

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2017  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION DEPARTING FOR NEW PROVINCIAL ROLE**

At last evening's meeting of the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, Trustees accepted, with regret, the retirement notice of W. R. (Rusty) Hick, Director of Education. Hick is the longest serving Director in the board's history, assuming the role in September 2009, and serving in his eighth year.

Director Hick is leaving the board to become the next Executive Director of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA).

"With integrity and a sincere passion for the life-long benefits of public education, Rusty has led our board through some challenging and truly transformative changes," says Cathy Abraham, Chairperson of the Board. "Throughout that time, his singular focus and dedication to making the best choices for our students has shone through."

Abraham adds, "Our organization has been well-served by Rusty's leadership in his tenure as our Director. We are well-positioned to continue our improvement and evolution as a school district, and he will be missed greatly. We know he will do great things on the provincial stage as part of the next chapter of his career."

"I am very, very proud of the work we have done together for public education here at our board" says W.R. (Rusty) Hick, Director of Education. "KPR is extremely well regarded around our province, and our province is recognized around the world as being among the best education systems anywhere. It has been my sincere pleasure to be part of such a tremendous group of people who are so committed to doing the right thing."

Hick adds, "I want to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the people that I have worked alongside for the past 18 years. I believe we've learned and grown together while making fantastic things happen for kids. I feel honoured to be appointed the next executive director of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, where I will continue to advocate for our excellent public education system."

Hick began his teaching career with the York Region District School Board before joining KPR as a principal in 1999. In 2004 he was appointed Superintendent of schools, and for the next five years he held several key Superintendent positions with the Board. Since 2009, he has served as Director of Education.

Hick will begin his new role with OPSBA on June 1, 2017, and an interim Director of Education will be appointed in his place until a permanent replacement is selected.

The Ontario Public School Boards' Association represents public district school boards and public school authorities across Ontario, which together serves more than 1.2 million public elementary and secondary students. The Association advocates on behalf of the best interests and needs of the public school system in Ontario.

**For more information, please call:**

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