

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Report No: 47

Date: September 18, 2017

TO: Chair and Members of the
Superior-Greenstone District School Board

FROM: Melissa Bianco, Positive Behaviour Support Lead

SUBJECT: Flourishing in the Early Years through Healthy Transitions – After-School Program

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Student Achievement and Well-Being

Background

To support the transition to the Ontario Autism Program, the Ministry of Education offered one-time funding to school boards to assist in building capacity to support and assist students, families and schools with meeting needs affected by changes to autism services. Part of this funding included the invitation for applications to support an after-school program that would build or enhance skills for students affected by changes to autism services, and for students with high-needs autism spectrum disorder. Superior-Greenstone's proposal was granted in the amount of \$60,000.00 and our program "Flourishing in the Early Years through Healthy Transitions" will run in four locations throughout our district for the 2017/18 school year.

The intention of our program is to build capacity in enhancing and facilitating a sustainable process that will support transitions from preschool to kindergarten, and will focus on enhancing the development of social/communication skills, emotion regulation, executive functioning, and academic readiness skills consistent with best practices for early years.

Key goals of the program include:

- Increase social/communication skills of children with ASD;
- Increase parental engagement and involvement;
- Enhance transition practices from the early years to kindergarten;
- Improve knowledge and support to early intervention for children with ASD.

Current Situation

Using a community-based approach that involves partnerships with our Brass Bell hubs, we will focus our program on children ages 3-6 and will include a specific "outreach" component for the engagement of families. Beginning September 2017, we would like to recruit facilitators in four hubs to lead, guide and implement the after-school program in the areas of Dorion, Nipigon, Manitouwadge and Longlac over the program duration of 32 weeks.

Next Steps

- Continue to meet as a committee to guide program targets (Positive Behaviour Support Lead, Superintendent of Education, Mental Health Lead, Early Years Lead, Special Education Lead, Executive Director/Brass Bell)
- Obtain the services of program facilitators for the 32-week duration of the program beginning in October.

Administrative Recommendations

That the Superior-Greenstone DSB having received Report No.: 47 Flourishing in the Early Years through Healthy Transitions – After-School Program approve the report as presented.

Respectfully submitted by:
David Tamblyn,
Director of Education

Melissa Bianco,
Positive Behaviour Support Lead