



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Our Mission:

"In SGDSB we are learners. Everything we do is designed to help all students succeed and make a difference. We build positive places for learning and working... together".

Our Vision:

"Inspiring our students to succeed and make a difference".

Our Motto:

"Small schools make a difference".

Our Values:

"Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking".

Regular Board Meeting 2019/08

A G E N D A

Monday, July 15, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

Designated Site: SGDSB Learning Centre, 46 Salls Street, Red Rock, ON

Videoconference Site Locations

Superior-Greenstone District School Board (SGDSB) 12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON
 Manitouwadge High School (MNHS) 200 Manitou Road W., Manitouwadge, ON
 Lake Superior High School (LSHS) Hudson Drive, Terrace Bay, ON
 SGDSB Learning Centre (SGDSBLC) 46 Salls Street, Red Rock, ON
 Geraldton Composite High School (GCHS) 500 Second Street West, Geraldton, ON

Board Chair: Pinky McRae

Director: Nicole Morden Cormier

VC Sites: Board Office / LSHS / GCHS / MNHS / SGDSBLC

Recorder: G. Christianson

PART I: Regular Board Meeting

Section (A): – (open to public): 6:30 p.m.

PART II: Committee of the Whole Board

Section (B) In-Camera: – (closed to public) TBA

1.0 Roll Call

<u>Trustees</u>	Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)										
	OS	TC	VC	A	R		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Furoy, Logan (Student)						McRae, Pauline (Pinky)					
Groulx, Michael						Nesbitt, Jason					
Major, Christine						Pelletier, Allison					
Mannisto, Mark						Pristanski, Kal					
McIntyre, Margaret						Rathwell, Stephanie (Student)					
First Nation Trustee (Vacant)											

<u>Board Administrators</u>	Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Morden Cormier, Nicole: <i>Director of Education</i>					
Tsubouchi, Cathy: <i>Superintendent of Business</i>					
Bishop, Charlie: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>					
Goodman, William: <i>Interim Superintendent of Education</i>					
Williams, Dianne: <i>Manager of Accounting Services</i>					
Harris, Brent: <i>Manager of Financial Services</i>					
Paris, Marc: <i>Manager of Plant Services/Transportation</i>					
Demers, Linda: <i>Coordinator of Business Services</i>					
Lucas, Jay: <i>Coordinator of Information Technology Services</i>					
Christianson, GerriLynn: <i>Administrative Assistant to Director</i>					

2.0 Regular Meeting Call to Order

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB Regular Board Meeting on Monday, July 15, 2019 be called to order at _____ p.m.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

✓ **That**, the agenda for the Superior-Greenstone DSB 2019/08 Regular Board Meeting, July 18, 2019 be accepted and approved.

[\(Attached\)](#)

4.0 Disclosures of Interest re: Open Session**5.0 Minutes: Board Meetings and Board Committee Meetings****5.1 Board Meetings**

✓ **That**, the minutes of the following Board meeting be adopted:
1. Regular Board Meeting 2019/07: June 17, 2019

[\(Attached\)](#)

6.0 Business Arising Out of the Minutes

Nil

7.0 Delegations and/or Presentations

Nil

8.0 Reports and Matters for Decision

Nil

9.0 Reports of the Business / Negotiations Committee

Superintendent of Business: Cathy Tsubouchi
Business /Negotiations Chair: Mark Mannisto

**9.1 Report No. 51:
Board Estimates 2019-2020**

(To Follow Under Separate Cover – C. Tsubouchi)

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB having received Report No. 52, Board Estimates for 2019/2020, adopts the estimates for the 2019/2020 school year as presented.

