees, SCDSB
Dawn Stephens, Director of Education, SCDSB
Dean Maltby, Associate Director, SCDSB
Corry Van Nispen, Superintendent of Business and Facility Services, SCDSB
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
School Board Chairs



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, April 14, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Norfolk Room, Education Centre

REPORT

Present: Chair: S. Gibson, Trustees: T. Waldschmidt, J. Bradford, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, L. Whiton

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

Guest: Manager of System Research: C. Bedard

Regrets: Trustee: B. Doyle

A - 1 Opening Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair S. Gibson at 6:30 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

(b) Declaration of Conflict of Interest - Nil

(c) Welcome /Land Acknowledgment Statement
Committee Chair S. Gibson read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Policy and Program Committee agenda be approved.

Carried

C - 1 Consent Agenda

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the Policy and Program Committee accept the April 14, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Policy and Program Committee meeting dated March 3, 2025

Carried

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

E - 1 New Business - Program

(a) Implications of Friday the 13th, 2025-26 Report

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT Option One – Lakewood Elementary School Remains Open to Student/Transportation Runs in Port Dover for February 13, 2026 and March 13, 2026 be forwarded to the April 28, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, April 14, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Norfolk Room, Education Centre

REPORT

(b) **Indigenous Education Programs**

Presented as published.

In response to a question, it was noted that the publication provides an overview of programs implemented across the district, aligning with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

(c) **Vaping Detectors Update**

Presented as printed.

(d) **Hall Monitor (Initiative) Report**

Presented as printed.

It was noted that the program will continue to be monitored, as further analysis, along with identification of predictors and barriers, is required to assess its effectiveness.

(e) **Specialized Services Transition Navigator Report**

Presented as printed.

In response to a question, the Specialized Services Transition Navigator can support students seeking a variety of pathways including the College-Within-A-School program in partnership with Conestoga College.

(f) **Remote Learning Report**

Presented as printed.

(g) **Special Olympics Report**

Presented as printed.

(h) **Innovation Hub Update**

Presented as printed.

(i) **Toronto Holocaust Museum Update**

Presented as printed.

(j) **MEHRIT Centre Micro-Credential Update**

Presented as printed.

(k) **Mental Health Action Plan Final Report 2023-24**

Presented as published.

(l) **Mental Health Action Plan Annual Update 2024-25**

Presented as published.

(m) **Equity Action Plan Annual Update 2024-25**

Presented as published.

(n) **Police Resource Outreach Supporting Education Program Update**

Presented as printed.

(o) **Secondary Program Review Update – Magnet Offerings**

Presented as printed.



Policy and Program Committee

Monday, April 14, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Norfolk Room, Education Centre

REPORT

(p) **Grand Erie Math Achievement Action Plan**

Presented as printed.

(q) **Student Achievement Plan 2024-25**

Presented as published.

F - 1 **New Business – Policy**

(a) **Distribution of Materials in Schools Policy (SO-04)**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Distribution of Materials Policy (SO-04) be forwarded to the April 28, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(b) **Field Trips and Excursions Policy (SO-15)**

Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Field Trips and Excursions Policy (SO-15) be forwarded to the April 28, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(c) **Honouring Indigenous Knowledges, Histories and Perspectives Policy (PR-02)**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: T. Waldschmidt

THAT the Honouring Indigenous Knowledges, Histories and Perspectives Policy (PR-02) be forwarded to the April 28, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(d) **Artificial Intelligence Policy (IT-06)**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: L. Whiton

THAT the Artificial Intelligence Policy (IT-06) be forwarded to the April 28, 2025 Regular Board meeting for approval.

Carried

(e) **Artificial Intelligence Procedure (IT-006)**

Presented as printed.

G - 1 **Adjournment**


Moved by: L. Whiton

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Policy and Program Committee meeting be adjourned at 8:26p.m.

Carried

H - 1 **Next Meeting Date:** TBD

	POLICY	SO-04
DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS IN SCHOOLS		
Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Education	Initial Effective Date: 2021/02/22	
Last Updated: 2023/06/26	Next Review Date: 2025/06/13	

Objective:

Recognize Grand Erie District School Board's (Grand Erie) responsibility to limit the exposure of students, employee(s) and parent(s)/caregiver(s) to advertising and promotional materials.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie will support the distribution of materials in schools that create awareness of educational programs, services, issues, events, and community activities of specific interest or benefit to the school community which includes students, employee(s) and parent(s)/caregiver(s). Materials that are distributed to students shall conform to the requirements of the *Education Act* (Reg 298 section 24) and be approved for distribution.

