



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 24, 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.
- (e) Call to Order
- (f) Additions/Deletions/Approval of the Agenda
Recommended Motion:
"THAT the Agenda be approved."
- (g) Memorials
 - * (i) Braun Gagnon (R. Collver)
 - * (ii) Isaac Legate (J. Bradford)
 - * (iii) John Guthro (G. Anderson)
- (h) In-Camera Report
- (i) Learn Lead Inspire Award (J. Roberto)
- (j) Student Showcase (J. Roberto, R. Vanckerbroeck)
 - (i) Walter Gretzky Elementary School African-Caribbean Cultural Club Choir
 - (ii) **D**istributive **E**ducation **C**lubs of **A**merican (DECA) Award Winners
- (k) Delegation

B - 1 Consent Agenda (S. Gibson)

Recommended Motion:

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

- * (a) Approve the minutes of:
 - (i) Regular Board meeting dated January 27, 2025
- * (b) Receive the minutes of:
 - (i) Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee meeting dated October 24, 2024
- * (c) Receive the correspondence from:
 - (i) Algoma District School Board dated January 21, 2025
 - (ii) Ottawa Catholic District School Board dated January 27, 2025
 - (iii) Ottawa Catholic District School Board dated January 30, 2025

C - 1 Committee Recommendations and Reports

- * (a) [Finance Committee Meeting Report](#) dated February 10, 2025 (R. Wyszynski) (I)



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

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

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

(a) [Director of Education Fall Highlights 2024](#) (J. Roberto) (I)

F - 1 **Student Trustees' Report**

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

* (a) Approval to Tender Construction at Cobblestone Elementary School (R. Wyszynski)

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Board approve the release of the tender documents for the new childcare addition and the eight-classroom addition at Cobblestone Elementary School."

H - 1 **OPSBA Report** (Claudine VanEvery-Albert) (I)

I - 1 **Adjournment**

Recommended Motion:

"THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned."



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, February 24, 2025

7:15 p.m.

Education Centre Boardroom

AGENDA

MARCH

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
03	04	05	06	07
<p>Special Finance Committee Meeting 6:15 p.m. (Virtual)</p> <p>Policy & Program Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p>			<p>Audit Committee Meeting (Virtual) 4:30 p.m.</p> <p>Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.</p>	
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
<p>Regular Board Meeting 7:15 p.m.</p>			<p>Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Meeting 3:30 p.m.</p>	

In Memoriam

Braun Gagnon, a student
at Waterford District High School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Braun Gagnon, a Grade 9 student at Waterford District High School. In his first semester at WDHS, Braun was an honour student demonstrating a passion for math and science.

Braun was well known for his ability to make everyone laugh. He had an inquisitive mind and showed a keen interest in computer technology. He was helpful, had boundless energy and a mischievous grin. He loved to spend time with his siblings. Braun had a big heart and was deeply loved by his family and friends.

Our sincerest condolences go out to Braun's family, friends, staff members, school community and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam O'Halloran
Principal of Waterford District High School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on February 24, 2025, by Trustee Collver

In Memoriam

Isaac Legate, a student
at Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA)

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Isaac Legate, a Grade 11 student at Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA).

Isaac was polite, hardworking and a joy to be around. He loved his family and working with animals. He had a radiant smile and infectious laugh, and easily made friends everywhere he went.

Our sincerest condolences go out to Isaac's family, friends, staff members, and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Allison
Principal of Grand Erie Learning Alternatives (GELA)

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on February 24, 2025, by Trustee Bradford

In Memoriam

John Guthro, a Grade 11 student
at Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of John Guthro, a Grade 11 student at Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School.

John's personality shone brightly at school. He was loved by his friends, family, classmates, and staff who have taught and supported him over the years. He was a sports enthusiast and had a knack for knowing various facts on a wide variety of topics; nobody could beat John in a game of Kahoot.

Our sincerest condolences go out to John's family, friends, staff members, and everyone connected to this loss.