9.2 Borrowing Bylaw 145

(To Follow Under Separate Cover – C. Tsubouchi)

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB approves Bylaw No. 145 being a bylaw to authorize the borrowing of up to seven million dollars (\$7,000,000.00)

9.3 Signing Officers

(C. Tsubouchi)

✓ **That**, effective July 16, 2019, signing officers for Superior-Greenstone District School Board be any two of the following:

- Nicole Morden Cormier, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
- Cathy Tsubouchi, Superintendent of Business and Treasurer
- Charlie Bishop, Superintendent of Education
- Brent Harris, Manager of Financial Services
- Will Goodman, Superintendent of Education

- 9.4 Report No. 52:
External Auditors ([Attached](#) – C. Tsubouchi)
✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB, having received Board Report No. 52: External Auditors, extend the appointment of Deloitte LLP as auditors for Superior-Greenstone DSB for a 2-year period ending with the audit of the fiscal year ending August 31, 2020.

10.0 Reports of the Director of Education

Director of Education: Nicole Morden Cormier

- 10.1 Report No. 53:
Program Enhancement Projects ([Attached](#) – N. Morden Cormier)

11.0 Reports of the Education Committee

Superintendent of Education: Charlie Bishop
Superintendent of Education: Will Goodman
Education Chair: Allison Pelletier

Nil

12.0 New Business

Board Chair: Pinky McRae

- 12.1 Board Chair
12.1.1 Correspondence: Waterloo Region DSB – June 24, 2019 ([Attached](#) - P. McRae)
- 12.2 Trustee Associations and Other Boards
- 12.3 Trustee Activities
- 12.4 Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

13.0 Notice of Motion

14.0 Observer Comments

(Members of the public limited to 2-minute address)

PART II: Committee of the Whole Board

Section (B) In-Camera: – (closed to public) TBA.

15.0 Committee of the Whole Board (In-Camera Closed)

[\(Attached\)](#)

- 15.1 Agenda: Committee of the Whole Board – Closed
✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB go into a Committee of the Whole Board Section B (Closed Session) at _____ p.m. and that this portion be closed to the public.
- 15.2 Rise and Report from Closed Session
✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB rise and report from the Committee of the Whole Board Section B (Closed Session) at _____ p.m. and that this portion be open to the public.

16.0 Report of the Committee of the Whole Closed Section B

- 16.1 ✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB Committee of the Whole, In-Camera Section B (Closed) Reports be adopted including the confidential minutes from the meeting held as:
1. Regular Board 2019/07: June 15, 2019 [\(Attached\)](#)

16.2 Other Recommendations from Committee of the Whole Closed Session
(This section may be used as required coming out of closed session)

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB adopt the following recommendations as related to the confidential reports, which include:

- *(list motions here which may apply)*

17.0 Adjournment

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB 2019/08 Regular Board Meeting, Monday, July 15, 2019 adjourn at _____, p.m.

<u>2019 - Board Meetings</u>		
<i>Designate Site: Marathon Board Meeting Room / Time 6:30 p.m.</i>		
Monday, August 19, 2019		
Monday, September 23, 2019 <i>*Designate Site: LSHS</i>	Monday, October 21, 2019	Monday, November 18, 2019
Monday, December 2, 2019 (1:00 p.m.)		

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Regular Board Meeting 2019/08

Committee of the Whole Board: Closed Session.

Monday, July 15, 2019

Designated Site: SGDSB Learning Centre, 46 Salls Street, Red Rock, ON

A G E N D A

Board Chair: Pinky McRae

Director: Nicole Morden Cormier

VC Sites: Board Office / GCHS / LSHS / MNHS / SGDSBLC

Recorder: G. Christianson

PART II: Committee of Whole Board – Closed

Section (B): In-Camera TBD.

- 1.0 Disclosure of Interest: re Closed Session (P. McRae)
- 2.0 Approve Agenda: Committee of the Whole In-Camera (Closed) (P. McRae)
- 3.0 In-Camera (closed) Meeting Minutes
1. Regular Board Meeting 2019-07: June 17, 2019 [\(Attached\)](#)
- 4.0 Personnel Item A (N. Morden Cormier)
- 5.0 Personnel Item B (C. Tsubouchi)
- 6.0 Personnel Item C (C. Tsubouchi)



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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Regular Board Meeting 2019/07

MINUTES

Monday, June 17, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

Designated Site: Geraldton Composite High School, 500 Second Street West, Geraldton, ON

