

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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PRESS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE TO BE SCHEDULED

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2005
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MARATHON, Ontario – The Strategic Direction Plan, a course for the future direction of education in the Superior-Greenstone District School Board as developed in partnership with a vast array of regional stakeholders and agencies has been in force since April 2005.

To honour the recurring theme of “communication”, the Board is committed to keeping constituents informed about its approval of the major themes and the implementation activities as they are planned. Over the past few months, the Board’s progress on many fronts in transforming the strategic ideas into action and benefits for our students, both present and future have been notable.

Highlights in the eight major Action Plan categories are as follows.

Superior-Greenstone District School Board <i>Strategic Direction Plan: Report Card</i>
Action Plan No. 1... <i>Develop Students’ Character and Life Skills</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Resource material obtained in support of anti-bullying programs in schools and Anti-Bullying Board Policy 525 enacted/implemented✓ School Action Plan for character building and bullying prevention implemented in all schools✓ Participation of student trustee, parents, administration and teachers in Ministry of Education Safe Schools Review with emphasis on character building in schools

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Action Plan No. 2...<i>Increase and Improve Partnerships/Contribute to Economic Development</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased and improved partnership in education by moving forward with many initiatives through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs ➤ North of Superior Training Board ➤ Integrated Services for North Children ➤ Township of Marathon and Municipality of Greenstone Economic Development Offices ➤ Confederation College Articulation Agreement ✓ Senior staff involved in Community Development Committee (Marathon) ✓ Increased community use of schools ✓ Involvement in Business Retention Project
Action Plan No. 3...<i>Access Technology to Equalize Opportunities Among Students</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Access to technology with board decision to match and exceed the Ontario Knowledge Network Learning Grant ✓ Improved access to technology strategies ✓ Increased availability of video conference courses ✓ Network infrastructure improved to strengthen reliability ✓ Equipment in technology area was upgraded in all five high schools through the Technological Education Renewal Initiative (\$150,000)
Action Plan No. 4...<i>Improve Communication</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Presentations to and for Area School Parent Advisory Councils through the website and videoconferencing ✓ School council input received for budget priorities ✓ Established new rotating Board meeting format including school tours ✓ Joint School Council Meetings regularly scheduled to provide opportunity for sharing and exchange of information between school councils and trustees ✓ Public feedback invited via the website for the development of the Board's Anti-Bullying Policy 525 ✓ The Strategic Direction Plan publication and distribution with the School Year Calendar
Action Plan No. 5...<i>Improve Aboriginal Outreach</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A Native/Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee in the works ✓ Installation of Cindy Fisher of the Pic River First Nation as a first Nation Trustee on the Superior-Greenstone DSB ✓ Enhanced program of Educational Assistants and an Oral Language Program to address the needs of Aboriginal students ✓ Celebration of National Aboriginal Day in all schools ✓ Area First Nation Pow-Wow events attended by School Administration ✓ Learning to 18 Project: Literacy Development Project initiated in three elementary and two high schools using Joyce MacDonald's strategies, continuing into 2005-2006 school year
Action Plan No. 6...<i>Make School Fun!</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Support for teachers in coaching ✓ Support for schools' extra-curricular activities ✓ School budget includes cultural funds

Action Plan No. 7...*Improve Professional Development*

- ✓ Pilot projects in literacy and numeracy supported with the purchase of materials and resources for students and teachers.
- ✓ PD for teaching staff in literacy and numeracy to compliment the acquisition of material and resources
- ✓ Superior-Greenstone DSB has aligned itself to the Ministry of Education and its focus on literacy and numeracy as top priorities
- ✓ Student Success Initiatives
- ✓ Educators participated and presented at the Literacy Matters Conference

Action Plan No. 8...Improve Pathways to Success

- ✓ Use of Pathways Program (via guidance and board website) to assist students in planning courses in their chosen pathways for success
- ✓ Use of videoconferencing courses to increase number of available sections in schools
- ✓ Support for students through Learning to 18 Projects
- ✓ Oral Language project in three elementary skills
- ✓ After-School Literacy/Numeracy Program to enhance success rates on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test
- ✓ Pathways focused on for Professional Development held on September 30, 2005.

A copy of the Superior-Greenstone DSB Strategic Direction Plan can be accessed on the board website at www.sgdsb.on.ca