

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

**Regular Board Meeting**

June 6, 2006 @ 6:45 p.m.

Location:

153 Croatia Avenue, Schumacher

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - 5:45 P.M. TO 6:45 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION - 6:45 P.M.

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**AGENDA**

Page(s)

- 1) CALL TO ORDER
- 2) COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, IN CAMERA.
- 3) REGULAR SESSION
- 4) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
- 5) CONFLICT OF INTEREST
- 6) INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT TRUSTEE(S)
- 7) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2006 ..... 3 - 6
- 8) BUSINESS/AND OR QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES
- 9) PRESENTATIONS  
T.D.S.S. – Energy Efficiency Program



Page(s)

10) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- a) Certificate of Recognition – OPSBA to Paul McGillvery ..... Verbal
- b) Student Field Trip Policy.....7 + Docushare + e-mail
- c) Self-Identification for Aboriginal Students ..... 8 - 12
- d) Appointments

11) FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- a) Minutes of Meeting held May 30, 2006 ..... 13 - 14

12) SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- a) Minutes of Meeting held May 2, 2006 ..... 15 - 16

12) OTHER BUSINESS:

- O.P.S.B.A. – Constitutional & Policy Changes..... 17

13) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Doug Turcotte ..... 18
- b) Lois Crosier ..... 19
- c) Ministry of Environment ..... 20 - 21
- d) Office of the Premier ..... 22 - 23

14) ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

15) MOTION TO ADJOURN





**REGULAR SESSION:**

**Adoption of Agenda**

**2682-06 BOZZER/PORTER:**

**THAT** the Agenda for the regular Board Meeting dated May 16, 2006 be approved with the following under OTHER BUSINESS:

a) Town of Englehart/Englehart High School Reunion

CARRIED.

**Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest was declared.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**2683-06 PEDERSEN/DUCHESNE:**

**THAT** the minutes of the regular board meeting held May 16, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Cash Disbursements**

**2684-06 JOHNSON/SCHAFFER:**

**THAT** the Board accept the report on Cash Disbursements for the month of April, 2006 in the amount of \$9,704,083.81.

CARRIED.

**Appointments**

**2685-06 JOHNSON/BOZZER:**

**THAT** we lift motion 2667-06 from the table.

CARRIED.

**2686-06 PEDERSEN/POCHOPSKY:**

**THAT** Michelle Leigh be appointed Assistant to the Director of Education September 1, 2006 pending completion of her qualification as Supervisory Officer at which time she be appointed Superintendent of Schools which is subject to the approval of the Ministry of Education.

CARRIED.

**2687-06 HENDERSON/BOZZER:**

**THAT** Doug Turcotte be appointed Principal of Flora Macdonald Public School effective may 10, 2006.

CARRIED.

**2688-06 MILLER/SCHAFFER:**

**THAT** Joanna Brunski be appointed Principal of Pinecrest Public School effective July 1, 2006.

CARRIED.



**2689-06 SCHAFFER/MILLER:**                   **THAT** Jeremy Hall be appointed Principal of Coronation Public School effective January 1, 2007.  
CARRIED.

**2690-06 BOZZER/HENDERSON:**                   **THAT** John Sullivan be appointed Principal of Timmins High and Vocational School effective July 1, 2006.  
CARRIED.

**2691-06 BOZZER/MILLER:**                   **THAT** Barry Mulroney be appointed Vice-Principal of Timmins High and Vocational School effective July 1, 2006.  
CARRIED.

**2692-06 SCHAFFER/MILLER:**                   **THAT** Doug McPhail be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of Schumacher Public School effective July 1, 2006.  
CARRIED.

**2693-06 MILLER/HENDERSON:**                   **THAT** Debbie Jones be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of W.E. Miller Public School effective July 1, 2006.  
CARRIED.

**2694-06 SCHAFFER/MILLER:**                   **THAT** Greg Vincze be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of R. Ross Beattie Senior Public School effective January 1, 2006.  
CARRIED.

**2695-06 BOZZER/MILLER:**                   **THAT** Paul Langis be appointed Acting Vice-Principal of Timmins High and Vocational School effective July 1, 2006.  
CARRIED.

**2696-06 BOZZER/MILLER:**                   **THAT** Michael Pirie be brought into Timmins High and Vocational School on an interim basis, approximately two times per week for about six weeks, to assist the administration.  
CARRIED.

