



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

P.O. Bag 'A', 12 Hemlo Drive

Marathon, Ontario P0T 2E0

Telephone: 807-229-0436 Fax: 807-229-1471

E-Mail: boardoffice@sgdsb.on.ca Website: www.sgdsb.on.ca

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: David Tamblyn, Director of Education
Pauline (Pinky) McRae, Board Chair
Superior-Greenstone District School Board
Phone: 807-229-0436 Fax: 807-229-1471
E-Mail: dtamblyn@sgdsb.on.ca / pmcrae@sgdsb.on.ca

Superior-Greenstone DSB Developing Student Mental Health Strategy

MARATHON, Ontario – Every year on October 10, World Mental Health Day is celebrated. It is an opportunity for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy and is a fitting time to announce Superior Greenstone District School Board's mental health initiatives. Currently, our board is developing a comprehensive mental health strategy to help address the needs of students experiencing mental health issues.

According to a recent Statistics Canada survey, approximately 2.8 million people, or 10.1% of Canadians aged 15 and older, reported symptoms consistent with at least one of six mental health disorders or substance use problems in the past 12 months. Certainly, within the school board we have noticed this trend and we are taking proactive steps to address the issue.

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This year, with the hiring of a new mental health lead George Drazenovich, the board has begun to implement School Mental Health ASSIST. School Mental Health ASSIST is part of a ten-year strategy, based on Open Minds, Healthy Minds led by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and ten other government ministries including the Ministry of Education. The key priorities of the strategy are to provide fast access to high quality service, close any critical service gaps, and to ensure early identification and intervention.

Consistent with the strategic objectives of Superior Greenstone District School Board around student achievement and well-being, responsible stewardship of resources, and the building of relationships, we will work within our school and with our community partners to address the need of students facing mental health issues with a view to enhancing their academic achievement and helping them on the way to success. For more information and details of the strategy, contact George Drazenovich at (807) 228-0196.