



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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PRESS RELEASE

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Marathon High School Council Member Appointed to Provincial Parent Board

MARATHON, Ontario – Pauline (Pinky) McRae of Marathon was one of 20 individuals from across the province appointed as a member on the new Provincial Parent Board (PPB). McRae, appointed as a representative for the Northwestern Region, was selected from among 250 parent applicants in the province who were screened for eligibility and evaluated by a committee of involved parents.

In February 2007, the Ministry of Education announced the establishment of the Provincial Parent Board to replace the former Ontario Parent Council. The scope of work for this new board does not replicate the former. Rather, its two key roles are to advise the Minister of Education on how to increase parent involvement in school and help the minister develop effective programs and supports for parent involvement at the provincial, board and local levels.

Ms. McRae has more than twelve years experience serving on school councils in our area, in both the English Public and French Catholic schools. This familiarity with school councils was

an essential criterion for appointment. Experience with school councils can be used to affect better practices and to further develop their effectiveness.

Ms. McRae demonstrates a keen sense of community-mindedness having been involved on the committee that developed the Superior-Greenstone DSB Parent Involvement Policy. She is also active in the Marathon Girls Hockey Club and Hemlo Gold Mine's Golduster Recreation Club.

In her provincial role, Ms. McRae will work with the PPB to find ways to bring parents and educators together to help students and to communicate the importance and benefit of parent involvement in schools. The communication piece is a vital component of the board's work since the parent groups in Ontario are composed of diverse communities, culture and ethnicity. The PPB members need to understand how some parents feel disadvantaged or marginalized and help the ministry reach out to engage these parents for student success.

It is intended that the Provincial Parent Board will enable the government to work directly with parents from across Ontario to increase parent involvement and guide provincial efforts toward success. The Board will give parents a strong representative voice, as it acts in its advisory capacity to the minister to see the successful implementation of parent involvement initiatives province-wide. The PPB could meet up to six times in Toronto during the course of the 2007-2008 school year.

The Superior-Greenstone DSB extends its congratulations to Pinky McRae on her appointment and looks forward to having her represent the northwest region on the PPB.