Reference(s):

- Community Partnerships Policy (SO-08)
- Distribution of Materials in Schools Policy (SO-04)
- [*Education Act R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 \(Reg 298 section 24\)*](#)



POLICY

SO-15

FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Curriculum & Student Achievement	Initial Effective Date: 2020/04/27
Last Updated: 2023/06/26	Next Review Date: 2025/06/13

Objective:

To support Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) schools with guidelines for field trips and excursions that support student learning, achievement, mental health, well-being, belonging, and experiences while ensuring the safety of student and staff in accordance with the *Education Act*.

Policy Statement

The Grand Erie District School Board believes that equitable access to field trips and excursions for Grand Erie students offers educational value, serves to enhance the curriculum and provides opportunities for students' cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs of each learner.

Resource(s):

- Field Trips and Excursions Procedure (SO-015)
- Code of Conduct Policy (SO-12)
- Code of Conduct Procedure (SO-012)
- [Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2](#)
- Volunteers Procedure (SO-126)



POLICY

C-1-a-iv

PR-02

HONOURING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGES, HISTORIES AND PERSPECTIVES

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Education, Indigenous Education	Initial Effective Date: 2017/01/30
Last Updated: 2022/05/30	Next Review Date: 2025/06/13

Policy Statement:

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes it has an important duty to first and foremost act in the best interest of students and reflect the community it serves.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada concluded its work resulting in 94 far reaching Calls to Action, including a number specifically focused on education, covering residential school history, recognition of treaties and the effects of colonialism, in order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.

The Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit territories are located within our board community. The legacy of residential schools, and colonialism, continues to be felt today by these communities, as well as by the Metis, Inuit and urban First Nations families and students we serve. As part of reflecting its community, Grand Erie supports the Calls to Action of the TRC through a set of actions which serve to honour Indigenous histories, knowledges, and perspectives.

Grand Erie acknowledges the diversity of Nations across Turtle Island. Where possible, the specific nation's name will be used; otherwise, the term *Indigenous* will be referenced in print, or otherwise.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was formed as a result of recognition of the cultural genocide and assimilation inflicted upon Indigenous people in Canada for generations and in concluding its work, created 94 Calls to Action including numbers 62 and 63 specifically focused on education.

For the purposes of this policy, the Grand Erie District School Board will focus on 63 ii, iii, iv as expectations for the system.

63. We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:
- ii. Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
 - iii. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
 - iv. Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.

Reference(s):

- Honouring Indigenous Knowledges, History and Perspectives Procedure (PR-002)
- Honouring the Truth, Reconciling the Future, the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015



POLICY

IT-06

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

Superintendent Responsible: Superintendent of Curriculum & Student Achievement	Initial Effective Date: YYYY/MM/DD
Last Updated: YYYY/MM/DD	Next Review Date: YYYY/MM/DD

Objective:

To support the safe, secure and appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) resources by providing guidelines and expectations for all Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) users.

Policy Statement:

Grand Erie believes that the use of AI tools can enhance learning experiences, provide efficiencies in daily work and prepare students for a future where AI is an integral part of their lives.

Grand Erie believes that every user of AI tools and resources has a responsibility to comply with all related policies, procedures and existing legislation. AI users should take all reasonable measures and precautions to assist in ensuring the safe, secure, ethical and appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence tools and resources at all times and solely for educational purposes.

Grand Erie will make all reasonable efforts, using the resources available, to create and maintain a positive, productive, safe and secure learning environment for the use of AI tools and resources.

