

District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2017 7 p.m.

Lindsay Education Centre – 300 County Road 36, Lindsay

Haliburton County Education Centre – 12 Vintage Crescent, Minden

Muskoka Education Centre – 1271 Cedar Lane, Bracebridge

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sam Itani / Jenn Sharp – Haliburton area co-chairs

- Sam and Jenn welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Update from the Director of Education

Director of Education – Larry Hope


- **December 9 Hold and Secure** – We live in a changing world of social media which means we have to stay on top of messaging. On December 9th the Communications Officer found 2 generalized threats to TLDSB schools. We did not know where the threat was from. OPP helped immediately and together we decided to put all secondary schools into Hold and Secure, and then decided to put all elementary schools, and then all TLDSB buildings into Hold and Secure. The OPP were excellent. They got in touch with Twitter who helped to isolate where the threat was coming from, and within about 90 minutes a young person was apprehended. The Hold and Secure was then lifted. We did our best to communicate what we were allowed to communicate during the incident. It is important to note that during an emergency we need to be balanced what we can communicate with what we know is parent desire to know what is happening with their child. The important lesson during this Hold and Secure is that there is some confusion between the terms 'lockdown' and 'hold and secure' – the board is working on a sticker that will go the back of each door in the school detailing the procedures for Hold and Secure, Lockdown, Shelter in Place, and Evacuate. There has been considerable follow up around communication, strategies, and debrief with police services.
- **Long Term Pupil Accommodation Plan** – the plan has been revised and shared with school board trustees. There are a few changes to the plan from last year's report. Most notably we have pushed some of the potential accommodation reviews out to a later school year than originally suggested. The plan as well as the schools that are to be considered for a review may be found on the [Accommodation Review](#) page on the TLDSB website. Recent census data indicates that there is growth in all areas of the board, however there continues to be declining enrolment in all areas. Age-related demographic data is not yet available from the latest census but our assumption is that the growth is from seniors moving into the district.

- **Elementary Math Update** – Superintendent of Learning Andrea Gillespie shared how staff have been focusing on “knowing our students” – identifying where there are gaps and doing diagnostic assessments. The data collected is helping teachers to focus on closing the gap for students. There is a need to focus on teacher content knowledge. It has been noted that there are very few teachers with math degrees teaching at elementary schools – the Board is doing a number of things to conquer this.
- **Secondary Math Update** - Superintendent of Learning Bruce Barrett – principals are being intentional in their staffing to make sure that there are math specialists in all math classes at all high school grades. Because of job action last year EQAO was not written but we are hopeful that our math scores will continue to be positive. Most work going on at high school is focussed on applied level students. HHSS is one of only 6 high schools in the province highlighted for consistent gains in grade 9 math scores – the Ministry of Education will be visiting the school to highlight this achievement. There continues to be an advancement of financial literacy. The curriculum does not focus on financial literacy until grade 11. Working on including financial literacy in the grade 10 careers courses by having the course taught by math specialists.

3. Presentations

- **Arts in TLDSB** – Arts Curriculum Consultant Jelynn Sornberger presented the many ways that all elements of the arts is being integrated into classrooms at elementary schools across the district.
- **OverDrive Overview** – Superintendent of Learning Andrea Gillespie shared that OverDrive, the new e-lending library for the board was launched for students and staff yesterday. The content is set up so that there is access based on age. Books can be read from a browser or downloaded to a device. Plans are underway for parents to be able to use the system before the end of the school year. Almost all of the books and topics requested by the District School Council – PIC have been included in the library.

4. Updates for School Councils

- **Dr. Greg Wells presentation** - April 12, 2017 6 pm. to 7:30 pm.
 -  Greg Wells has been invited to speak in Muskoka on April 12th
 - We plan to live-stream his presentation to Haliburton and CKL
 - This is an opportunity for school councils and parents to gather to focus on well-being for yourselves and for your children – Dr. Wells fits very well into our Feed All Four focus
 - Greg Wells will share tactics that can be used to overcome obstacles, improve health and enhance resilience
 - An example of Well’s work from Ted Talk at the University of Toronto <http://drgregwells.com/>

- **Minister of Education’s PIC Symposium**
 - The Minister of Education is hosting the annual PIC Symposium – 7 parents are invited to attend – including 2 of our District School Council Chairs
 - The date is Saturday, April 22 in Barrie and the deadline for registration is April 13th
 - Please let your District School Council chair know if you would like to attend – we would like to have representation from each area in the board attend the symposium

- **Parent Engagement Fund / Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants**
 - It’s that time of year again – the Ministry has just opened the applications for Parents Reaching Out grants for the 2017-2018 school year.
 - These PRO grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being
 - There are two types of grants – Parents Reaching Out Grants for School Councils and Parents Reaching Out Grants for Regional or Provincial projects.
 - Details and links about the grant application will be shared in the next District School Council newsletter – but you will find everything you need on the Ministry of Education website now
 - It is important to note that when you apply you use an online registration process which gives you a unique password – you MUST share this password with your school principal so that we are able to follow up next year with reports that are due on specific dates. And you MUST forward a copy of your application to my office – we have to report back on the expenditure as well, which is difficult if we don’t know what your project is about.
 - On the ministry website you will find a lot of information including examples of successful grant applications from previous years.