Respectfully submitted,

Griffin Cobb
Principal of Pauline Johnson Collegiate & Vocational School

Presented at the Grand Erie District School Board's Regular Board Meeting
on February 24, 2025, by Trustee Anderson



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

Present: Chair: S. Gibson, Vice-Chair: T. Waldschmidt, Trustees: G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, B. Doyle, L. Passmore, E. Thomas, T. Sault, C.A. Sloat, C. VanEvery-Albert, 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

Absent: L. Whiton

A - 1 **Opening (6:28 p.m.)**

(a) **Roll Call**

Chair Gibson confirmed roll call.

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

(c) **In-Camera Session (6:30 p.m.)**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert
THAT the Board move In-Camera.

Carried

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

Student Trustee Shields read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

(e) **Call to Order**

Chair Gibson called the Regular Board meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Moved by: T. Waldschmidt

Seconded by: C. VanEvery-Albert
THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

(g) **Memorial**

(i) **Gayle Book**

The memorial of Gayle Book was read by Chair Gibson.

(h) **In-Camera Report**

That Item D-1-a be approved.

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: J. Bradford

Carried



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

(i) **Learn Lean Inspire Awards**

Director Roberto presented Learn Lead Inspire Awards to Carrie Swartz, Director of Museum Experience at the Toronto Holocaust Museum and the entire museum team who exemplify outstanding dedication to their communities and embody a shared commitment to inspire learners.

(j) **Showcase**

Director Roberto introduced Judy Gardner, Principal of Banbury Heights School, Meghan Cameron, a teacher at Cayuga Secondary School, Jackie Watkins, a mathematics teacher consultant and Brian Wilson, a Grade 6 teacher at Cedarland Public School who each shared how their visit to the Toronto Holocaust Museum has impacted them and their work with students.

(k) **Delegations** – Nil

B - 1 **Consent Agenda**

THAT the Board accept the January 27, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: G. Anderson

(a) Approve the minutes of:

(i) Annual Board meeting dated December 9, 2024

(ii) Regular Board meeting dated December 9, 2024

(b) Receive the minutes of:

(i) Six Nations Advisory Committee meeting dated September 26, 2024

(ii) Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting dated October 24, 2024

(iii) Special Education Advisory Committee meeting dated November 14, 2024

(iv) Special Education Advisory Committee meeting dated December 12, 2024

(c) Receive the correspondence from:

(i) Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board dated December 2, 2024

(ii) Waterloo Region District School Board dated December 12, 2024

(iii) Durham District School Board dated January 13, 2025

(iv) Near North District School Board dated January 17, 2025

Carried

C - 1 **Committee Recommendations and Reports**

(a) **Special Education Advisory Committee Report dated January 9, 2025**

Moved by: C. A. Sloat

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the appointment of Simon Jennins, Community Living Brant, to the Special Education Advisory Committee for the remainder of the Term 2022-2026.

Carried



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

(b) **Special Finance Committee Meeting Report dated January 13, 2025**

Moved by: B. Doyle

Seconded by: J. Bradford

THAT the Board approve the school boundaries for Caledonia Centennial Public School, Seneca Central Public School, J.L. Mitchener Public School, and the new school boundary for the new Caledonia school, as outlined in Figure 1, effective September 1, 2025.

Carried

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the establishment of a working group for École Dufferin and École Confederation French Immersion Boundary Review.

Carried

(c) **Policy and Program Committee Meeting Report dated January 13, 2025**

Moved by: C. VanEvery-Albert

Seconded by: B. Doyle

THAT the Board approve the draft School Year Calendars 2025-26.

Carried

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

E - 1 **Report of the Director**

Director Roberto highlighted the following:

- Math Competition Winners
- Read Your Way to the Fair
- Innovation Hub in Action - Future Ready Citizens STEAM program
- Helping Birds and Bats
- Ford Auto Parts Donation
- Tech is Grand
- Student Trustee Donation
- Norfolk General – Project Search
- Mental Health Resources
- Caring for our Communities
- Softball Scholarship
- Conestoga Partnership
- Centre for Excellence Grand Opening
- Days of Significance
- GEPIC Event
- Student Trustee Elections

In addition, Ministry approval to build a new elementary school in Paris was announced.



