



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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PRESS RELEASE

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Superior-Greenstone DSB Board of Trustees have Final Meeting

MARATHON, Ontario – The outgoing Superior Greenstone Board of Trustees held their last meeting on November 17, 2014. As a token of appreciation for their years of service Director of Education David Tamblyn and Board Chair Pinky McRae presented gifts to those trustees who have completed their term and will not be returning. When the Board reconvenes for its Inaugural meeting on December 5, several trustees will no longer be at the table including Darlene Keenan, Angel Santerre, Fred Simonaitis, Cindy Brown and Bette Bartlett.

Tamblyn spoke of the many accomplishments the Board had achieved over the course of the last four years. In particular said Tamblyn noted the development and implementation of the Board Strategic Plan, a revamping of the Board Governance Model along with its affiliated policies and the Caramat and Manitouwadge pupil accommodation studies. However, said Tamblyn, “Your most important achievement was the hiring of a Director. Not only was I pleased with your selection then,” Tamblyn joked “But I greatly appreciate the support you have always provided me through some challenging times.”

Board Chair Pinky McRae spoke of the work the trustees had put into developing the Board Strategic Plan. “After investing a lot of time and thought into the strategic plan it is with a great sense of pride that I share with my trustee colleagues that we can now see the goals and objectives of the strategic plan coming to fruition,” said McRae. “It is evident in the commitment we have made in creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our students, the Ojibway language teachers we have hired to support

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the cultural needs of our Aboriginal students and the Aboriginal Lead who is in place to further advance student achievement among our indigenous students.”

Greenstone Trustee Fred Simonaitis in accepting his farewell gift applauded the Board for its achievement as a unified Board. “I leave here happy there’s a unified sense of feeling now working within this Board. I feel strongly that we are a Board that does what needs to be done and that is to get the best education possible for our students,” said Simonaitis.

Tamblyn also thanked Board Chair Pinky McRae for the leadership she has shown over the course of the last four years in steering the Board through some very challenging times while maintaining the Board’s primary focus on student achievement and well-being. Although McRae was acclaimed as a trustee representing Marathon, her term as chair will end with the dissolution of the current Board.



(L-R) Outgoing Greenstone Trustee Fred Simonaitis, accepting a parting gift from David Tamblyn, Director of Education.

Tamblyn said McRae has been a great support and was always available to be a sounding board to discuss issues as they arose. In a light hearted reference Tamblyn said, “Pinky would arrive in my office carrying two cell phones and a VHF radio. During the course of our conversation she would respond to texts messages from her employer, radio geologists working in the field and send an email to trustees to remind them of an upcoming committee meeting.”

At the Board’s inaugural meeting on December 5, there will be a number of newly elected and acclaimed trustees taking their place at the table including Margaret McIntyre representing Marathon, Tara Pitre representing Red Rock/Dorion/Hurket and Allison Pelletier representing Greenstone. The incumbents include Kim Figliomeni representing Schreiber/Terrace Bay, Matthew Fisher, Nipigon; Mark Mannisto, Greenstone; Aaron MacGregor, Manitouwadge and Pinky McRae, Marathon. The Board hopes to fill the vacancy of the First Nation trustee in the coming weeks.