**Pediculosis Policy**

**2697-06 DUCHESNE/PEDERSEN:**                   **THAT** the Pediculosis Policy receive third and final reading and be approved.  
CARRIED.

**Curriculum Update**

**2698-06 SCHAFFER/MILLER:**                   **THAT** the Curriculum Update be received, contents noted and filed.  
CARRIED.



**Tenders**

**2699-06 POCHOPSKY/PEDERSEN:**

**THAT** the Board accept the tender submitted by Tradelink Stucco and Construction Inc. for upgrades to Central Public School including the addition of four gables and the use of cement board under the stucco in the amount of \$748,005, excluding GST.

CARRIED.

**2700-06 JOHNSON/SCHAFFER:**

**THAT** the Board accept the tender submitted by Accurate Electric for the supply and installation of a new transformer for the Cochrane Grades 7 to 12 school in the amount of \$126,887, excluding GST.

CARRIED.

**2701-06 BOZZER/PORTER:**

**THAT** the Board accept the tender submitted by Action Refrigeration and Electrical for the R. Ross Beattie Public School Gym HVAC Retrofit in the amount of \$80,987, excluding GST.

CARRIED.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**2702-06 HENDERSON/PORTER:**

**THAT** District School Board Ontario North East allow the use of its schools for the Englehart 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary being held July 26<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 and allow the Wine and Cheese events on their property pending the proper alcohol licensing insurance.

CARRIED.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**2703-06 PORTER/HENDERSON:**

**THAT** the following correspondence be received, contents noted and filed:

- a) Ministry of Education – Regular School Year Calendar – Approval
- b) Ministry of Education – Modified School Year Calendar – Hearst – Approval
- c) Minister of Indian Affairs
- d) OSSTF

CARRIED.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**2704-06 SCHAFFER:**

**THAT** we do now adjourn.

CARRIED.



TO THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES OF  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST

AGENDA REF. NO. 2006 06 06

RE: **STUDENT FIELD TRIP POLICY**

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**BACKGROUND:**

This policy was passed on January 19, 1999 and revised on September 21, 2004. To enhance safety and information for our students a committee was formed to review the current policy. The attached represents a revised policy which includes a manual on procedures and guidelines. Trustees will find the policy on DocuShare and attached to their electronic Board Package.

**Recommendation:**

**That District School Board Ontario North East approve the revised Student Field Trip Policy.**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Linda L. Knight,  
Director of Education



**TO THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES OF  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST**

**AGENDA REF. NO. 2006 06 06**

**RE: SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS POLICY**

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**BACKGROUND:**

Attached please find the first draft of the Self-Identification for Aboriginal Students Policy. Following first reading, this policy will be posted on the consultation portion of the website where input will be invited from stakeholders. Information received will be considered prior to bringing the policy back for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

**Recommendation:**

**That District School Board Ontario North East give first reading to the Self-Identification for Aboriginal Students Policy.**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Linda L. Knight,  
Director of Education



<b>SECTION 1.2: SYSTEM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>	<b>Policy Code</b>	
	Page 1 of 4	
<b>TITLE: SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS</b>	<b>REGULATIONS</b>	<b>YES</b>
	<b>PROCEDURES</b>	<b>YES</b>
	<b>MANUAL</b>	<b>NO</b>

**POLICY STATEMENT**

**WHEREAS,** District School Board Ontario North East will provide programs as a means to assist Aboriginal students experiencing gaps in their education by putting into place practices that respond to their particular needs.

**WHEREAS,** The first such practice in recognizing the right of all Aboriginal students is to establish a self-identification procedure that identifies and collects student achievement data for Aboriginal students.

**WHEREAS,** All Aboriginal students or their parents have the right to voluntarily self-identify, so that supportive programming can be provided.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:**

**That ongoing evaluation of programming data collection and analysis will provide information for future decision-making of Aboriginal student success.**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> READING:</b>	<b>Motion #</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> READING:</b>	<b>Motion #</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> READING &amp; APPROVAL:</b>	<b>Motion #</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>Revised:</b>



<p><b>SECTION 1.2: SYSTEM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b></p> <p><b>TITLE: SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS</b></p>	<p><b>Policy Code</b> <b>Page 2 of 4</b></p>
<p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS</b></p> <p><b>1.0 <u>PURPOSE</u></b></p> <p>1.1 District School Board Ontario North East has established the following statement for Aboriginal education within its district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.1.1 To continue to set high expectations for learner achievement in supported learning environments</li><li>1.1.2 To improve EQAO scores for Aboriginal students</li><li>1.1.3 To provide high quality learning opportunities that are responsive to the learner</li><li>1.1.4 To improve the retention and graduation rate of Aboriginal students</li><li>1.1.5 To ensure that all Aboriginal learners are well prepared for post-secondary studies and work world</li><li>1.1.7 To promote effective working relationships and partnerships with Aboriginal parents and community.</li></ul>	
<p><b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b></p>	<p><b>Revised:</b></p>