Regular Board Meeting

Monday, January 27, 2025

Education Centre Boardroom

MINUTES

F - 1 **Student Trustees' Report** – Nil

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

(a) **Major Construction Project Report**

Presented as printed.

H - 1 **OPSBA Report**

Trustee Van Every-Albert advised of the following:

- Public Education Symposium was held January 24 -25, 2025 in Toronto
- OPSBA AGM will be held in June
- Canadian School Board Association Annual meeting will be held in Winnipeg

I - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: T. Sault

THAT the Regular Board meeting be adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Carried

Chair S. Gibson

Director of Education and Secretary of the Board J. Roberto



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, October 24, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- Present:** S. Darling, Committee Chair
 J. Roberto, Director
 J. White, Superintendent
 R. Vankerbroeck, Superintendent
 T. Sault, Trustee
 G. Stead, Secondary Principal
 D. Dean, Elementary Principal
 P. Kaur, Elementary Principal
 E. Huxley, Parent Council – Banbury Heights Elementary School
 C. Mitchell, Parent Council – Ecole Dufferin
 J. Montague, Parent Council – J.L. Mitchener
 B. Ramey, Parent Council – Graham Bell Victoria School
 K. O’Brian, Parent Council –Walpole North Elementary School
 R. Jakaitis, Parent Council – Hagersville Elementary School
 H. Smith, Parent Council – Lynndale Heights Elementary School
 L. McCormick, Cayuga Secondary School
 N. Waldschmidt
- Regrets:** C. Clark, L. Woodley, L. Passmore
- Recorder:** S. Fehrman

A - 1 **Opening**
Roll Call / Welcome to Open Session / Land Acknowledgement Statement
 Superintendent White opened the meeting at 6:41 p.m. and S. Fehrman confirmed that Roll Call had been completed. Superintendent White read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

B - 1 **GEPIC Slate of Members**
 (a) **Election of Chair**
 Superintendent White called for nominations for the GEPIC Chair for the 2024-25 school year.

 N. Waldschmidt nominated J. Montague for the position of Chair.

 J. Montague accepted the nomination

 Superintendent White asked if there were any other nominations. Superintendent White congratulated J. Montague on her role as GEPIC Chair for the 2024-25 school year.

(b) **Terms of Reference**
 Superintendent White outlined the components of the GEPIC Terms of Reference, explaining that they align with the Education Act (O. Reg. 612/00).

C - 1 **Minutes**
 (a) **Approval of the Minutes – May 23, 2024**
 Moved by: N. Waldschmidt
 Seconded by: E. Huxley





Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, October 24, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

THAT the May 23, 2024, Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee minutes be approved.

Carried

D - 1 **Financial Report**

(a) **GEPIC Budget**

Superintendent White reported that schools have each been allocated \$500 for Parent Involvement, and that a further \$27,000 is available for larger engagement events.

E - 1 **School Highlights**

Administrators D. Dean (Elementary), P. Kaur (Elementary) and G. Stead (Secondary) shared highlights of school start up events and activities. Grand Erie's focus on Math Achievement and Graduation will be a focus for schools in 2024-25.

F - 1 **System Updates**

Superintendent White shared information about:

- PPM 128
- Early Reading Screener
- School Builds
- Student Learning Support Days
- Welcome Centre
- You Belong Here Campaign
- Take our Kids to Work Day

G - 1 **New Business - Information**

- (a) Superintendent Vankerbroeck provided an overview of the summer programs / learning we offered over the months of July and August
- (b) Superintendent Vankerbroeck provided an overview of the Math Achievement plan and the success of last year.

H - 1 **Planning for Future Meetings**

- (a) Superintendent Vankerbroeck provided an overview of the Speaker Series for the 2024-2025 School Year.
- (b) Superintendent Vankerbroeck provided an overview of the School Council Orientation being held Thursday, November 21, 2024.

