

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

Report No: 72

Date: September 27, 2021

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

FROM: Will Goodman, Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Mental Health Worker Nipigon-Red Rock District High School

**STRATEGIC
PRIORITY:** Learning, Well Being, Relationships, Stewardship

Background

As a key member of the Mental Health team, the Mental Health Worker has been responsible for providing mental health and addictions support services to students and families in compliance with relevant legislation, regulations, acts and policies of Superior-Greenstone District School Board. These roles have significantly been impactful during the COVID-19 pandemic. SGDSB has hired 2.0 FTE Mental Health Workers over the last two years as well as Virtual Mental Health Workers to support students during the summer months. Mental Health Workers are currently located at Lake Superior High School and Marathon High School.

Current Situation

Secondary schools have many students returning to school and struggling to re-engage after a careful transition plan has been put into place. In particular, Nipigon-Red Rock District High School (NRHS) has students who are struggling to re-engage with school due to a number of factors. Addictions, mental health, and urgent response needs continue to occur on a regular basis. Students are requiring support to transition safely back to school as well as seek counselling services on an ongoing basis in order to find success. The addition of a 1.0 FTE Mental Health Worker at NRHS would provide support for all students to receive immediate and responsive mental health resources and services. Specialized mental health COVID-19 funding has been provided by the Ministry of Education in order to increase the number of Mental Health Workers in High Schools. These additional funds would cover the cost of salary which ranges between \$80,600 and \$88,572 annually, dependent on qualifications and experience. This recommendation is being brought forward as there are budgetary implications for the recruitment of a new Mental Health Worker for NRHS using COVID-19 funding.

Administrative Recommendations:

That, the Superior-Greenstone DSB having received Board Report No. 72, Mental Health Worker Nipigon-Red Rock District High School, approves the budget for staffing as presented.

Respectfully submitted by:

Will Goodman
Superintendent of Education