

**Message to Near North District School Board stakeholders regarding Strategic Plan Update**

**February 2015**

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The timing for a look at our Strategic Plan coincides with and is supported by a number of things currently happening. First, the current Strategic Plan is in expiry mode, with the last plan completed more than five years ago. Second, a new Board of Trustees was sworn in at the December 2, 2014 Board meeting. Third, Bill 177 included recent updates that place a stronger emphasis on the Board's responsibility to create and implement a multi-year Strategic Plan. Fourth, support by staff and parents indicates that it is time to review, "Where are we?", "Where are we going?", and "How are we going to get there?" Finally, the timing is most appropriate for the current Director to affect a smooth transition with our incoming Director, Jackie Young, who will be joining our "family" on February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and therefore play a key role in shaping the plan.

During the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Trustee orientation workshop the Director of Education involved the Trustees in a good discussion around an environmental scan. This included a look at what has been happening in the region, both internally within the Board and externally in the region over the last several years. We looked at the demographics, including population trends, student enrolment, staffing, infrastructure, legislative requirements, programs and finance.

As well, Margaret Wilson, in her report to the Board last year, while indicating the Board followed due process with the Accommodation Reviews, identified the Strategic Plan as an area the Board should review. This statement was also supported by the consulting firm that recently completed a successful Director search for the Near North District School Board. During their search, they talked to a number of people in the region and the Strategic Plan was identified as an area that required updating.

With that in mind, the Board of Trustees set up a Strategic Planning Committee in early January, 2015. The committee has met twice to begin the process to review the plan. The phases of the review process include: Phase # 1, a look at the current Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Priorities to determine whether they are still relevant. The committee is at this stage of the review. Phase # 2 involves identifying the goals under each Strategic Priority that the Board and Senior Administration will support over the next few years. The development of action plans to implement the goals identified in Phase # 2 will be the major focus of Phase # 3. The final Phase involves identifying a communication process for monitoring and sharing the implementation of the goals. There will be opportunity for public input at different stages of the review. The first opportunity will be in February regarding the Mission, Vision, Value and Strategic Priority statements. We will be looking for general comments and ideas you might have on system initiatives. This will help us in providing direction for Phase # 1 and parts of Phase #2.

**Chair of the Board**

**David Thompson**



**Director of Education**

**Geof Botting**

