

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The enclosed is an up to date summary of the activities of The Lake Superior Board of Education since its inauguration January 1969.

The summary shows what ground work was necessary and the improvements that have been made. I find them very impressive, especially when one is familiar with some of the problems inherited by the Board.

This inheritance included a very large debenture debt running into six figures; run down and worn out school buildings; very costly repairs, replacement, some phasing out of schools; decisions to Bus students considerable distances; housing of students; providing teacherages, where it had not already been done, etc.

It is well understood that the formative years are most costly but necessary to assure a solid foundation for the future of the system. The Board has done an excellent job and I feel confident that we can look forward with optimism to continued improvement.

I sincerely commend The Board Members who, despite adverse criticism and slanted comments, continued to improve Educational Opportunities for all students within their jurisdiction.

Signed - L.R. McCuaig.

### THE LAKE SUPERIOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: E.J. Morgan, DATE: October 18, 1972, SUBJECT: Coming Election of Trustees

#### Preamble:

1. With the election of trustees for a two year term coming in two months, and with nominations much closer, I wish to review some of the activities of this Board since the reorganization which took place in January 1969. In this way it may assist in the organization and consolidation of your impressions, not only of what has transpired but of the amount of time and effort that is expended by a trustee in the discharge of his duties. It may assist you as well in your decision as to whether or not to let your name stand again. It may be of some value to you in accounting to the electors for past performance.

2. It is essential that there be a sufficient number of able persons run for the office of trustee. There are many reasons why it appears difficult to get many such persons to allow their names to stand. Indifference, lack of knowledge of what really is involved, and the fact that there is always a group of local individuals who are quick to criticise in public and in private and are quick to tear down while seldom if ever is the voice of commendation heard, are all deterrents to running for public office.

3. It is my hope that all present trustees will consider seriously their own position regarding nomination for a new term before a decision is reached, and that you will encourage others to stand for office.

#### Review of Activities of The Lake Superior Board:

##### I. Special Education:

This has received full consideration from the reorganized Board, and has included:

- a) establishment of an opportunity class (since changed to remedial) in the Manitowadge Public School.
- b) employment of a Special Education Consultant to work in all schools, residing in Marathon
- c) establishment of a "Special Education Center" in Marathon

equipped with special equipment for learning problems and a teachers' reference section.

- d) establishment of close liaison with the Lakehead Psychiatric Clinic at the Ontario Hospital in Thunder Bay
- e) establishment of an active on-going diagnostic testing program for all pupils, followed by development of suitable programs to meet the needs as shown by the tests
- f) in-service training for teachers to assist them in carrying out individualized programs - this is an on-going training program.

##### 2. Early Childhood Education:

- a) establishment of kindergartens in all elementary schools
- b) assessment program for all prospective enrollees
- c) early childhood education workshops for parents
- d) revision of kindergarten curricula
- e) initiation of an activity program for pre-kindergarten children

1) development of tests to establish needs

- ii) development of activity program involving the parents
- Our next step is to put the developments in (e) into practice.

##### 3. Educational Television:

- a) closed circuit television system in all schools in all rooms
- b) video-tape recorder, camera in each family of schools (4 in all)
- c) steps in the process to establish educational television in each community to provide ten hours of programming per day

##### 4. Consolidation and Streamlining:

- a) closing out of S.S. No. 1 Pic 3-room school bussing all students to Marathon
- b) closing out of S.S. No. 1 Rosspoint 1-room school bussing all students to Schreiber
- c) linking Stevens Avenue and Alexander Public Schools under one administration
- d) combining the Schreiber and Terrace Bay Schools under one administration.

##### 5. Oral French:

The extension of Oral French in all Public Schools from kindergarten to Grade eight.

##### 6. Facilities:

A program to update Elementary Schools is under way whereby each will have a general purpose room and a library resources centre.

##### 7. Outdoor Education:

- a) this is being encouraged and developed in the Elementary Schools
- b) an "outers" program is being developed in the Secondary Schools
- c) administration of "S.O.L.E." program

##### 8. Secondary Programs and Staff:

- a) the credit system has been introduced in all the Secondary Schools, with different levels of instruction in the subjects being offered
- b) services of the Special Education Consultant have been extended to the Secondary Schools
- c) vocational commercial subjects have been introduced in the Marathon High School
- d) technical and vocational subjects in Terrace Bay are available to any Secondary Student in the division, through the introduction of a bus run linking Heron Bay to Marathon to Terrace Bay, and by the provision of room, board and weekly transportation assistance to Manitowadge students
- e) introduction of Francais at the Manitowadge High School
- f) library technicians are being introduced into the Secondary Schools as the opportunity arises (2 on staff now)
- g) extension of school year by initiation of a summer school program for students to make up credits and to get additional credits
- h) In the recruitment of teachers, a sustained effort has

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