Videoconference Site Locations

Superior-Greenstone District School Board (SGDSB) 12 Hemlo Drive, Marathon, ON
 Manitouwadge High School (MNHS) 200 Manitou Road W., Manitouwadge, ON
 Lake Superior High School (LSHS) Hudson Drive, Terrace Bay, ON
 SGDSB Learning Centre (SGDSBLC) 46 Salls Street, Red Rock, ON
 Geraldton Composite High School (GCHS) 500 Second Street West, Geraldton, ON

Board Vice-Chair: Mark Mannisto

Director: Nicole Morden Cormier

VC Sites: Board Office / LSHS / GCHS / MNHS / SGDSBLC

Recorder: G. Christianson

PART I: Regular Board Meeting

Section (A): – (open to public): 6:30 p.m.

PART II: Committee of the Whole Board

Section (B) In-Camera: – (closed to public) 8:39 p.m.

1.0 Roll Call

<u>Trustees</u>	Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)										
	OS	TC	VC	A	R		OS	TC	VC	A	R
Furoy, Logan (Student)					X	McRae, Pauline (Pinky)			X		
Groulx, Michael	X					Nesbitt, Jason			X		
Major, Christine	X					Pelletier, Allison	X				
Mannisto, Mark	X					Pristanski, Kal	X				
McIntyre, Margaret			X			Rathwell, Stephanie (Student)			X		
First Nation Trustee (Vacant)											

<u>Board Administrators</u>	Attendance: On-site (OS); Teleconference (TC); Videoconference (VC); Absent (A); Regrets (R)				
	OS	TC	VC	A	R
Morden Cormier, Nicole: <i>Director of Education</i>	X				
Tsubouchi, Cathy: <i>Superintendent of Business</i>			X		
Bishop, Charlie: <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	X				
Goodman, William: <i>Interim Superintendent of Education</i>	X				
Williams, Dianne: <i>Manager of Accounting Services</i>					X
Harris, Brent: <i>Manager of Financial Services</i>					X
Paris, Marc: <i>Manager of Plant Services/Transportation</i>			X		
Demers, Linda: <i>Coordinator of Business Services</i>			X		
Lucas, Jay: <i>Coordinator of Information Technology Services</i>			X		
Christianson, GeriLynn: <i>Administrative Assistant to Director</i>			X		

2.0 Regular Meeting Call to Order**82/19**

Moved by: Trustee J. Nesbitt

Second: Trustee A. Pelletier

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB Regular Board Meeting on Monday, June 17, 2019 be called to order at 6:33 p.m.

Carried**3.0 Approval of Agenda****83/19**

Moved by: Trustee C. Major

Second: Trustee M. Groulx

✓ **That**, the agenda for the Superior-Greenstone DSB 2019/07 Regular Board Meeting, June 17, 2019 be accepted and approved.

Carried**4.0 Disclosures of Interest re: Open Session**

There were no disclosures of interest offered at this time.

5.0 Minutes: Board Meetings and Board Committee Meetings**5.1 Board Meetings****84/19**

Moved by: Trustee K. Pristanski

Second: Trustee P. McRae

✓ **That**, the minutes of the following Board meeting be adopted:

1. Regular Board Meeting 2019/06: May 27, 2019
2. Special Board Meeting 2019/02: June 10, 2019

Carried**5.2 Board Policy Review Committee: June 4, 2019****85/19**

Moved by: Trustee J. Nesbitt

Second: Trustee A. Pelletier

✓ **That**, the Board accepts the recommendations outlined in the Board Policy Review Committee minutes of June 4, 2019 and approves as reviewed:

- P-539 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee
- P-527 Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self Identification
- P-722 Substance Use by Employees and Volunteers
- P-306 Corporate Credit Cards

to be posted to the Board website with an implementation date of June 18, 2019, and all of which shall supersede any previous policies.

Carried**6.0 Business Arising Out of the Minutes**

Nil.

7.0 Delegations and/or Presentations**7.1 Showcasing Learning: GCHS Photo Voice Project-The Person You Are**

Director of Education Nicole Morden Cormier presented the video presentation titled “The Person You Are” that was created by Geraldton Composite High School Students. The project that was completed with the Contemporary Aboriginal Voices class as noted in the Director’s Monthly Report. This is the second Photo Voice Project created by the students of our school board. This project exemplifies student identity, which is a prominent feature of the board’s Strategic Plan.

