



PRESS RELEASE

At its regular Board meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2016, the KDSB Board of Directors:

- Re-elected Barry Baltessen as the Chair for the Kenora District Services Board.
- Approved the Board Chair to attend a number of events in 2016 that will include meeting with provincial and municipal leaders in order to move key issues forward; such as increasing funding for poverty reduction programs, more affordable and social housing development, non-urgent land ambulance patient transfers and creating more affordable and stable child care programs in the region.
- Approved and authorized the submission of a funding application to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) funding program for the development of a Supportive Housing Development project in Sioux Lookout.
- Approved the amendments and updates to the Non-Union Salary Wage Grid to include additional salary bands for the new positions created through the restructuring of the management structure of the Emergency Medical Services and the creation of a Community Services Coordinator.
- Approved the development of the “How Does Learning Happen?” Mentorship Project.

The project will be developed in partnership with the Rainy River District Social Services Administration Board, the Ministry of Education and FIREFLY.

The project will enable the KDSB to provide training and support to the Early Learning and Care Operators in the region for the implementation of the emergent curriculum and guiding principles in the “How Does Learning Happen?” document.

- Authorized the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Integrated Social Services to work with the District’s School Boards to investigate and plan for the moving of standalone Early Learning



and Care programs into schools in partnership with the School Boards and Early Learning and Care Operators.

- Approved the KDSB to work with the Dryden Native Friendship Centre and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres in order to undertake a feasibility study of a Dryden Homeward Bound project.

The project will have a primary focus on single mothers living in poverty. It is often found that single mothers living in poverty face a number of systemic barriers to achieving economic independence in our communities. While our communities have established services and supports for families in need, the services and supports often only focus on just one piece of a complex puzzle. As a result, the system often fails to address the full range of challenges faced by a sole-support mother.

The project will explore the feasibility of developing a program that will include income supports, education subsidies, child care and housing as part of a full support system that will help families achieve long-term stability and self-sufficiency.

- Authorized the Board Chair and Chief Administrative Officer to execute a funding and operating agreement with the NeChee Friendship Centre for the operations of the Emergency Shelter and Street Patrol Program in the City of Kenora.
- Authorized the Board Chair and Chief Administrative Officer to execute a four year lease agreement with Willie-Dee Investments Inc. for the Dryden Administrative Offices.

Barry Baltessen, Chair
CAO

Henry Wall,