<p><b>SECTION 1.2: SYSTEM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b></p> <p><b>TITLE: SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS</b></p>	<p><b>Policy Code</b> <b>Page 3 of 4</b></p>
<p><b>OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES</b></p> <p><b>2.0. <u>DEFINITIONS</u></b></p> <p>2.1 Aboriginal identification refers to the definition in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35(2), in that “Aboriginal peoples” include “Indian, Inuit and Metis.”</p> <p><b>3.0 <u>CONDITIONS</u></b></p> <p>3.1 All data will be stored securely to respect the privacy of each Aboriginal student and used only as a means to enhance Aboriginal education programs of District School Board Ontario North East.</p> <p>3.2 Individual data and information gathered will be used in the aggregate only and solely for the purpose of developing and implementing supportive program.</p> <p>3.3 All data will be treated in the same manner as Ontario Student Records and protected and secured by the Freedom of Information and Right to Privacy Act.</p> <p>3.4 Self Identification data will be collected on the Board registration form for all new students enrolled beginning 2006/2007. It shall also be collected on update student forms for students enrolled as of 2004/2005 school year.</p> <p><b>4.0 <u>GUIDING PRINCIPLES</u></b></p> <p>4.1 This policy will be guided by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inclusiveness</li><li>• Innovation</li><li>• Transparency</li><li>• Learner-centred</li><li>• Equitable</li><li>• Collaborative</li><li>• Respectful of privacy</li><li>• Results-oriented</li><li>• Reflect cultural diversity</li></ul> <p>4.2 The evolution of this policy will reflect the improvement of programs and achievement of Aboriginal students.</p>	
<p><b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b></p>	<p><b>Revised:</b></p>



<b>SECTION 1.2: SYSTEM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>	<b>Policy Code</b> <b>Page 4 of 4</b>
<b>TITLE: SELF-IDENTIFICATION FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS</b>	

**OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

**5.0 EVALUATION**

- 5.1 The aggregated data collected as a result of this policy will be analyzed on an annual basis. The results will be reported to the First Nation Advisory Council and to the Board.
  
- 5.2 This policy will be reviewed annually for its effectiveness.

<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<b>Revised:</b>
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**MINUTES** of the Finance and Property Committee Meeting of District School Board Ontario North East held at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Schumacher Board Office on **Tuesday, May 30, 2006.**

**PRESENT**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Howard Archibald  
Heather Bozzer  
Tom Henderson  
Charlotte Johnson - Chair

**Juergen Leukert**

**Corinne Miller**

Rosemary Pochopsky  
Saunders Porter  
Albert Schaffer

**TRUSTEES ABSENT**

David Duchesne  
Nancy Pedersen

**ADMINISTRATION**

Linda Knight  
Margaret Fleury  
Barry Peterson

**GUESTS:**

Paul Gervais, Manager of Building Services  
Steve Pladzyk, Principal, T.H. & V.S.  
Christien Gilbert, G & G Developments  
Robert Riopelle, Timmins Regional Athletics & Soccer Complex Inc.  
Pierre Lambert-Belanger, Timmins Regional Athletics & Soccer Complex Inc.  
Jacqueline Fillion, Co-ordinator, Timmins Regional Athletics & Soccer Complex Inc.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Charlotte Johnson, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

1. **PRESENTATION – ATHLETIC DOME COMPLEX**

Christien Gilbert presented a proposal for the development of an outdoor athletic recreational soccer dome. G & G Developments are interested in the land that is located on the north side of R. Ross Beattie Sr. Public School. (Report and map of land attached)

2. **PRESENTATION – TIMMINS REGIONAL ATHLETICS & SOCCER COMPLEX INC .**

The Timmins Regional Athletics and Soccer Complex is an independent non-profit organization. They requested that the Board consider a lump sum donation to help cover capital and operating costs.



Finance and Property Committee Meeting Minutes (cont'd)  
May 30, 2006  
Page Two

**3. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

Paul Gervais reviewed the playground equipment options for the schools. Alternatives will be reviewed.