7.2 Excellence in Education: Geraldton Composite High School – “GCHS is Where We Call Home”

Principal Carlo Porretta and Teachers Andrew McFarlane and Heidi Cloutier provided a presentation regarding the Geraldton Composite High School titled “GCHS is Where We Call Home”. The presentation highlighted the school’s stress free and structured learning environment, community involvement and school pride. They also reviewed the Outers Class,

Alt-Ed, extra-curricular activities available to students and the Special Education Resources Department initiatives; all of which have assisted in student success.

7.3 Update – Student Trustees

Student Trustee Stephanie Rathwell provided a presentation regarding the recent activities of the Student Senate and SGDSB Student Leadership Conference. She noted that the Student Senate has had a great deal of success this year and attributes this to the inclusive and supportive environment as well as the ability to connect face to face and through multiple platforms such as Google Meet and Edsby chats.

8.0 Reports and Matters for Decision

8.1 Board Committee Reports: (Statutory / Standing / Ad Hoc)

8.1.1 Board Policy Review Committee (BPRC)

The Director provided a review of the June 4, 2019 BPRC meeting. The next policy meeting is September 3, 2019.

8.1.2 Occupational Health and Safety Committee (OHSC)

Manager of Plant Services Marc Paris provided a review of the OHSC meeting held on June 11, 2019 in Geraldton. Elections for the board wide health and safety committee were completed. The committee reviewed the area reporting process, lines of communication for the OHSC Board, scheduled next year's meeting dates, discussed the Wellnet E-base rollout for next year and completed work place inspection on the GCHS campus. The next meeting is scheduled for October 2019.

8.1.3 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Superintendent of Education Will Goodman reviewed the highlights of the SEAC meetings held on June 4 and June 11, 2019. He noted that the committee received a presentation from Superintendent of Business Cathy Tsubouchi who reviewed the budget process and how the funding is allocated for the special education program. The committee also reviewed and approved the Special Education Plan.

8.2 Superior-Greenstone DSB Special Education Plan 2019

Superintendent of Education Will Goodman discussed the review process for the Special Education Plan for 2019. The stakeholders of the Special Education Advisory Committee reviewed the plan and recommend the documents approval to the Board of Trustees. The Special Education Plan will be posted to the Board website upon approval.

86/19

Moved by: Trustee P. McRae

Second: Trustee J. Nesbitt

✓ That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB accepts the June 4, 2019 recommendation from SEAC to post the Special Education Plan 2019, effective July 31, 2019.

Carried

9.0 Reports of the Business / Negotiations Committee

*Superintendent of Business: Cathy Tsubouchi
Business /Negotiations Chair: Mark Mannisto*

9.1 Report No. 45: Signing Officers of the Board

Superintendent of Business Cathy Tsubouchi reviewed her report that outlined the request to update the signing officers for the Board as a result of recent staff changes.

87/19

Moved by: Trustee K. Pristanski Second: Trustee M. McIntyre

✓ **That**, effective June 18, 2019, signing officers for Superior-Greenstone District School Board be any two of the following:

- Nicole Morden Cormier, Director of Education and Secretary to the Board
- Cathy Tsubouchi, Superintendent of Business and Treasurer
- Charlie Bishop, Superintendent of Education
- Dianne Williams, Manager of Accounting Services
- Brent Harris, Manager of Financial Services
- Will Goodman, Superintendent of Education

Carried

10.0 Reports of the Director of Education

Director of Education: Nicole Morden Cormier

10.1 Report No. 46: Director's Monthly Report – June 2019

Director of Education N. Morden Cormier reviewed the highlights of her monthly report. In addition, she also discussed the impact and value of the "Blanket Exercise" workshops that have been held this year for staff and students. She also provided a review of the work of Teacher Shyanne Bartlett with the Critical Thinking Consortium at George O'Neill Public School. The project promotes increased thinking in the classroom and will be expanded upon in the 2019-2020 school year.