I - 1 **Greetings from Director Roberto**

- Director Roberto extended a thank you to all the GEPIC Members.
- Director Roberto touched on some of the exciting things happening within Grand Erie, which included
 - Recent Secondary School Graduations
 - Secondary School "You Belong Here" Guide
 - Artificial Intelligence Guide



Grand Erie Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, October 24, 2024

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

- The Launch of a monthly memo from the Director, focusing on exciting things happening in Grand Erie.
- Opening of the Welcome Centre. This past year, we welcomed students from almost 32 Countries.
- The Launching of the Innovation Centre (I-Hub)

J-1 Future Meetings

- January 30, 2025
- March 27, 2025
- May 22, 2025

School Council Orientation

- November 21, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.



Algoma District School Board

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January 21, 2025

Linda Lacroix, Registrar and CEO
Office of the Register
Ontario College of Teachers

Dear Linda Lacroix,

The Algoma District School Board Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is writing to support the November 6, 2024 letter sent by the Limestone District School Board SEAC to bring forward concerns related to teacher training in special education at faculties of education across Ontario.

The lack of consistent training in special education during initial teacher education programs is a concern for many school boards. Despite the diversity of learners in Ontario classrooms, many teachers do not receive enough preparation in this area prior to beginning their careers.

Teachers must be well-prepared to address the wide range of needs and abilities that they will encounter in the classroom. Teachers that receive special education training as part of their teacher preparation programming are far better equipped to implement the principles of Universal Design for Learning and differentiate instruction effectively for all students, including those with special education needs. Additionally, training helps to ensure that teachers understand the many diverse needs of our learners, enabling them to develop and implement Individual Education Plans (IEPs) effectively beginning with their first days in our classrooms.

The ADSB SEAC echoes the call of the Limestone DSB SEAC for the College of Teachers, in consultation with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and the Ministry of Education, to ensure that special education training becomes a required component of all teacher preparation programs in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Pat Mick

Pat Mick,
Chair
Algoma District School Board SEAC

January 27, 2025

Via Email

Hon. Jill Dunlop Ministry of Education



Re: Inadequate Special Education Funding & Educational Assistant Shortage

Dear Minister Dunlop,

I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the significant challenges facing special education in the Ottawa Catholic School Board and across all Ontario schools. Specifically, the insufficient funding for special education programs and services in combination with the critical shortage of Educational Assistants (EA) severely impacts the quality of education and support provided to exceptional students. These act as barriers to these students' rights, as per the Human Rights Code, to access education. Furthermore, the lack of adequate funding for special education has ramifications negatively impacting the entire student population in Ontario, as further explained below.

Funding Challenges:

- **Special Education Grant Shortfalls:** The current Special Education Grant is insufficient to meet the complex and diverse needs of exceptional students. This chronic underfunding forces school boards to reallocate resources from other areas, therefore compromising the overall educational experience for all students. As an example, the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB) currently spends \$26 million more than it is funded to support students with special education needs. This financial strain limits the board's ability to provide essential services and support to its students.
- **Inadequate Transportation Funding:** Transportation costs for students with special needs continue to exceed the funding provided by the Ministry. This shortfall places an additional burden on school boards and families of students who require specialized transportation and acts as a barrier to access education.

Educational Assistant Shortages:

- **Critical Staffing Gaps:** The province is facing a severe shortage of qualified Education Assistants. This shortage results in significant challenges in providing consistent and adequate support to students with special education needs. Staff absences due to illness and stress often cannot be filled, leaving vulnerable students without the necessary assistance and supervision. This situation poses a direct risk to the safety and well-being of these students and disrupts the learning environment for all students in our schools not only in our board but across the province. This lack of support denies special needs students their legally protected right to access the same level of education as their peers without disabilities.
- **Students Unable to Access Educational Institutions:** A lack of appropriate staff and support can also result in requests to keep students at home. Results from [People for Education's 2023-2024 Annual Ontario School Survey](#) showed that 72% of elementary schools who had daily EA shortages recommended that students receiving EA support stay home and 67% of secondary schools did the same.

