



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2004
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Progress Report on Strategic Directional Planning

MARATHON, Ontario – The Superior-Greenstone District School Board received the Progress Report on the Strategic Planning Process at the Organizational Board Meeting, held Friday, December 3, 2004.

Given the breadth of our vast district, and the broad range of issues and challenges that schools and their students face now and in the future, the board opted for a broadly participative approach to strategic planning.

The strategic planning process invited students, their families, teachers, and others who deal directly with our students, school board administrators, trustees, representatives of First Nations communities and members of community organizations from throughout the district to participate in:

- School-based workshops held in September and October, and
- Regional Workshops that took place in Geraldton, Red Rock, Terrace Bay and Marathon in late October.

In addition to student families, over 350 personal invitations were sent to members of all of these different constituencies in order to encourage and achieve a broad base of participation.

Other input emerged through a Principals' Workshop held in September and Student Workshops that took place in some of the schools.

In all, over 200 people took part in these activities. They generated nearly 600 pieces of input towards the development of a district-wide school board strategic plan.

With Scott Ferguson facilitating, these stakeholders used constituent input to chart out the mission of the school board as it moves into the future, a vision of the students and their schools, an analysis of challenges to be faced and strategies for addressing those challenges. The planning session concluded with some initial action planning to begin the important process of successful implementation.

The following participants took part in the November 26th, 27th and 28th Stakeholders' Planning Session:

AYLWARD, Les (Trustee).....	Nipigon
BARTLETT, Bette (Trustee)	Nipigon
BLANCHARD, David (Student Trustee)	Terrace Bay
BROADHURST, Kevin (Teacher).....	Red Rock
CARRUTHERS, Alex (Student).....	Red Rock
CHAMPAGNE, Guy (Trustee)	Marathon
CHAULK, Treena-Ray (Teacher)	Longlac
DEMERS, Linda (Support Staff)	Marathon
DRAPER, Barb (Administration).....	Marathon
DUKE, Joan (Support Staff)	Nipigon
FAUST, Charles (Community Partner).....	Nipigon
FAUST, Julian (Student).....	Nipigon
FLETT, Alda (Support Staff)	Dorion
FRISKE, Dorothy (Principal).....	Geraldton
GIBBONS, Priscilla (Community Partner)	Longlac
GILLINGHAM, Wavey (Community Partner).....	Longlac
GREBENC, Buzz (Teacher)	Marathon
HANCHEROW, Bob (Agency).....	Marathon
HILLER, Paula (Community Partner)	Schreiber
HOFFMAN, Joanne (Principal).....	Longlac
JOANETTE, Rose-Marie (Administration).....	Marathon
JOHNSON, Dawna (Principal).....	Red Rock
KELLY, Harry (Municipal Leader).....	Geraldton
MacKENZIE, Gord (Community Partner)	Nipigon
MacODRUM, Lee (Community Partner).....	Geraldton
MANNISTO, Dick (Agency)	Longlac
MANNISTO, Mark (Trustee)	Longlac
MARKWICK, Lennie (Teacher)	Rosspport
McPHERSON, James (Community Partner).....	Red Rock
MOLENDYK, Lori (Agency).....	Thunder Bay

MORGAN, Shannon (Community Partner).....	Schreiber
NOTWELL, Kathie (Trustee)	Terrace Bay
ORBAN, Linda (Teacher).....	Beardmore
PELLA, Patti (Administration)	Marathon
PHILLIPS, Lesley (Community Partner)	Marathon
RENDELL, James (Community Partner).....	Red Rock
RICHARDSON, Madge (Community Partner).....	Schreiber
ROUSSEAU, Bruce (Administration).....	Marathon
SOUCKEY, Leslie (Agency)	Marathon
STEWARDSON, Janet (Agency).....	Red Rock
TAMBLYN, David (Principal)	Rossport
TEN HOEVE, Kimberly (Community Partner)	Terrace Bay
TEN HOEVE, Maggie (Student)	Terrace Bay
TEN HOEVE, Sally (Community Partner).....	Geraldton
TREMBLEY, Susan (Community Partner).....	Dorion
TURNER, Jim (Trustee).....	Geraldton
WILSON-BOAST, Heather (Administration).....	Marathon

The fact these 48 people gave up their weekend, and worked so intensively and constructively to ensure that constituent input became transformed into a comprehensive plan, speaks volumes about our community's commitment to public education and to the interests of our students.

The major themes that emerged from this planning process and that will be prominent in the report are:

- A Rapidly Changing World
- Role of the School
- Vision of the Student
- Vision of the School and School Board
- Challenges and Obstacles

To address the challenges and realize our Vision of the Student and the School, constituents indicated that the Superior-Greenstone District School Board should:

- Develop character and life skills among students
- Improve the many pathways to various forms of post-graduate "success"
- Improve schools' and the board's outreach to First Nations
- Take a leadership role in multi-stakeholder economic development of the entire Superior-Greenstone district

- Strengthen communication and partnerships, and
- Make continual refinements to the use of technology to equalize learning opportunities among students across our large district.

In addition, there was considerable recognition of the important social value of school in students' lives. Indeed, another important emerging theme is to continue and strengthen efforts to "Make School Fun"!

Once the board approves the strategic themes, the exciting and critical process of implementation can get underway! To honour the recurring theme of "communication", Superior-Greenstone District School Board is committed to keep constituents informed about reaction to the report, the board's approval of the major themes and the implementation activities as they are planned. Once implementation gets started, the board will provide continuous communication of the progress that is being made to transform these strategic ideas into action and into benefits for our students, both present and future!

A copy of the Progress Report on the Strategic Planning Process is available by contacting the Superior-Greenstone DSB, or by visiting the board web site at http://www.sgdsb.on.ca/administration/Press_releases.html.