Reference(s):

- Artificial Intelligence Procedure (IT-006)
- Acceptable Use of Information Technology Procedure (IT-001)
- Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Policy (SO-20)
- Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Procedure (SO-020)
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy (SO-10)
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Procedure (SO-010)
- Code of Conduct Policy (SO-12)
- Code of Conduct Procedure (SO-012)
- Copyright – Fair Dealing Guidelines Policy (SO-24)
- Copyright – Fair Dealing Guidelines Procedure (SO-024)
- Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (SO-14)
- [Municipal Freedom of Information and Privacy Protection Act](#)
- Privacy and Records Information Management Policy (IT-02)
- Privacy Breach Response Procedure (IT-003)
- Progressive Discipline Procedure (HR-018)
- Progressive Discipline and Promotion of Positive Student Behaviour Procedure (SO-011)



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: Trustees of the Grand Erie District School Board

FROM: A. Hill, Student Trustee – Indigenous
O. Prince, Student Trustee – South
C. Shields, Student Trustee – North

RE: **Student Senate Report**

DATE: April 28, 2025

On Thursday, March 27th, Student Trustees Hill, Prince, and Shields hosted their third student senate meeting at Paris District High School. This senate had a focus on building the student trustee's initiatives and provided ample time to work towards their goals for the year.

The meeting opened with Student Trustee Hill providing the opening address, followed by the Land Acknowledgement and other opening ceremonies. Student Trustee Hill did a presentation on the United Indigenous Students' Council (UISC), alongside future Student Trustee Riley Staats. They used this presentation to explain the role and importance of the UISC. The Student Trustees then broke out into their respective working groups with the senators.

Student Trustee Hill led the working group with great success as many of the students voiced the need to have stronger engagement and support. The student voice group shared a lot of excellent points and ideas that can help shape strong student support and advocacy across all the schools, especially for incoming Grade 9 students. The biggest initiative the student voice wanted to create is having a more definitive and dynamic sense of belonging in schools, as many senate members are graduating and still want to leave behind strong support for student voice and advocacy. The working group also discussed additional support for students who are new to Canada, and the offering of more short courses that promote life skills to support activities outside of school, such as completing your taxes.

Student Trustee Prince led the Mental Health and Well-being Working Group in outlining key tasks to advance two initiatives: one to be presented to the Board and another for student councils to introduce to their principals. The first initiative focused on "Flex Days," aiming to restructure Student Success Days to function more like a regular school day—without the pressure of new assignments. Instead, these days would serve as dedicated catch-up periods for all classes. To support this proposal, the group would like to create videos titled "How Would Flex Days Support You?" featuring student testimonials. Additionally, ways to generate awareness through infographics and digital media posts on the Board's Instagram, the Student Trustee Instagram, and school-affiliated social media accounts to engage students and build excitement for Flex Days were discussed.

Student Trustee Prince is interested in gathering student voice on how Flex Days can be optimized for greater effectiveness. The Mental Health and Well-being Working Group also worked on refining templates for both new club proposals and school club fairs. These templates, accompanied by a step-by-step plan and timeline, will be shared with principals and student councils to streamline the organization process.

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Working Group, led by Student Trustee Shields had a highly productive meeting period. The student senators split into groups where students

discussed the topics of accessibility regarding mobility devices, inclusion of the LGBTQ2S+ community, and making a more equitable learning environment for students who may not speak English as a first language or have a hearing impairment. The first group discussed ways to work with school principals to ensure physical access for all. The inclusion group discussed the supports for LGBTQ2S+ students available in both urban and rural schools within the board and brought up the idea of a virtual inclusion event. The equity group focused on creating an infographic on how to use closed captions in PowerPoint to encourage staff across the board to implement closed captions within their teaching. Student Trustee Shields supported each subgroup and analyzed their work and thoughts to formulate some potential initiatives, which were deemed appropriate by the group.

The senate responded positively to the extended discussion time, which was critical as working groups finalized their initiatives. With closing remarks and a concluding ceremony marking the end of their work, the meeting was officially adjourned. Overall, this senate session was a success, leaving trustees more confident as they continue advancing their initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Hill, Student Trustee – Indigenous
O. Prince, Student Trustee – South
C. Shields, Student Trustee – North



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: **Trustees' Expenses Report**
DATE: April 28, 2025

Background

In accordance with section 4 of the General Governance Policy, the Grand Erie District School Board will reimburse Trustees, including Student Trustees, for recognized out-of-pocket expenses and will provide funds in its annual budget to cover in-service expenses of Trustees and Student Trustees who attend conferences, seminars, and professional meetings.

