



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

**Report No:** 68

**Date:** October 21, 2019

**TO:** Members of the Superior-Greenstone District School Board

**FROM:** Trustee Pinky McRae and Trustee Margaret McIntyre

**SUBJECT:** Ontario Public School Board Association's Northern Regional Meeting

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY:** Learning

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**Background**

The Ontario Public School Board Association's (OPSBA) Northern Regional meeting was held in Thunder Bay on October 4 and 5. This meeting was attended by approximately forty-five trustees and Directors. The agenda covered Northern Region Business Meeting, Labour Relations Update, Advocacy and Communications, Progress Reports: Improving Graduation Rates as well as School Trip Preparedness.

**Current Situation**

We attended a brief meeting with Minister Rickford, Minister of Northern Development & Trades and Indigenous Affairs. A number of issues were discussed and Minister Rickford noted he would brief Minister Stephen Lecce on concerns raised.

Attendees participated in the Northern Business meeting on the evening of Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. During this meeting we received updates from other OPSBA Directors as well as information regarding a new discussion portal being introduced to OPSBA Directors. Shared some concerns regarding this new initiative, particularly who would be monitoring the discussion topics and whether they are specifically related to the role of the Trustee.

The business section of the OPSBA Northern meeting was well attended. A great deal of time was spent on brainstorming the unique needs of Northern Ontario. Six areas of concerns were determined as Truth & Reconciliation, Special Education, Experiential Learning, Equity and Inclusion, Well Being and Partnerships. This exercise was very informative and a lot of concerns and best practices were shared. The OPSBA executive is to draft a letter outlining these priority needs to the Minister of Education.

**Next Steps**

Share more detailed information with Trustees.

**Recommendations**

*That the Superior-Greenstone DSB receive Report No. 68, Ontario Public School Board Association's Northern Regional Meeting, for information.*

Respectfully submitted by:

Pinky McRae

Margaret McIntyre

Trustee

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