



## Superior-Greenstone District School Board

2004-2005

Director's Annual Report



### Director's Message

*The Superior-Greenstone District School Board will look back on the Year 2004-2005 as a year where sights were set on our future. During this school year, we began the first stages toward implementing our Strategic Direction. Recognizing the challenges before us, such as the declining enrolment and economic base in our communities, we continue to work optimistically to provide our students with the well-rounded education experience they deserve.*

*Pathways leading to the world of work or post-secondary destinations of college and university have been established to meet the needs of all students. We have renewed efforts to create partnerships with our First Nations communities which will lead to higher success rates for our Aboriginal students.*

*Over the next few years we expect to develop and implement character building activities through the curriculum. This will arm our students with the perspective required to become responsible, contributing adults who have learned the value of caring for ourselves and our neighbours.*

*Living in the region we do, creates challenges in the areas of access and communications which do not exist in the more urban boards in Ontario. Our secondary schools have begun to rely on technology through distance education to provide access to courses which would not otherwise be available. As our Strategic Direction unfolds, we will continue to enhance opportunities for our students and look for creative solutions to the problems of distance, and geography.*

*Once again, the trustees, staff, students and community stakeholders, who, during the consultation process, committed the time and effort to assure that the Strategic Direction had a clear focus, should be congratulated.*

*Congratulations, as well, to Heather Wilson-Boast who served as Director of Education from January 2000 to September 2005 and worked with such a supportive group of trustees to create this Strategic Direction to improve student achievement. Heather will be missed and we join in wishing her every success in the future.*

*It will be my role to foster the culture of continued improvement, look for new opportunities and build upon our success. I truly look forward to the steps we take into the future.*

*Terry Ellwood, Director of Education*

### In the Board's Classrooms

#### Professional Development

*Literacy, numeracy and student success were the main goals of capacity building activities in the Superior-Greenstone District School Board. The Oral Language project is aimed at increasing engagement and comprehension and pushing students towards higher level thinking activities in response to things they are learning. Teachers continue to build capacity in balanced literacy, especially the guided reading process. The capacity building activities for the junior division continue to move the literacy initiative to the next step. Later literacy capacity building provided the full range of the continuum of literacy instruction in our board.*

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## Classrooms



Fifteen teachers completed the Part 1 Math course and the Part 2 Math Additional

Qualifications course in December 2005. These teachers will go on to take the specialist course in math and some have offered to teach the Part 1 course so that the learning is ongoing and sustained.

An investment of over \$100,000 into the purchase of the "Math Makes Sense" program has put new learning resources into every elementary schools. Math manipulatives to support the problem solving approach to mathematics have been purchased and organized onto math carts for many elementary classrooms. A fully released Vice Principal of Mathematics will provide at-the-elbow support in each school to build capacity and support the implementation of the new math resources into each school.

The Superior-Greystone District School Board participated in the NOEL Leadership and Summer Conferences. Attendees noted their pleasure with motivational ability of the conference keynote speakers, especially as participants were starting a new school year.

### Anti-Bullying/Safe Schools

Safe School audits were done in each school by school teams and provided a heightened awareness of safety issues and facilitated school committee plans to address the safety issues. Key features in the plan includes the establishment of an Anti-Bullying Committee, doing annual student surveys on bullying and the creation of school safety plans. Resources were purchased to support these plans and ongoing work by the Anti-Bullying Committee will provide our schools with current information and support in being safe places for all.

### Early Intervention

The Early Intervention Program was expanded so that every school had an onsite Early Intervention teacher. This teacher is part of a team that identifies students at risk of not learning to read in grades 1 and 2 and provides intensive remedial support. The student support teams, comprised of the classroom teacher, the special education teacher, the literacy teacher and the early intervention teacher continually track and monitor student progress to ensure that no child falls through the cracks and finds way to support all children in enjoying literacy.

### Learning for All

The Superior-Greystone District School Board applied for and was successful in obtaining a \$250,000 grant from CODE to implement the "Learning for All" document. Critical coaches will be hired to provide support to teachers in their classrooms in implementing differentiated instruction so that all students will be successful in school.

These coaches provide support for our educational assistants and teachers in implementing assistive technology.

The Individual Education Plan template was modified to make it more user-friendly; the Special Education Board Plan was updated and the Educational Handbook was completed, reviewed and is included in the hiring package for all new educational assistants. It will be continually reviewed and revised so that it is a living document.

The Margaret Twomey Public School Turn-Around Project is in its final year. Exit planning and strategies to build sustainability are the focus as is mirroring the process of the project in all of our other elementary schools. Needs-based inventories are being conducted to provide all of our schools with the level of resources and support required.

The Student Achievement Team was established to synthesize initiatives and plan for system capacity building. The team including the Superintendent of Education is composed of system lead positions in each of the following areas — Literacy, Numeracy Special Education Early Intervention and Student Success.



### The Student Success Program

Now in its third year, a fourth pillar called Community, Culture and Caring has been added to this program. This goes along with the other three pillars, Literacy, Numeracy and Pathways.

Among the initiatives this year at the secondary panel was the opportunity for grade 10 students to write a literacy "practice" test. As well, all classrooms received TI-89 Calculator sets and professional development for use of the instruments as an integral component of the math program. High school timetabling committees are using the Learning Strategies Course as they look to creative timetabling strategies to help "At Risk" students succeed as they enter high school. Student Success Teachers are available in all high schools to assist any "at risk" students

The Real Game, or Be Real Game, touted as an excellent career education resource has been added to both the elementary and secondary schools to augment their existing inventory. Teacher training to use the resource begins in January 2006.

