

For Immediate Release—2011 07 05

Board Thanked for Allowing Teacher to Serve in Afghanistan



North Bay ON - The Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board received a special thank you from local representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces for granting one of its teachers, Sarah Surtees, a leave to pursue a lifelong dream of serving her country.

Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Bryden and Lieutenant Vincent Charlebois of The Algonquin Regiment attended the Board's June meeting to present trustees and senior administrators an encased certificate of thanks for allowing the St. Theresa School teacher to serve with the armed forces in Afghanistan.

"You have one pretty brave teacher at St. Theresa School," said Bryden. We thank your Board for allowing Sarah to fulfill her dream of serving this great country. She made a difference in the lives of Afghan people through civil military cooperation in education-related projects particularly for women."

Surtees, who was accompanied to the presentation by her mother, former NPSC principal, Margaret Surtees, said she benefitted from her deployment in more than one way. "This not only helped me grow as an individual, this helped me grow as an educator, as a teacher," she said.

Sgt. Sarah Surtees helped Afghan women become educated in first aid practices and every day life skills during her deployment to Afghanistan with Task Force 1-10 from April 1, 2010 to December 4, 2010.

"We were happy to grant you this leave knowing your skill set would make a difference in Afghanistan, Sarah," said Anna Marie Bitonti, Director of Education. "But we are even happier to have you back safe and sound, and proud to see you sharing your stories, skills and wisdom with your students and colleagues."

For more information, call Josee Guillemette, Communications Officer at 705-472-1201, ext. 2229 .

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Anna Marie Bitonti
Director of Education

Barbara McCool
Chair of the Board