

MEDIA RELEASE

Keewatin-Patricia District School Board Chair and Vice-Chair re-elected, Trustee appointments announced

December 14, 2011

Trustees met at Dryden High School on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 for the inaugural board meeting.

Trustee Dave Penney was acclaimed to his eighth term as Chair. Penney stated “I’m looking forward to another exciting year as Chair of the Board. We know we have some challenges but we also know that the work we do we will continue to improve success for our students.” Trustee Cecile Marcino was once again acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

Norma Kejick was welcomed to the board as First Nation Trustee. Kejick previously held the position of First Nation Trustee with the KPDSB from 2007 to 2009. In accordance with Policy 206 – A Representative on the Board to Represent the Interests of First Nation Students – Kejick will sit with the board for a two year term. She will also be an active member of the Board’s Native Education Advisory Council (NEAC).

The following Trustee appointments were made:

- Trustees Barb Gauthier, Michelle Ott and George Seaton were appointed to the Audit and Finance Committee for a one year term.
- Trustee Bob O’Donohue was appointed to the Native Education Advisory Council (NEAC) for a one year term.
- Trustee Gerald Kleist was appointed to the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) Board of Directors.
- Trustee Bob O’Donohue was appointed as the alternate to the OPSBA Board of Directors.
- Trustee Cecile Marcino was appointed as the OPSBA voting delegate.
- Trustee Barb Gauthier was appointed as the OPSBA voting delegate alternate for the General Meeting.
- Trustees Dave Penney and Cecile Marcino were appointed to the Parent Involvement Committee for a one year term.
- Trustees Dianne Sidders and David Wilkinson were appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) for a one year term.
- Trustee Robert Onysko was appointed to the Transportation Policy Committee.

The December Seeds for the Future – Celebrating our Stars presentation titled ‘We Will Remember’ was received by Trustees. Carol Gardam, teacher, and students from Dryden High School’s Leadership Class presented a video of their recent Remembrance Day ceremony. Students Jai Mashru, Kevin Gardam, Emilie Gardam, and Tyler Wood talked about organizing the assembly and expressed how they believe it’s important for students to

be in school on Remembrance Day so they can take part in ceremonies like the one put on by DHS every year.

Special Assignment Teachers Jeannie McMaster, Janice Radburn and Theresa Lambert presented the Curriculum Special Assignment Teacher (SAT) report. The role of KPDSB curriculum SATs is to support classroom teachers in implementing the curriculum in meaningful and engaging ways, as well as supporting the implementation of Ministry of Education initiatives. Trustees heard how the SATs, while each responsible for specific areas of expertise, work together as a team to implement strategies in areas such as oral language, literacy and special education.

Caryl Hron, Superintendent of Education, Sean Monteith, Superintendent of Education, Scott Urquhart, Student Success Leader, and Susanne Bastable, School Effectiveness Lead, presented the 2011-2012 Board Strategic Improvement Plan (BSIP) update. As part of the annual review of the BSIP, the KPDSB completed a needs assessment to help guide the Board's direction in the 2011-2012 school year. Five specific areas of focus were identified: primary literacy, higher order and critical thinking, high expectations for all students and teachers, differentiated intervention to support students, and attendance. While early in the school year, Trustees heard that the board's preliminary assessments are showing positive trends.

An example of those positive trends was presented by Dryden High School (DHS) administration. DHS has implemented a new attendance strategy aimed at reducing student absenteeism by increased monitoring of attendance reporting and face-to-face intervention with both students and their families as a process to support improved attendance by that student. Kathy McConnachie, Principal, indicated that since the implementation of their new attendance program, they have seen a positive response from the families of students and a decrease in the number of truancies. McConnachie stated "Attendance at school is important. It's an important indicator of academic success, social success, and emotional success overall for students in our school."

Jack McMaster, Director of Education, presented the 2011 Director's Annual Report. The report details accomplishments of KPDSB students and staff throughout 2011. Areas of focus include literacy, early learning, use of technology in the classroom, special education, and Aboriginal education. McMaster stated that the report is an indication of the caring and collaborative culture in KPDSB schools and pointed to the DHS Administration's presentation as a good example of the Board's desire for staff and community to work together. To view an electronic copy of the 2011 Director's Annual Report, please visit our website at www.kpdsb.on.ca.

Dave Penney
Chair

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Jack McMaster
Director of Education