- **Parent Communication**
 - We are always adding new items to the parent resource page on the TLDSB website – check often
 - The District School Council newsletter offers the most recent quick videos we have created – use these at your next school council meeting

5. Site Discussions

Kawartha Lakes Area Discussion

Ideas for Greg Wells event April 12, 2017

- Offer childcare / food
- Greg Wells Ted Talk could be put on website to entice people to come
- Suggestion that that the time is 7 to 8:30
- Make a sign up option (eg. Eventbrite)
- Can streaming go into homes? (is this okay with Greg Wells)
- School council groups could host the event themselves – parent engagement funds could be used to feed and supply childcare (need to check on the technology for this)
- Need to be sure that the technology will work
- Order of preference is 1. Individual schools; 2. Three or four schools in the area; and 3. One location at IEWSS

PIC Symposium

- Anyone who is interested in attending, please contact your District School Council Chair or Catherine in the Board office

OverDrive

- Would really like to have parent access before March Break!
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Haliburton Area Discussion

Diversity/Multicultural Awareness:

- Haliburton Highschool Council representatives looking for direction/resources for Multiculturalism/Diversity initiative
- names of contacts were shared as well as Puzzle Peace information
- could easily broaden to local elementary schools once implemented

Greg Wells presentation advertising:

- will share event information with our School Councils
- the group thought the Board Tweets and use of radio (MooseFM) are effective means of advertising
- School Principal's could also relay information by preferred methods (texts, emails etc.) within their school community

PIC Symposium:

- information will be taken back to individual Councils
 - email Jenn or Sam with names of interested representatives
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Muskoka Area Discussion

April 22 PIC Symposium

- Interested attendees are Patricia Wark, Kerry Foreman and Stasi O'Hare.

Online Payments

- A question was asked about on-line payments. What schools are part of Phase One and has it started?

Snow Days discussion

- Many teachers now giving work on Google Drive but not fair to the kids who are actually at school.
- Need to have some consistencies among schools and perhaps some better structure during the day so kids are doing curriculum based things. Example: board games!

Suggestion for the Board Twitter

- Set up a Twitter for Emergencies separate from the Twitter feed for learning.
- Ensure the Emergency Twitter is timely.

Additional math discussion

- Math for students who are excelling. Andrea explained opportunities such as grade 8s taking a virtual course to earn a grade 9 credit, balanced approach which includes drill and problem solving, worthwhile mathematical questions that kids who excel can take their answers to a higher level, tools & representations.

Battle of the Books

- requested that the list of books be circulated before the Christmas break and that it reaches local bookstores so that books can be purchased for Christmas gifts.

District School Council meetings

- A lot of schools do not have a rep coming out to District meetings.
- Ensure the message is out there that it doesn't have to be the School Council chair who represents the school. Any parent can come.

Dr. Wells Speaking Engagement:

- Riverside would like to Live Stream from there also. Can that be set up?
- Messaging should include: community event, all are welcome to attend, open to kids and adults / parents & grandparents should bring the kids with them, supports the Feed All Four concept, EAT Better, SLEEP Better, MOVE Better, clear that he will be speaking from Bracebridge but there is live stream in the following locations. Group would like this to come out before March Break if possible.
- Poster for e-mailing and social media, Muskoka 411, Moose radio stations (Bracebridge & Huntsville have different stations)
- Short snippet from Dr. Wells to say he'll be in the area with live stream.
- Are funds available to provide a snack- we could order through BML Hospitality; healthy snacks
- Talk to Dave Lyons to help set up a few activities kids and parents could do before settling in at 6pm for the presentation. Simple things like hoola hoop/bean bag tic tac toe, over under relay, etc.
- Find out what handouts Dr. Wells has. Looking for an "accountability checklist or interactive survey " of some sort so can take home and put on fridge/bulletin board etc. to hold self to 1 -3 things committed to doing/changing that night. Just one page, very

simple sheet. We believe he has something like this already.

District Chairs 2016-2017:

City of Kawartha Lakes	Grant Boudreault	705-786-3937	eyespydogs@bell.net
Haliburton County	Sam Itani	705-457-7407	sam_itani@hotmail.com
	Jenn Sharp	705-457-6564	jennsharp2@gmail.com
District of Muskoka	Patricia Wark	705-637-0413	pbwark@hotmail.com

Meetings 2016-2017:

Thursday, November 3, 2016

Thursday, December 1, 2016

Thursday, March 2, 2017

Thursday, May 4, 2017