10.2 Report No. 47: Strategic Plan Baseline Report – Well-Being

The Director provided a comprehensive review of the Strategic Plan Baseline Report of Well-Being and its appendix, Baseline Data Report. She noted that this is the fourth and final strategic baseline report for this year. Additional reports will be presented next school year that will focus on the progress and enhancements made in each of the pillars of the Strategic Plan.

10.3 Report No. 48: Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching Contact

Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching Contact Stacey Wallwin provided a detailed review of her report. She noted that SGDSB is using technology in explicit ways so that students can use the tools to be active users of technology. Students are not just playing, they are learning 21st century competencies. Technology helps our Board meet the diverse learning needs of our students, address geographically challenging classrooms, share stories, and enhance our home and school relationships.

10.4 Report No. 49: 2019 Summer Break and Board Business

The Director discussed the proposed revision to the Regular Board meeting schedule as outlined within the report.

88/19

Moved by: Trustee M. Groulx Second: Trustee K. Pristanski

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB having received Report No. 49: 2019 Summer Break and Board Business, cancels the Regular Board meeting scheduled on Monday, August 19, 2019, and

✓ **That**, Administration be authorized, in conjunction with available trustees to conduct the business of the Board as the need may arise during July and August 2019.

Carried

11.0 Reports of the Education Committee

Superintendent of Education: Charlie Bishop
Superintendent of Education: Will Goodman
Education Chair: Allison Pelletier

11.1 Report No. 50: Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program/Cooperative Education Initiatives

Ontario Youth Apprenticeship System Lead Shawna Grouette reviewed her program highlights as outlined in her report. She explained that the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) is a school-to-work program that opens the door for students to explore and work in apprenticeship

trades beginning in Grade 11 or Grade 12 through the cooperative education program. Students may have an opportunity to become registered apprentices and work towards becoming certified journeypersons in a skilled trade while completing the requirements to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

12.0 New Business

Board Chair: Pinky McRae

12.1 Board Chair

12.1.1 Correspondence: Ministry of Education – June 3, 2019 RE: SO Appointment
Provided for information.

12.1.2 Correspondence: SEAC Letter to Ministry of Education – June 5, 2019
Provided for information.

12.2 Trustee Associations and Other Boards

12.2.1 Trustee Appointment for OPSBA Alternate Director/Alternate Voting Delegate

89/19

Moved by: Trustee P. McRae

Second: Trustee A. Pelletier

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB appoint Trustee Kal Pristanski to serve as its Alternate Director and Alternate Voting Delegate to OPSBA for the temporary period of July 3, 2019 to July 7, 2019.

Carried

12.3 Trustee Activities

Nil

12.4 Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

Nil

13.0 Notice of Motion

Nil

14.0 Observer Comments

Nil

PART II: Committee of the Whole Board

Section (B) In-Camera: – (closed to public) 8:39 p.m.

15.0 Committee of the Whole Board (In-Camera Closed)

15.1 Agenda: Committee of the Whole Board – Closed

90/19

Moved by: Trustee J. Nesbitt

Second: Trustee M. Groulx

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB go into a Committee of the Whole Board Section B (Closed Session) at 8:39 p.m. and that this portion be closed to the public.

15.2 Rise and Report from Closed Session

91/19

Moved by: Trustee M. Groulx

Second: Trustee K. Pristanski

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB rise and report from the Committee of the Whole Board Section B (Closed Session) at 8:59 p.m. and that this portion be open to the public.

Carried

16.0 Report of the Committee of the Whole Closed Section B

16.1 **92/19***Moved by: Trustee J. Nesbitt**Second: Trustee C. Major*

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB Committee of the Whole, In-Camera Section B (Closed) Reports be adopted including the confidential minutes from the meeting held as:

1. Regular Board 2019/06: May 27, 2019

Carried16.2 Other Recommendations from Committee of the Whole Closed Session

Nil

17.0 Adjournment**93/19***Moved by: Trustee C. Major**Second: Trustee A. Pelletier*

✓ **That**, the Superior-Greenstone DSB 2019/07 Regular Board Meeting, Monday, June 10, 2019 adjourn at 9:01, p.m.