**5. FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Barry Peterson reviewed the 2005-2006 financial plan along with the operating expenditures to May 30, 2006.

**6. RETIREMENT GRATUITIES UPDATE**

Barry Peterson reviewed the 2005-2006 the retirement gratuities to May 30, 2006.

**7. GRANTS AND BUDGET**

The Ministry will not be releasing the grants for 2006-07 until late June. The budget will not be presented until mid July or late August.

**8. STAKING K.L.D.C.S. PROPERTY RESPONSE**

Barry Peterson reviewed the correspondence received from the Mining and Lands Commissioner with respect to the staking of the mining claim for the property on which Kirkland Lake District Composite School is situated. A tele-conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, June 5, 2006.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**PORTER/SCHAFFER:                      That we do now adjourn.**

Carried.



**Minutes of Special Education Advisory Committee**

**May 3, 2006**

**Committee Members Present:**

Kathy Farrell, Community Living – Children Services Lead Hand  
Rhonda Latendresse, Executive Director, Seizure & Brain Injury Centre  
Saunders Porter, Trustee  
Juergen Leukert, Trustee  
Brenda Echum, Constance Lake Nations (via teleconference)  
Eileen Zajac, Alternate Community Representative  
Wade Durling, Community Representative

**Committee Members Absent:**

Mark Callaghan, Rehabilitation Teacher, CNIB  
Corrine Miller, Trustee

**Staff Present:**

Jo-Anne Plaunt, Secondary Principal Representative (via video-conference to TDSS)  
Val Fuller, Principal of Special Education  
Asima Vezina, Superintendent of Schools  
Norma Danis, Teacher Diagnostician  
Susan Vecchirelli, Elementary Principal Representative  
Cecile Johnson, Principal of Special Education  
Michelle Leigh, Principal of Student Success  
Jodee Francoeur, Teacher Diagnostician (via video-conference to TDSS)

**Place:** Schumacher Board Room

1) **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Rhonda Latendresse, Chairperson of the Committee at 12:10 p.m.

2) **Adoption of Agenda:**

It was moved by Saunders Porter and seconded by Wade Durling that the agenda be adopted with addition of Future Agenda Items.

Carried.

3) **Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved by Juergen Leukert and seconded by Eileen Zajac that the minutes of the April SEAC meeting be approved as printed.

Carried.

4) **Special Education Board Plan – review, feedback and next steps in June:**

Val reviewed the Special Education Board Plan with the Committee noting that size of the plan was reduced and organized to match the Ministry expectations. Committee members were asked to submit any corrections to the plan which will be made prior to final approval at the June SEAC meeting. The final draft will then be sent to the Board and on the Ministry for final approval. The Ministry approved document will be posted on the website and copies will be made available for each school as well as the SEAC members.

Val will send Kathy Farrell a copy of the transition plan document as she requested.



**5) EQAO – Grade 3/6 – Accessibility for Special Education students/exemptions:**

Heather Rody, Principal of Curriculum, gave the Committee an overview of how accessibility is provided for Special Education students who are required to write the EQAO tests. Handouts of the sections governing Accommodations, Special Provisions and Exemptions from the Guide for Administering the Grade 3 and 4 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Math were distributed for information. Heather reviewed what accommodations can be used for students and how exemptions are defined. Modifications cannot be made to the EQAO assessments. Extension of time for all students is permitted if it is all in one sitting but it must be noted. The Grade 3 and 6 testing in reading, writing and mathematics is completed between May 23 and June 9<sup>th</sup>. Grade 9 and 10 follow a slightly different schedule.

**6) Integrated Behavioural Program:**

Asima described an Integrated Behaviour Program she observed recently at the Algoma District School Board. Algoma has used the program for 11 years. Problems in the classroom are identified early and support is given to the child very quickly so that inappropriate behaviour does not escalate out of control. The goal of the Algoma program is full integration of behaviour students. Pilot projects based on the Algoma model are planned for Swastika Public School, New Liskeard Public School and Cochrane Public School. A progress report will be brought to the committee in November 2006.

**7) Board Recipient of Front Row Pro Systems:**

Val reported that our Board has won five Front Row Pro Systems, which are the latest technology in sound field systems valued at \$5,000.00 each. Shipment costs and installation is also included. They will be installed in Cochrane Public School, Iroquois Falls Public School, New Liskeard Public School, Haileybury Public School and Schumacher Public School.

