

PRESS RELEASE

At its regular board meeting of Thursday, October 3, 2013, the KDSB Board of Directors addressed the following issues:

- The board passed a resolution acknowledging, and thanking employees with KDSB employment service of 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years. The employees will receive a KDSB Service Certificate signed by the Chair of the Board and for those who qualify, a small financial token of appreciation.
- Approved revised Staff Performance Review & Salary Administration Policy HR-II-10. The Board discussed and highlighted the organizational importance of sound, fair and objective performance appraisals and related policies and procedure.
- Approved submissions to the Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing to request approval for disposal of underperforming social housing projects in Dinorwic, Hudson and Minaki. A fundamental component of the request is that existing tenants will not be negatively affected. The KDSB is pursuing this goal to concentrate social housing resources where there are housing waiting lists – Dryden, Kenora, Red Lake & Sioux Lookout.
- Received a report from the Acting Director of Integrated Social Services regarding the **Ontario Early Years Policy Framework**. The long term goal of the policy is to achieve full integration of child care, education and children social services through the establishment of Child & Family Centres beginning in September 2014. It is hoped that Ontario schools will become the hub of child & family services in our communities as the policy implementation moves forward.
- Received a report regarding a revision to the current model of distributing resources to Child Care Centres in the region supported by the province and the KDSB. The former grant allocation methods were extremely complex. After consultation with regional child care providers, support will be distributed in three streams - Parental Fee Subsidy, Special Needs Programming and a General Operating Grant.
- Child care is undergoing fundamental change with the introduction of Full Day Kindergarten. The province has ensured stable funding until 2016 in recognition of the time needed to reorganize this fundamental social service.
- Received a draft Executive Summary presentation of the KDSB 10 Year Housing & Homelessness (H & H) Plan. The Board tentatively approved the H & H Plan goals & objectives and the draft plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing and other ministries for comment. The final plan is expected to be approved at the December 2013 board meeting. The H & H Plan Executive Summary can be viewed at the KDSB website beginning Monday, October 14. (www.kdsb.on.ca)
- Received the long awaited report on Non-Emergent Medical Transfers titled - **“Non-Emergent Patient Transportation in Kenora & Rainy River Districts: Evidence Based 3rd Party Review”**. The report was funded by the Northwest Health Integration Network (NWLHIN) on behalf of nine participants in the study – two EMS services, six regional hospitals and ORNGE. The report confirms the on-going regulatory and funding inconsistencies by the Ministry of Health & Long Term Care regarding the provision of this fundamental primary health care service. The Board accepted the primary recommendation of the report to participate in **NW LHIN Non-Emergent Patient Transportation Coordination Panel** in another attempt to rationalize this service in the region.

Barry Baltessen, Chair

Dan McNeill, CAO