



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Superior-Greenstone DSB facilities to be equipped with Public Access Defibrillators

MARATHON, Ontario – At its Board meeting on January 19, 2009, the Superior-Greenstone District School approved the installation of Public Access Defibrillators in all its facilities.

In a presentation to the Board, Superior North Emergency Medical Services (EMS) manager of quality, assurance and training, Wayne Gates provided information about the Public Access Defibrillator Program, under which the installation of defibrillators in board facilities, would take place.

“Public Access Defibrillation equipment in municipal, school and recreational facilities make it possible for lay-people to respond to sudden cardiac arrest where it has been recognized that intervention in such cases can save lives if defibrillation is administered within 5 to 7 minutes of onset,” said Gates. “The Public Access Defibrillator Program evolved because EMS agencies cannot consistently respond to sudden cardiac arrest casualties within the first few minutes of an emergency and survival statistics decrease as a result.”

Director of Education Patti Pella is pleased with the decision of the Board to move forward with the project in the board and its schools. “Certainly, I do not want such an emergency visited upon staff or students in our facilities, but it is most reassuring to know that equipment will be readily available to provide life-saving intervention.”

Gates advised that Superior North EMS, in partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the Patterson Foundation, the Andrew's Foundation and the Rotary Club of Thunder Bay raised funds for the placement of Public Access Defibrillators in 78 schools around Thunder Bay. Gates said that once installed, the main obligation for facility owners is to ensure that annual inspections take place and the device is maintained for such things as battery replacement.