



## ***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](mailto:boardoffice@sgdsb.on.ca) Website: [www.sgdsb.on.ca](http://www.sgdsb.on.ca)*

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**Date:** Monday, December 23, 2013

**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](mailto:dtamblyn@sgdsb.on.ca) / [pmcrae@sgdsb.on.ca](mailto:pmcrae@sgdsb.on.ca)

### ***Superior-Greenstone District School Board: Working Together for the Best Start***

**MARATHON, Ontario** – Superior-Greenstone District School Board is undergoing a significant transformation. “Not since the elimination of Grade 13 has the board undertaken such a dramatic change,” said Director of Education David Tamblyn. “The school board is moving from a K-12 organization to a 0-12 organization”. This is due in part to the responsibility for Best Start Centers moving to the Ministry of Education, says Tamblyn.

Schools are becoming buildings that welcome children from birth to adulthood, as they increasingly become hubs where parents and children can access child care and Best Start programs and services. Recently, the focus for the Board has been on enhancing partnerships with service providers and community agencies who work with children and families.

“The goal of this work is to do our part in ensuring that children get the best possible start in life,” said Nicole Morden Cormier, Early Year Lead for the Board. “We work in partnership with child cares, Best Start personnel, the municipalities and community agencies who share that vision,” said Morden-Cormier.

-more-

The district school board recently hosted the launch of the Ontario Early Years Policy Framework in all of their videoconference sites; an event that was cooperatively planned and facilitated by representatives from Brass Bell Family Resource Centre, Greenstone Community Services, Conseil Scolaire de district catholique des Aurores Boréales, Superior Greenstone District School Board, and Superior North Catholic District School Board. The purpose of this event was to ensure that community partners, municipal leaders, and First Nations representatives receive information regarding the vision of Early Years programs in Ontario; a vision that is the driving force behind the work in which Superior-Greenstone DSB is engaged.

“Much work has already been done in this area,” said Morden Cormier. “However for our schools, we want to ensure that children and families know that we are a place where they can go to access programs and services, and we want our schools to not just house child cares and Best Starts. We envision everyone working together as one team.”

The Early Years launch also provided participants with an opportunity to gain insights into the need for children in the district to be supported in the area of physical health and well-being. This information resulted from a survey that has been conducted for a number of years in the region called the Early Development Instrument. This survey shows that over the last six years, children in senior kindergarten have become increasingly at risk in the area of physical health and well-being. Compared to other children in the province, some children’s overall physical development (holding a pen, navigating stairs, levels of energy), school readiness (on time, well rested and fed, clothing appropriate to weather), and physical independence (independent toileting, coordination, hand preference) are not as well developed. It is the board’s plan to work with community agencies to determine what next steps could be taken to help to improve the physical health and well-being of children.

Tamblyn strongly supports this transition. “We know that this work can happen in our small communities with the strong sense of working together that is our practice. We now have a clear direction. It is about ensuring the best start for children.”