8) Chairperson Rhonda and Vice-Chairperson Juergen presented gifts on behalf of SEAC to Norma Danis who is retiring in June and Cecile Johnson who will be returning to her Vice-Principal position at Cochrane Public School for September 2006.

**9) Next Meeting:**

The last meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**10) Future Agenda Items:**

- i) Set SEAC meeting dates for 2006-07 – June Meeting
- ii) Budget – June Meeting
- iii) Special Education Board Plan – final draft
- iv) Foundations Project Presentations through Community Living - Oct. 2006

**11) Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Special Education Committee.

Rhonda Latondresse, Chairperson

Recording secretary: Bev Bigelow



**TO THE CHAIR AND TRUSTEES OF  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ONTARIO NORTH EAST**

**AGENDA REF. NO. 2006 06 06**

**RE: O.P.S.B.A. Policy Resolutions and Amendments to the Constitution for 2005 Annual General Meeting**

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**Background:**

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association Annual General Meeting will take place in Ottawa from June 8 – 11, 2006. As Director to the O.P.S.B.A. for District School Board Ontario North East, Trustee Rosemary Pochopsky will bring proposed resolutions and Constitutional Amendments approved by our Board to the A.G.M. for consideration. Details of the proposed constitutional amendments and resolutions have been included in Trustee's board packages on DocuShare and via e-mail.

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) **That District School Board Ontario North East approve the following O.P.S.B.A. member board resolutions for consideration at the 2006 Annual General Meeting:**
  1. **Grand Erie DSB  
Re: One Publicly Funded Education System**
  2. **Thames Valley DSB  
Re: Campaign 2000**
  3. **Upper Canada DSB  
Re: Support of National Child Care Program**
  4. **Upper Canada DSB  
Re: Evaluate and Improve Exercise and Sport Facilities Within Schools**
  5. **Upper Canada DSB  
Re: Funding to Improve Accessibility and Accommodation**
  6. **Waterloo DSB  
Re: Environmental Education**
  7. **Waterloo DSB  
Re: Lifeskills Curriculum Course guidelines**
  
- 2) **That District School Board Ontario North East approve the following Amendments to the OPSBA Constitution:**
  1. **Reaffirmation of Constitutional Change Enacted in June 2004 regarding the Double Majority Method of Voting for Board of Directors.**
  2. **First Nations Representation on OPSBA's Board of Directors.**
  3. **Representation on Executive Council for High Density Rapid Growth Boards**

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda L. Knight,  
Director of Education



**Doug Turcotte B.A., B.Ed.**

256 Kelly Ann Drive  
Timmins, Ontario  
P4P 1G8

May 17, 2006

District School Board Ontario North East  
P.B. Box 1020  
Timmins, Ontario  
P4N 7H7

Dear Mr. Leukert,

Firstly, I would like to thank the Board members for affording me the opportunity to demonstrate and develop my leadership ability in the role of Vice Principal over the course of the past 4 years. Being part of such a dynamic and enthusiastic administrative team has been an amazing experience which I have benefited from immensely. It is therefore with great pleasure that I accept the position of Principal at Flora MacDonald Public School.

Please know that I will continue to work closely with our staff and students to ensure continued growth and student success.

I humbly accept the responsibility that has been bestowed upon me and will endeavor to promote our Board as indeed being the best that public education has to offer.

Yours in Education,

Doug Turcotte  
Principal  
Flora MacDonald Public School



Dear Linda;

Please convey to the Board my thanks for the beautiful clock I received in honour of my retirement at the end of June. I've enjoyed the past 27 years working at Sewastika & King George Schools as well as well as the five years in Accounting for the Kirkland Lake Bd. of Education.

Thank you!

Lois Crossin



Ministry of the Environment  
Northern Region  
North Bay Area Office  
191 Duff's Road, Unit # 16 & 17  
North Bay, ON P1A 4K3  
Fax: (705) 497-6866  
Telephone: (705) 497-6866

Ministère de l'Environnement  
Direction régionale du Nord  
Bureau du secteur de North Bay  
191 rue Duff, unités 16 & 17  
North Bay, ON P1A 4K3  
Télécopieur: (705) 497-6866



May 23, 2006

District School Board Ontario North East  
Office of the Director

Received:

MAY 30 2006

District School Board Ontario North East  
P.O. Box 1020  
Timmins, ON  
P4N 7H7

Office File

Copy to: Barb Htg  
Havira Date

Attention: Ms Linda Knight, Director of Education

Dear Ms Knight:

I am writing to inform the District School Board Ontario North East of soil sampling activities which the Ministry of the Environment intends to carry out in the Town of Cobalt in the 2006 field season.