The attached report details the status of the following Trustee budget lines and expenses claimed for 2024-25 from September 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

- Trustee professional development,
- Trustee travel expenses, and
- Trustee internet service and cell phone expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Trustee Expense Report				
For the Period September 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025				
Trustee	Professional Development	Travel/ Mileage**	Internet / Cell phone	Total
Anderson, Greg	\$ -	\$ 255.04	\$ 572.63	\$ 827.67
Bradford, John	\$ 965.41	\$ 1,384.38	\$ 739.10	\$ 3,088.89
Collver, Rita	\$ -	\$ 278.59	\$ 286.00	\$ 564.59
Doyle, Brian	\$ 965.41	\$ 1,799.77	\$ 822.33	\$ 3,587.51
Gibson, Susan	\$ 965.41	\$ 1,160.59	\$ 566.95	\$ 2,692.95
Hill, Aidyn	\$ 1,119.32	\$ 1,957.20	\$ 249.82	\$ 3,326.34
Passmore, Lisa	\$ 965.41	\$ 623.49	\$ 238.38	\$ 1,827.28
Prince, Olivia	\$ 607.85	\$ 1,998.80	\$ 596.24	\$ 3,202.89
Sault, Tammy	\$ 965.41	\$ 1,498.81	\$ 851.34	\$ 3,315.56
Shields, Caitlyn	\$ 1,119.32	\$ 1,968.81	\$ 596.24	\$ 3,684.37
Sloat, Carol Ann	\$ 965.41	\$ 830.94	\$ -	\$ 1,796.35
Thomas, Elaine	\$ -	\$ 417.56	\$ 403.76	\$ 821.32
VanEvery-Albert, Claudine	\$ 1,476.88	\$ 1,536.61	\$ 517.25	\$ 3,530.74
Waldschmidt, Tom	\$ 972.45	\$ 1,685.21	\$ 661.49	\$ 3,319.15
Whiton, Elizabeth	\$ -	\$ 46.83	\$ 366.94	\$ 413.77
Total Trustees	\$ 11,088.28	\$17,442.63	\$ 7,468.47	\$35,999.38
** travel/mileage includes accommodation and transportation costs				



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: **Contract Award - Prime Design Consultant for Paris North Elementary School/Childcare**
DATE: April 28, 2025

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board approve the contract for Prime Design Consulting Services for the elementary school build in Paris to **Snyder Architects** for **\$758,753**.

Background

The Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) was successful in securing funding through the Ministry of Education's 2024-25 Capital Priorities Program for a new school in Paris, Ontario. The capital request includes the construction of a new, 536 pupil place elementary school that will include a 4-room childcare centre. This new school will support the accommodation pressure in Paris as evident by the capacities of neighbouring schools, the continued utilization of portables and the anticipated growth of residential development. The submission leveraged a school design that was included in the Ministry of Education's New School Construction Design Catalogue. By utilizing this pre-established design, Grand Erie will see a significant reduction in both project timelines and cost. The school design is owned by Snyder Architects.

As the architectural design for the school is the intellectual property of Snyder Architects, it is necessary for Grand Erie to engage Snyder Architects as the Prime Design Consultant through a Sole Source procurement. This approach aligns with Grand Erie's Non-Competitive Approval Process which permits non-competitive procurement to ensure compatibility with existing products, services, and construction. It also acknowledges exclusive rights such as licenses, copyrights, and patents, and supports the continued use of specialized products that must be maintained by the original manufacturer or its authorized representative.

The total project funding, which includes Capital Priority Funding of \$26,518,283 for approximately 60,000 square feet of new space, reflects the following details as confirmed in the Ministry-approved Space Template:

- 15,480 square feet for 19 classrooms
- 6,500 square feet for a 4-room childcare centre
- 5,960 square feet for a gymnasium and changerooms
- 4,800 square feet for 4 kindergarten classrooms
- 1,800 square feet for a learning commons space
- 1,700 square feet for 2 rooms dedicated to support specialized services,
- 770 square feet for 2 resource rooms
- 675 square feet for general purpose use

Additional Information

Business Services has completed a procurement review and recommends award of the Contract to **Snyder Architects**. The \$758,753 contract is well within the amount estimated for this project in the capital budget.

Next Steps

Grand Erie will initiate an introductory meeting with the successful vendor to begin the design phase of the project. If all planning, zoning, land preparation and construction timelines are met, the school could open to new students as early as September 2027.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports all the indicators of Learn Lead Inspire.