Carried

<u>2019 - Board Meetings</u>		
<i>Designate Site: Marathon Board Meeting Room / Time 6:30 p.m.</i>		
Monday, July 15, 2019		
Monday, September 23, 2019 <i>*Designate Site: LSHS</i>	Monday, October 21, 2019	Monday, November 18, 2019
Monday, December 2, 2019 (1:00 p.m.)		

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Regular Board Meeting 2019/07

Committee of the Whole Board: Closed Session.

Monday, June 17, 2019

Designated Site: Geraldton Composite High School, 500 Second Street West, Geraldton, ON

TOPICS

Board Vice-Chair: Mark Mannisto

Director: Nicole Morden Cormier

VC Sites: *Board Office / GCHS / LSHS / MNHS / SGDSBLC*

Recorder: G. Christianson

PART II: Committee of Whole Board – Closed

Section (B): In-Camera 8:39 p.m.

- 1.0 Disclosure of Interest: re Closed Session
- 2.0 Approve Agenda: Committee of the Whole In-Camera (Closed)
- 3.0 Transportation Update
- 4.0 In-Camera (closed) Meeting Minutes
 - 1. Regular Board Meeting 2019-06: May 27, 2019
- 5.0 Personnel Item A
- 6.0 Personnel Item B

Regular Board Meeting 2019-07

Monday, June 17, 2019

MINUTES

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2019

SECRETARY

CHAIR



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
"Inspiring Our Students to Succeed and Make a Difference"

Report No: 52

Date: July 15, 2019

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

FROM: Cathy Tsubouchi, Superintendent of Business/HR

SUBJECT: External Auditors

STRATEGIC

PRIORITY: Learning, Well-Being, Relationships, and Stewardship

Background

Deloitte LLP has provided audit services to Superior-Greenstone DSB since amalgamation. Our most recent agreement for external audit services, which was for a five-year term, has expired.

Current Situation

Due to the numerous staffing changes within the Accounting Department in recent months, we would like to maintain consistency with our external auditors. We are recommending a 2-year extension of our audit services agreement, with a minimal increase in fees. This extension falls within the parameters of the new procurement rules

Administrative Recommendation:

That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB, having received Board Report No. 52: External Auditors, extend the appointment of Deloitte LLP as auditors for Superior-Greenstone DSB for a 2-year period ending with the audit of the fiscal year ending August 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by:

Cathy Tsubouchi
Superintendent of Business/HR



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
"Inspiring Our Students to Succeed and Make a Difference"

Report No: 53
Date: July 15, 2019

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

FROM: Nicole Morden Cormier, Director of Education

SUBJECT: Program Enhancement Projects

STRATEGIC PRIORITY: Stewardship

Background

Effectively and responsibly managing our resources in support of students and learning is a key objective of the Stewardship Pillar of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan. Superior-Greenstone District School Board is committed to continually enhancing the learning spaces in schools, as the learning environment plays a role in the well-being and positive sense of belonging for students, staff, families and the community.

Current Situation

The following capital projects have been planned for the summer of 2019. Note that this list only includes projects that will enhance our programming in our school.

Location	Capital Work
All Schools, Marathon Board Office, SG Learning Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Conference Equipment – Connecting Our Schools Project
All Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Infrastructure Upgrade for WIFI • New Public Address Systems and Upgrades to be integrated into the lockdown door access control system (visual indicators for lockdown messages/Hearing Impaired ODA compliant)
Manitouwadge Public School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Classroom and exterior grounds work • Student Success Renovation –Sensory Room
Marathon High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Student Success wing - Sensory Room, accessible washroom, gender neutral washrooms
Terrace Bay Public School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library and Classroom Renovation • JK-SK – Millwork, Cubbies, Countertops
Schreiber Public School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible door operators, door hardware upgrades
Lake Superior High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Classroom Renovation • Shop Electrical Upgrades – Emergency Stop
George O'Neill Public School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exterior Grounds upgrade, fencing, sidewalks, outdoor classroom (work to begin end of Aug)