The Town of Cobalt and Coleman Township, like many other Northern Ontario communities, have a long history of mining, smelting, and refining. The ministry is aware that this type of industrial activity has caused elevated concentrations of metals in soils in the Cobalt area. In order to determine if there is a potential for environmental or human health impacts from high concentrations of metals in soils, this ministry, in conjunction with local and other provincial authorities, has initiated a multi-year sampling project in the area. Ministry soil sampling has now been carried out at several locations in the Cobalt area, with an emphasis on four sites along the Heritage Silver Trail. It is our intention to expand our sampling program over the next few years. Data from this sampling program will be assessed to determine if there are any potential impacts to human health or the environment; results will be shared with the Timiskaming Health Unit and other stakeholders.

To ensure that local interests are addressed, a Local Steering Committee comprised of representatives from Agnico-Eagle (the owner of mining properties in the area), the Timiskaming Health Unit, provincial ministries, local municipalities and the local Heritage Boards has been established. The Health Unit and the ministry will work with the Steering Committee to develop risk management strategies, if required, and will keep local residents and municipalities informed of their findings.



The ministry, Health Unit and Steering Committee members have agreed that soil sampling in 2006 should focus on public green spaces and school properties within the Town of Cobalt. Results from a preliminary ministry study in 2000 suggest that metals levels in parks and some public green spaces in the community are substantially lower than those found at other historical mining sites. However, due to the potential presence of mine tailings and other materials near school properties and public green spaces, the ministry proposes a more comprehensive sampling program of these areas this summer. Sampling results from school properties will be shared with the local Medical Officer of Health and the school board.

I am therefore seeking your permission to sample school properties in the Town of Cobalt, and look forward to your cooperation as we work together to ensure that communities such as Cobalt remain clean, safe and livable. Representatives from the ministry and the Timiskaming Health Unit would be pleased to meet with you and your staff to discuss this matter in more detail. Please contact the undersigned at (705) 497-6869 should you have any questions regarding the ministry's activities in the Cobalt area.

Yours truly;

G. Douglas Walsh, Area Supervisor  
Timmins/North Bay District  
Northern Region

c: Ms Maria Megens, Timiskaming Health Unit  
Den's Durocher, District Manager, MOH



Office of the  
Premier

Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

Cabinet du  
Premier ministre

Édifice de l'Assemblée législative  
Queen's Park  
Toronto (Ontario)  
M7A 1A1



April 28, 2006

Mr. Juergen Leukert  
Chair  
District School Board Ontario North East  
153 Third Avenue  
PO Box 1020  
Schumacher, Ontario  
P4N 7H7

Dear Mr. Leukert:

On behalf of the Government of Ontario, we'd like to congratulate you and everyone associated with the District School Board Ontario North East — principals, teachers, and administrative and support staff — as you celebrate Education Week 2006. We deeply respect the great work you've done, and continue to do. You and your colleagues are playing a pivotal role in building successful schools and helping our children grow to become responsible, well-rounded citizens.

Of all our government's priorities, success for students remains at the top of the list. That's why we've invested \$8.3 billion over five years in Ontario's publicly funded schools. Making public education the best education is the single most important thing we can do to build a bright and promising future for all Ontarians. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of you and your colleagues — our partners in education — we've made significant progress, a direct result of our collective efforts. We believe that's really something to celebrate.

With your support, we're delivering peace and stability to public education. Together, we're giving kids the tools they need to learn to read, write and do math at a high level. Our students are already benefiting from more teachers, new textbooks and safer schools. Their test scores are up and they're now staying in school until at least age 18. And seventy per cent of our kids in the early grades are in smaller classes, giving them more time with their teachers and a better opportunity to learn at that critical stage.



- 2 -

As you mark Education Week 2006, we want to thank each and every one of you for the difference you're making in the lives of tomorrow's leaders. Every day, you're bringing them one step closer to reaching their full potential. And, every day, you're advocating on behalf of schools — and our province can only succeed if our schools and our students succeed.

While we still have more to do, we're heartened by the results we are seeing. Even more importantly, we're optimistic about the results yet to come. We are enthusiastic about continuing to work with you and everyone associated with the District School Board Ontario North East to further strengthen public education and help our children be the best they can be.

Please accept our personal best wishes.

Yours truly,

Dalton McGuinty  
Premier

Sandra Pupatello  
Minister of Education