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
Superintendent of Business & Treasurer



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Liana Thompson, Superintendent of Education
RE: **Naming of New Elementary School in Brantford**
DATE: April 28, 2025

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board name the new Brantford Elementary School Blanche E. Williams Public School.

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board disband the Brantford Elementary Special Ad Hoc School Naming Committee for the new Brantford Elementary School.

Background

The Brantford community will be welcoming a new school in the fall of 2026. Grand Erie District School Board's Policy Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities FA-03, is followed when naming a new school.

Additional Information

On October 28, 2024, Trustees approved a request from Superintendent Thompson to name the new Brantford elementary school and that a School Naming Working Committee be struck to name the new school in the 2024-25 school year as per policy FA-03.

The first committee meeting took place on December 4, 2024, and the launch date for community input began December 9, 2024, for a 60-day period. The 60-day period for community input ended February 7, 2025.

Submissions were considered by the committee whose members were:

- E. Thomas, Trustee
- N. Alexander, Staff – Walter Gretzky Elementary School
- D. Atanas, Principal – New Brantford Elementary School
- D. Dean, Principal – Edith Monture Elementary School
- P. Harris, Principal – Walter Gretzky Elementary School
- D. Horne, Vice Principal – Edith Monture Elementary School
- J. Hughes, Principal – Bellview Public School
- P. Kaur, Vice Principal - Walter Gretzky Elementary School
- A. Kroes, Staff – Edith Monture Elementary School
- C. Morris, Staff – Bellview Public School
- M. Raju, Parent/Caregiver – Bellview Public School
- T. Ro, Principal – Agnes Hodge Public School
- T. Shantz, Vice Principal – Edith Monture Elementary School
- S. Soeze, Parent/Caregiver – Agnes Hodge Public School
- P. Vinodh, Parent/Caregiver – Bellview Public School
- S. Vinodh, Student – Bellview Public School
- S. Vinodh, Student – Bellview Public School

There were 297 submissions in total, representing 173 different names. Each submission was accompanied by a rationale, which formed part of the committee's deliberations. Names were
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vetted using the criteria included in Grand Erie's Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities Procedure FA-003 to include a final list of 10 names.

Criteria considered when choosing the 10 names for discussion were:

- Are there other schools in the Brantford area with the same name
- Are there other schools in the province with the same name
- Name of the street on which the school is located.
- Name of the city district in which the school is located.
- Historical name applied to the area in which the school is located.
- Historical events.
- Geographic regions /or landmarks.
- Recognition of an individual for longstanding contributions to the Grand Erie Educational Community.
- Recognition of local, provincial and/or national diversity based in an anti-oppressive lens to include representation of those who have been historically marginalized and/or underserved.

On February 12, 2025, the New Brantford Elementary School Special Ad Hoc Naming Committee proposed the name Blanche E. Williams Public School for consideration by Trustees. The committee was overwhelmingly in favour of this name, selected through a dotmocracy process. The rationale for this choice is as follows:

In 1885, Brantford resident Blanche Williams became the first Black woman to be admitted to the University of Toronto to pursue an undergraduate degree and be allowed the same privileges as white students. According to the University of Toronto's Class and Prize List for 1886, Blanche E. Williams passed in Mathematics, History, Geography, Classics and English, and obtained second class honours in French and German. Blanche attended BCI, and like many prominent women from this era are credited as attending BCI, which may refer to the former Brantford Young Ladies College or Brantford Grammar School. A [Globe and Mail article](#) provides further information about the importance of Blanche's educational journey.

Prior to moving to Brantford, census records indicate Blanche's father Charles may have escaped slavery and trained as a barber in Oakville, while her mother, Josephine, may have lived in an Underground Railroad settlement in Amherstburg. Individuals who escaped slavery often used aliases in Canada to avoid detection, which makes it difficult to identify them should they have eventually moved back to the United States. To date, any photos or information about Blanche post-attendance at the University of Toronto have not been able to be located or confirmed. There is some information that suggests she may have become a prominent member of Philadelphia's African American community, purchased land in Michigan or lived out her later years ghost writing for authors in Ottawa. [Unite Against Hate](#) and the [City of Brantford](#) have both recognized her in their Black History Month campaigns.

Blanche E. Williams inspires courage, strength, intelligence, and perseverance for Grand Erie students. Blanche E. Williams Public School will be the first Grand Erie school named in honour of a prominent black historical figure.