- **Urgent Need for Action:** The Ministry must take immediate steps to address this crisis. We urge the government to implement strategies similar to those successfully employed in the healthcare sector to attract and retain staff. These strategies could include:
 - **Free Tuition for EA Programs:** Offering free tuition for students enrolled in Educational Assistant programs at Ontario colleges.
 - **Retention Bonuses:** Providing financial incentives to encourage EAs to remain in the education sector.
 - **Enhanced Professional Development:** Investing in ongoing professional development opportunities for EAs to enhance their skills and knowledge.
 - **Improved Working Conditions:** Addressing workload concerns and ensuring that EAs have the necessary resources and support to effectively perform their roles.
 - **Stable Employment:** Many EAs leave the profession due to lack of full-time stable positions and some are forced to take on multiple jobs to make ends meet. Providing stable funding to pay for full-time positions will enable schools to retain the best EAs and result in lower costs over time when compared to the cost of constantly having to re-staff and retrain new EAs.
 - **Increase and improve all special education resources:** Speech and Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Behaviour Analysts, Resource Teachers and other specialists are wholly insufficient in number to meet the needs of the current student population in the province - significant effort must be expended to improve children's access to the services these specialists bring to the classrooms of the province.

The current situation is unsustainable and demands urgent attention. As Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB), I am asking that you take immediate action to address these critical funding and staffing challenges to ensure that all students in Ontario, including those with special needs, have access to the quality education and support they deserve.

Sincerely,



Traci Clarke, SEAC Chair, Ottawa Catholic School Board

CC Members of Provincial Parliament, Ottawa Region
 Mark Mullan, Chairperson of Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB)
 Sue Wilson, School Board Trustee Representative, Minister's Advisory Council on
 Special Education (MACSE)
 Ontario Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC)



January 30, 2025

Via email through Ontario Directors of Education

RE: Special Education Funding in the Province of Ontario

Dear Chairs of Special Education Advisory Committees across Ontario,

We are writing on behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB). As we are all aware special education funding in Ontario is inadequate for meeting the needs of our student population. This, combined with the shortage of educational assistants, has thrown our education system in Ontario into crisis mode, with all students being affected.

As SEAC members it is our job to provide advice and recommendations to school boards on special education programs and services. Most of us represent associations in our community consisting of exceptional students and as such we have become well versed in advocacy in the area of special education. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to combine our voices into one and hope that the Ministry of Education will hear us loud and clear. Together, we hope to send a clear and strong message that something has to be done to address the crisis happening with special education in Ontario.

As such we are seeking each and every one of your signatures on the attached letter in the hopes that together, our voices can be amplified and send a unified message to the Ministry of Education to impress upon them the call to action.

We appreciate your cooperation and support with this matter. We hope to have the letter signed by Friday, February 28, 2025. Please do not hesitate to contact by emailing us at ocsbseac.advocacy@gmail.com should you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mara Chapeskie
Vice Chair, OCSB SEAC



Finance Committee Meeting

Monday, February 10, 2025

6:30 p.m.

MS Teams, Education Centre

REPORT

Present: Committee Chair: T. Waldschmidt Trustees: S. Gibson, G. Anderson, J. Bradford, R. Collver, L. Passmore, E. Thomas

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

Opening

(a) **Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair T. Waldschmidt at 6:30 p.m. and roll call was confirmed.

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

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

Committee Chair T. Waldschmidt read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

A - 1 **Consent Agenda**

Moved by: J. Bradford

Seconded by: G. Anderson

THAT the Finance Committee accept the February 10, 2025 Consent Agenda and the recommendations contained therein.

Approve the minutes of:

(i) Special Finance Committee meeting dated January 13, 2025

Carried

B - 1 **Business Arising from Minutes/Previous Meetings** – Nil

C - 1 **New Business**

(a) **Budget Process 2025-26**

Presented as printed.

