



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DSBN well on way to smaller class sizes

Elementary schools within the District School Board of Niagara are well ahead of the provincial average for meeting the province of Ontario's new smaller size requirements for primary classes. The provincial target for the 2007/08 school year is 90% of Junior Kindergarten through Grade 3 classes to have 20 or fewer students and 100% of classes to have 23 or fewer students. The DSBN already has 77% of primary classes with 20 or fewer students and 97% with 23 or fewer. The most recent numbers from the Ministry of Education show the provincial average as 48% with 20 or fewer and 81% with 23 or fewer.

"Because the District School Board of Niagara has taken a carefully planned and proactive approach to implementing the caps on primary class size, we are well ahead of the provincial average" said Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education. "Our principals and staff have worked hard to implement lower class size numbers in elementary schools and we are already seeing our students benefit from the more personalized instruction and support available in smaller classes."

Chair of the Education Program and Planning Committee, Trustee Marcy Heit, noted "The District School Board of Niagara has much to be proud of as we have made tremendous strides in the past few years in reducing primary class sizes. The increase in provincial funding has supported an additional 60 primary teachers and more classroom space. This can only enhance student learning."

- 30 -

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