

Ministry of Education

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2013: SB27

MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Senior Business Officials

FROM: Cheri Hayward
Director
School Business Support Branch

DATE: **September 13, 2013**

SUBJECT: **Operational Reviews for Ontario District School
Boards 2007 - 2013**

The Ministry of Education conducted Operational Reviews of the 72 school boards across the province over several years, beginning in 2007. The ministry's goal in conducting the Operational Reviews was to enhance management capacity within school boards, by encouraging the good stewardship of public resources and by leveraging and sharing of best practices.

Throughout the course of the reviews, the ministry released two sector summary reports. These reports identified sector themes across the following functional areas: governance and school board administration; human resource management and school staffing/allocation; financial management; and school operations and facilities management.

The attached report, ***The Road Ahead: A report on continuous improvement in school board operations***, builds on these earlier sector reports by identifying key findings and observations of the review teams, further areas of opportunity for the sector, and possible next steps to build on the momentum from the review process. Though the review teams saw many leading practices in boards across the province, the report highlights a few exemplary school board practices.

The success of the Operational Review initiative was due in large part to the collaboration with sector. The ministry assembled an Operational Review Advisory Committee of Directors of Education and Senior Business Officials, and a Trustee

Reference Group. Both groups were engaged from the beginning of the project to advise the review teams from Deloitte and PwC in the development of the Operational Review Guide, the consultant toolkit and the overall process.

The members of the Operational Review Advisory Committee were:

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

- Bill Bryce, Thames Valley DSB
- Roger Lawler, Waterloo CDSB
- Lise Bourgeois, CSDC Centre-Est

Council of Senior Business Officials

- Fran Fournier, Conseil scolaire Viamonde
- John Lawrence, formerly at DSB of Niagara and now at Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB
- Steven Parfeniuk, Halton DSB
- Roger Richard, Limestone DSB
- John Sabo, York CDSB
- Laura Mills, Rainy River DSB

Through the Operational Reviews, follow-ups and in-depth reviews, ministry staff learned a great deal about school board operations and implementation challenges. This knowledge has helped to inform policy directives and further supports for school boards.

On behalf of the ministry, I would like to thank you for your participation in the Operational Review initiative. If you have any comments or questions concerning the final sector report or the initiative, please contact me or Lorraine Smith, Senior Policy Coordinator, at lorraine.smith@ontario.ca or 416-325-2719.

Original Signed by

Cheri Hayward
Director
School Business Support Branch