

SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Board Report No: 64

Date: June 22, 2015

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

FROM: Nancy Petrick, Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: Educational Assistant Staffing Proposal 2015/2016

**STRATEGIC
PRIORITY:** Student Achievement and Well Being

Background

Special Education resources including Special Education Resource Teachers, Educational Assistants, learning assessments and the special equipment purchases (Special Equipment Amount) continue to support students with special needs. In addition, Superior-Greenstone District School Board uses additional initiatives including Applied Behaviour Analysis, Autism Support, Safe Schools, Mental Health and other training opportunities to support students in our schools. In support of student well-being our Mental Health Lead and Mental Health and Addictions Nurse continue to work with our school administrators, teachers and support staff.

Current Situation

After extensive consultations with stakeholder representatives the Minister of Education acknowledged that the funding formula for the Special Education High Needs Amount (HNA) was outdated and did not accurately reflect the current needs of many boards in Ontario. In 2014 – 2015 the Ministry began the four-year implementation of a new High Needs Amount (HNA) funding method. This change to the HNA allocation will provide greater fairness and equity, as it reflects the variation among boards with respect to students with special education needs

Superior-Greenstone District School Board continues to fund the special education program above the amount allocated by the Ministry of Education through the SEPPA, the Special Equipment Amount (SEA) and the High Needs Amount (HNA).

Currently 47.0 Education Assistants (EAs) support students in our schools, 41.25 have been funded through Board and Special Education funding, 5.75 have been funded through First Nation tuition agreements

It is recommended that for 2015-2016, 39.5 EAs be funded through Board and Special Education Funding and an additional 6.5 Educational Assistants be funded through First Nation tuition agreements for a total of 46 Educational Assistants.

The following chart outlines the proposed Education Assistant staffing for the 2015 – 2016 school year.

| 2014– 2015 | 2015 – 2016. |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 47.0 Total Educational Assistants | T 46 Total Educational Assistants |
| 41.25 EAs funded through Special Education | x |
| 5.75 First Nation tuition agreements | |

Final assignments for Educational Assistance will be made in September 2015 based on actual needs.

Administrative