In response to a question, the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive requires the board to award bids based on the lowest quote, regardless of tariff pressures.

(b) **Enrolment vs Capacity by School Report**

Presented as printed.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Ministry does not provide extra funding for the Grade 9 or 10 Technological Education credit needed to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma.

D - 1 **Other Business** – Nil

E - 1 **Adjournment**

Moved by: G. Anderson

Seconded by: R. Collver

THAT the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.



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: **Approval to Tender Construction at Cobblestone Elementary School**
DATE: February 24, 2025

Recommended Motion: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____
THAT the Board approve the release of the tender documents for the new childcare addition and the eight-classroom addition at Cobblestone Elementary School.

Background

In March 2021, the Grand Erie District School Board (Grand Erie) received an announcement from the Ministry of Education indicating that it would receive capital funding for a 4-room childcare centre addition (1 infant, 1 toddler, 1 preschool, 1 family age) at Cobblestone Elementary School in Paris, Ontario.

In October 2022, Grand Erie received confirmation that the floor and site plan for a childcare centre license have been reviewed and approved in principle by the Ministry of Education pursuant to Section 14 of O. Reg. 137/15 under the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014.

Additionally, in March of 2024, Grand Erie received additional funding for an eight-classroom addition (184 additional pupil places) to support enrolment growth in the community. The Ministry has recommended that the two projects be tendered and constructed under one contract.

Project Scope:

The addition, which will include approximately 18,300 square feet of constructed space, will include the following construction scope:

- 1 infant, 1 toddler, 1 pre-school and 1 family age room, on the east side of the building
- designated play areas for each room of the childcare
- 8 classrooms, built into two stories, on the west side of the building
- additional washrooms are included in the school addition scope.

The site plan application has been approved and the building permit application is currently underway. The design plan is attached as Appendix A.

Budget Implications:

A cost consultant was engaged to review the project drawings developed by Grguric Architects and provided a cost estimate to ensure the project cost is within the Ministry's ATP funding allowance.

Project Cost Breakdown:

Description	Budget
New Childcare Construction (Class A Estimate)	\$3,209,800
New Classroom Construction (Class B Estimate)	\$4,420,700
Architect, Fees, Permits	\$830,709
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$8,461,209

Funding Breakdown:

Description	Budget
Ministry – Capital Priorities	\$4,098,700
Ministry – Child Care Capital	\$2,224,868
Ministry- Additional Child Care Capital	\$556,217
Total Funding	\$6,879,685

Funding Variance **-\$1,581,524**

The estimated project costs are approximately \$1,581,524 higher than the Ministry approved allocation, however, Senior Administration, in consultation with the Ministry, is recommending supplementing a portion of gap, approximately \$264,068 through Grand Erie’s accumulated surplus. The remaining amount, totalling \$1,381,456 is currently with the Ministry under review for additional funding.

This funding plan should support the project; however, should the tender results reveal an additional budget pressure, Grand Erie will need to further explore these three options:

1. Review alternate pricing and re-structure components so the project fits within the approved project funding.
2. Utilize internal, Board-appropriated reserves for any cost overruns. The balances of Board reserves as of August 31, 2024, are:

Reserve Fund	Balance	Notes
Proceeds of Disposition - Ministry	\$130,967	Requires Ministry Approval
Proceeds of Disposition - Other	\$1,017,891	Requires Ministry Approval
Accumulated Surplus:	\$11,111,173	Requires Board Approval

3. Incur unsupported capital for any cost overruns.

Staff will have more information for Board of Trustees regarding next steps during their review phase of the tender results.

Project Schedule:

Pending Board of Trustees approval of the designed project scope of work, staff can release the tender for this project in March 2025. The following schedule is subject to favorable tender pricing:

General Contractor Tender Posting	March 2025
Tender Award	April 2025
Execution of Contract	May 2025
Break Ground / Commence Construction Phase	May 2025
Grand Opening:	September 2026

Grand Erie Multi-Year Plan

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rafal Wyszynski
 Superintendent of Business & Treasurer

Appendix A