## Plant and Facilities of the Board



In the 2004-2005 budget year, some major objectives were realized around the system. Many significant projects were completed totaling in excess of \$1.5 million. Some of the larger projects are as follows:

- New storage buildings and a workshop for the Maintenance Working Forman were constructed in Geraldton at BA Parker PS and Geraldton Composite HS.
- The former Marathon PS was demolished as it had been vacant for six years and structural deterioration had developed
- Energy efficiency upgrade work was carried out to expand the use of energy management controls at Manitowadge PS, Manitowadge HS, Marathon HS, Lake Superior HS, BA Parker PS, and Geraldton Composite HS. Work was carried out under the Ministry's Energy Retrofit Grant and will result in energy cost savings.
- Playground Equipment was replaced at Terrace Bay PS.
- Various projects involving electrical upgrades, heating upgrades, roof repairs, flooring replacement, and painting, were carried out at many schools across the Board.
- School kitchens were renovated across the Board to support Breakfast and Lunch programs and meet Ministry of Health requirements for food preparation. BA Parker PS saw a complete rebuild of a kitchen installation as it lacked a proper facility, while many other schools saw their kitchens modified slightly to meet the Ministry requirements.



— Grounds work including; drainage control, paving, and concrete work was carried out at the high schools in Marathon and Geraldton as well as the Terrace Bay, George O'Neill, Schreiber, Dorion, Marjorie Mills and B.A. Parker Public Schools.

- Improved ventilation and cooling systems for computer labs were installed at Geraldton Composite HS, Nipigon Red Rock HS, and Marathon HS.

## Information

### Technology

Information Technology at Superior-Greenstone DSB has undergone a number of changes, many of these on the direction from the Ministry of Education. Although intricate, the changes were successful. The first full year of presenting videoconference courses at the secondary panel proved both successful and effective as it allowed students more opportunities for course selection. The elementary panel has seen a successful implementation of the Student Management System called Trillium. We look forward to serving Superior-Greenstone DSB staff in the new school year.

A list of highlights in 2004-2005 include:

- Fully functional Video conferencing Bridge to run Secondary School courses
- Installation of the Trillium Student Management System at the elementary panel
- Better communication available on the Board website
- Full implementation of email for students
- A solid 1 to 3 ratio of computers to students with the latest technologies
- Upgrading elementary desktop computers to Windows 2000
- A Computer Library Card Catalogue system to facilitate students with an on-line search resource for books in school libraries is near completion in five schools.



## Our Kids Come First

### 2004-2005 OSSTF Awards



Lake Superior HS



Geraldton CHS



Marathon HS



Manitowadge HS



Nipigon-Red Rock DHS



## The Board of Trustees



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## Superior-Greenstone District School Board

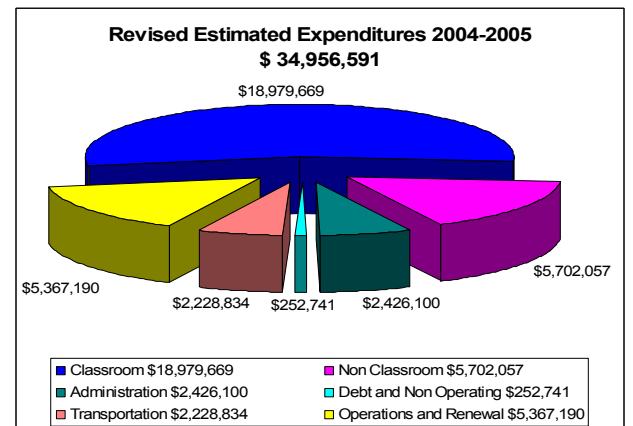
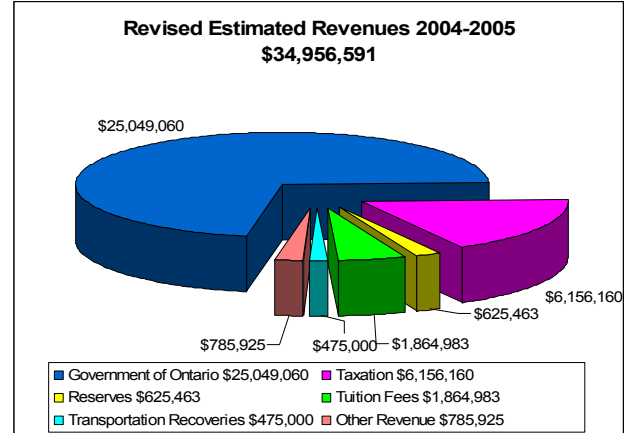


## The Board's Business

The 2004-2005 estimates complied with the Ministry of Education's enveloping and accountability requirements.

As required by the Education Act Section 231(2) the estimated expenditures did not exceed the estimated revenues of \$34,956,591.

The budget accommodated the needs of the systems while leaving the Board in a sound financial position.



## Board Administration

Director of Education .....Terry Ellwood  
 Superintendent of Business .....Bruce Rousseau  
 Superintendent of Education .....Patti Bailey-Pella  
 Assistant to Superintendent of Education .....John Robart  
 Accounting Services Manager .....Cathy Tsubouchi  
 Plant Services Manager .....Wayne Chiupka  
 Coordinator of Human Resources .....Barbara Draper  
 Coordinator of Information Technology .....Brad Ross  
 Administrative Assistant /  
 Transportation Manager .....Rose-Marie Joannette

## Comments Welcome!

The Director's Annual Report is produced and designed by Superior-Greenstone DSB. Public comments are welcome. For more information please call or write to:

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