February 22, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

Southgate Public School and its Site Based Decision Making Council are committed to fulfilling all requirements of the Striving Readers process including creating and implementing a comprehensive literacy plan for all ages birth to grade 12. To accomplish this commitment we will collaborate with community partners in support of children ages birth – 5 and with Bellevue High School for students in grades 9 – 12.

1. We are committed to supporting improvements in the literacy achievement of all learners. We will do this by creating and implementing a comprehensive literacy plan for all ages birth to grade 12 along with our community partners and participating in relevant planning assistance meetings. This plan will build on and expand our current offerings for literacy support that include: Book a Week Program, Creative Curriculum, Edmentum, Lexia, Saxon Phonics, One to One Reading, Susan Barton Reading and Spelling Program, Orton Gillingham, etc. We will adopt an approved curriculum or process at each level as outlined in the Striving Readers RFA, page 4.

1. Southgate Public School has identified some strong needs of the school relative to literacy and early literacy. These include: low Kindergarten readiness (17%); below benchmark performance on all standard Reading assessments in all grades; high percentage of disadvantaged students (72% free and reduced lunch rate); limited capacity for professional development due to very small faculty size, high substitute costs, and extremely low professional development budget ($1,525 for all PD next year, not just literacy). The other barriers within the school community include transiency, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and generational poverty.
2. This project will align to other programs and funding sources having a literacy component including Response to Intervention, Title I, ESS, and other literacy resources previously mentioned.
3. We are excited for the support this project will provide in collaboration with current strategies to improve literacy and/or early literacy outcomes in the community such as Family Literacy Night, Summer Reading Program, Reading Counts, Me and My School, Book of the Week Program for Preschool, and One to One Reading to name a few.

We understand that this proposal will involve extensive planning and professional development for our teachers and will provide additional literacy resources with the ultimate goal of improving the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as well as academic achievement of all learners.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal, and we look forward to working with you in the future to improve literacy of students in Southgate Public School and our partners.

Sincerely,

Eddie Franke

Principal