Nipigon-Red Rock District High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Classroom Renovation
Marjorie Mills Public School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Success Renovation – Sensory Room
Nakina Public School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exterior playing fields upgrade

There are a number of additional projects being completed to maintain our facilities and to increase energy conservation. In addition, Marathon High School will be renovated for the Nawiinginokiima Forestry Management Corporation as they have entered into a sharing of space agreement with Superior-Greenstone District School Board. The Superior-Greenstone Learning Centre will also undergo some renovations to welcome the Superior Greenstone Association for Community Living.

Administrative Recommendations

That the Superior-Greenstone DSB receive Report No. 53, Program Enhancement Projects, for information.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nicole Morden Cormier
Director of Education

June 24, 2019

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor
438 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Lecce,

I would like to start by congratulating you on your appointment as Minister of Education.

Trustees are mandated by the Education Act to enhance student achievement and well-being, and close gaps in student achievement. With this focus, Trustees with the Waterloo Region District School Board have directed me to voice our significant concerns regarding the proposed changes to classroom operations and funding the Government of Ontario has proposed to public education.

Changes to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) has created challenges for our staff as they work diligently to prepare a balanced budget for the 2019-2020 school year. The WRDSB is facing an estimated loss of \$12 million as a result of changes to the GSN. Per-pupil funding has reduced by \$2 million from the 2017-18 budget year, which means each and every one of our students will receive \$110.44 less in funding. Our staff will continue to provide exemplary support for our students despite these changes; however, funding is essential to ensure our students have the necessary resources in place to support their academic achievement and their well-being.

The change that is causing the most concern for both my fellow trustees and staff, especially as we look beyond the current school year, are the proposed changes to class sizes. Moving from an average of 22 to 28 students in a classroom in secondary school might not seem like it will have much of an impact on student achievement and well-being, but I can assure you that this change will drastically alter the experiences our students have at school. We are anticipating that this change will affect the courses schools can offer students. Specialized courses and electives with lower enrollment numbers, such as technology courses and the arts may be limited, which will impact our students' optional areas of study and pathways opportunities. We also anticipate that an average class size of 28 students may result in some mandatory courses having a reduced number of sections available. Reduced sections may lead to students on wait lists to receive the course they require to graduate, and class sizes that may stretch the capacity of our classroom facilities. Furthermore, the increase in the average class size will result in fewer caring adults in our schools - caring adults who play an important role in the lives of students, who have an impact on the well-being of students in classrooms, and who supervise extra-curricular activities that keep students engaged.



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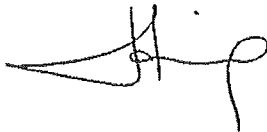
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The four mandatory online learning courses that secondary students will be required to complete starting in 2020 as a requirement of graduation are also of concern. All students learn in different ways. For some, online learning is a clear choice and an effective way to accumulate credits. For others, online learning does not suit their needs. Some students need one-on-one interactions with educators and peers to stay engaged and focused on their work. This new requirement also has an equity component that currently, has not been addressed. Not all students and their families have access to the internet or have limited access and not all students have access to computers after school hours. Research has shown that e-learning is not an effective platform for all students to learn. This proposal is a one-size fits all approach to education that does not address the learning needs of all students. We believe that enacting a mandatory four online courses for secondary students will lead to a rise in disengaged learners and hinder graduation rates.

We urge you to reconsider the decrease in per pupil funding, the increase in secondary class sizes and the mandatory four e-learning credits, and to consider the impact these changes will have on our students' achievement and well-being. We ask you to affirm your support for public education. An investment in public education is an investment in our youth, our communities and the future of Ontario.

Trustees of the Waterloo Region District School Board look forward to your response and would welcome a meeting at your convenience to discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,



Jayne Herring
Chairperson of the Board

cc: The Honorable Doug Ford
MPP Belinda Karahalios
MPP Laura Mae Lindo
MPP Amy Fee
MPP Mike Harris
MPP Catherine Fife
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
Chairs of all District School Boards



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