Communication Plan

Once approved, the name for the new Brantford Elementary School will be circulated to all partners.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report supports the Belonging indicator of Learn Lead Inspire and the following statement: we will build a culture of belonging to create an equitable, inclusive and responsive environment for all learners.

Respectfully submitted,
Liana Thompson
Superintendent of Education



Grand Erie District School Board

TO: JoAnna Roberto, Ph. D., Director of Education & Secretary of the Board
FROM: Julie White, Superintendent of Education
RE: **Naming of New Elementary School in Caledonia**
DATE: April 28, 2025

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board name the new Caledonia Elementary School Grand River Public School.

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board disband the Caledonia Elementary Special Ad Hoc School Naming Committee for the new Caledonia Elementary School.

Background

The Caledonia community will be welcoming a new school in the fall of 2025. Grand Erie District School Board's (Grand Erie) Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities Policy FA-03, is followed when naming a new school.

Additional Information

On October 28, 2024 Trustees approved a request from Superintendent White to name the new Caledonia elementary school and that a Special Ad Hoc School Naming Committee be struck to name the new school in the 2024-25 school year as per policy FA-03.

The first committee meeting took place December 4, 2024 and the launch date for community input was set as December 9, 2024 for a 60-day period. The 60-day period for community input ended February 7, 2025.

Submissions were considered by the naming committee whose members were:

- B. Doyle – Trustee
- Z. Anderson – Student, J.L. Mitchener Public School
- F. Bashir – School Advisory Council Member, Seneca Central Public School
- T. Dayle - Cox – Student, Caledonia Centennial Public School
- M. Fraser, Principal – New Caledonia Elementary School
- A. Hewson – School Advisory Council Member, Caledonia Centennial Public School
- C. Kelly – Principal – Caledonia Centennial School
- A. Klassen, Staff Member – J.L. Mitchener Public School
- M. Liao – Principal – Seneca Central Public School
- S. McDonald, Principal- J.L. Mitchener Public School
- J. Orr, Staff Member – Seneca Central Public School
- L. Parsons, Staff Member – Caledonia Centennial Public School
- T.J. Rooth, Vice - Principal – Caledonia Centennial Public School
- J. Smith – School Advisory Council Member, J.L. Mitchener Public School

There were 119 submissions in total, representing 94 different names. Each submission was accompanied by a rationale, which formed part of the committee's deliberations. Names were vetted using the criteria included in Grand Erie's Naming/Renaming of Schools and Facilities Procedure FA-003 to include a final list of 10 names.

On April 23, 2025, the New Caledonia Elementary Special Ad Hoc School Naming Committee proposed the name Grand River Public School for consideration by Trustees. The rationale for this choice is as follows:

The Grand River is a central geographical feature of many communities along it, flowing through Six Nations of the Grand River, Caledonia and beyond. It holds particular cultural, historical and environmental importance in the community and especially for the Haudenosaunee people of the region. The river is part of the Haldimand Tract and was granted to the Six Nations of the Grand River under the [Haldimand Proclamation of 1784](#).

As a recognizable landmark to many community members, its watershed encompasses a vast area of 6,800 square kilometres, making it the largest watershed in southern Ontario. The Grand River is a dendritic river, meaning it is shaped like a tree, with the Grand River acting as the trunk and many tributaries joining it along the way. The name will foster a sense of pride and belonging among students, staff, and families. The commonly referred proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," connects to the entirety of a community that must support children in their journey *in the same way that the Grand River connects to the communities it travels*.

The Grand River provides an opportunity to integrate into various curriculum areas, from geography and environmental science to history. By naming the school after the Grand River, the board aligns its identity with these rich educational opportunities, encouraging students to explore and appreciate their natural environment while learning about the river's ecological and cultural significance and respect for Six Nations people, Haldimand proclamation history.

Here are excerpts from a few submissions in support of Grand River Elementary School:

"The historical and cultural significance of the Grand River will foster respect for nature, and connect the community it serves."

"The Grand River is an important part of the community, culture and surrounding area."

Communication Plan

Once approved, the name for the new Caledonia Elementary School will be circulated to all partners.

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

This report is connected to all priorities: Learning, Well-being, and Belonging.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie White
Superintendent of Education