

## District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2016 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

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A G E N D A

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### 1. Welcome and Introductions

*Judi Paul – Haliburton area Chair*

*Judi welcomed everyone to the meeting*

### 2. Update from the Director of Education

*Director of Education – Larry Hope*

- *Director Hope shared his recent participation at a Public Accounts Committee meeting at Queens Park for a review of a Ministry of Education Healthy Schools audit*
- *Security in schools – there was a bomb threat in FFSS the first day of exams, not the first time this has happened, but we do take these types of threats very seriously. We have had a full debrief with the police – in most instances the police take over and become the ones making the decisions around what we do with our students in a certain situation. All school boards across the province are required to review, revise, and re-sign police-school board protocols. This is taking place right now for TLDSB and local police.*
- *Measuring What Matters – a large scale project that is going on at a provincial and a global level – how we determine student achievement in areas other than math, science, reading etc. People for Education are doing some case studies – TLDSB has two schools that are going to help to inform the resources (Jack Callaghan PS and Macaulay Pubic School)*
- *Elementary Arts Advisory Update – a group of elementary staff have met a couple of times to talk about what to do in our system to give a boost to the arts in our system. This is a strong working group. Trustees have assigned some resources out of our reserve funds that will allow us a consultant who will help with supports to our schools.*
- *OSSTF Labour issue – TLDSB was one of the first school boards in the province to have deals with CUPE and our elementary teachers. The board and OSSTF are stuck on a couple of issues. There is a mechanism to get to the bottom of this – the government and the Ontario Public School Boards Association agree that one of the items (leaves of absence) is something that must be negotiated at the provincial level. OSSTF has refused to go to arbitration and will not negotiate with a provincial mediator. The board has now asked the OLRB to help to determine a decision. Teachers have been directed to not participate in a number of things including traditional participation in events such as graduations and award ceremonies.*

### 3. Pupil Accommodation Long Term Plan

*Director of Education – Larry Hope*

- *In February we brought a 5-year road map to our trustees about identifying areas in the board that we will need to take a look at.*

- *The ministry of education has been very clear with school boards that there is unused space and they are not going to cover the cost of this space any longer. Money we traditionally relied on as top-up funding to keep empty spaces going will no longer be provided.*
- *There is an extensive process that is mandated by the Ministry of Education starting with the long term plan, then identifying areas in the board that might be of interest to other organizations for facility sharing (meetings were held in March in each area of the board); we then have to identify on an annual basis any schools where we believe there should be an accommodation review – school board staff are required to suggest options and a proposed solution to trustees when recommending an accommodation review; once the process has taken place and the review is approved by trustees, we then have to submit a business plan to the Ministry of Education for the proposed solution.*
- *Review of the enrolment and capacity for the TLDSB Board, Kawartha Lakes, Muskoka, and Haliburton County – [all data available for viewing on the TLDSB website](#).*
- *If a school gets below 60% capacity it should trigger an accommodation review. However, there are circumstances where this will not happen.*
- *By 2025 all schools must be fully accessible to all people.*
- *On the website you can see the schools that are being recommended for a possible accommodation review. These include:*
  - **2016-2017**  
*Lady Eaton Public School / Scott Young Public School  
Honey Harbour Public School / Gravenhurst Public School*
  - **2017-2018**  
*Central Senior School / King Albert Public School / Leslie Frost Public School / Alexandra Public School / Parkview Public School / Queen Victoria Public School / Jack Callaghan Public School  
Gravenhurst High School / Bracebridge and Muskoka Lakes Secondary School*
  - **2019-2020**  
*Fenelon Township Public School / Langton Public School  
IE Weldon Secondary School / Lindsay Collegiate and Vocational Institute*
- *Some schools do not appear to be at the less than 60% capacity, however may be in the close vicinity of other schools that do need to be reviewed and should therefore be part of the conversation if a review is recommended*
- *Next steps – we have laid out a road map, but we have not made any decisions at this time. We need to get help finding some solutions and are encouraging people to talk about possible ideas. This is a significant issue for us from a financial, equity, and programming perspective. There is an opportunity to send through questions and ideas from the board website.*

4. **Our Early Years – a vision for kindergarten through to grade 3 in TLDSB**  
*Andrea Gillespie – Superintendent of Early Learning and Elementary School Improvement*

- *Early years in TLDSB is kindergarten to grade 3*
- *Kindergarten does not look the same as it did when we went to school*
- *Learning in the Early Years – learning for students and for educators*
- *Biology is the ultimate level playing field – brain research: when a baby is born, it's brain is basically undeveloped, we all start out with the same brain. Scientists believe that 20% of what you are born with and 80% of what life brings*

- *The more rich the brain experience, the more the neurons will grow; early brain development is so important for what happens later*
- *Pathways that are not intensely used will disappear*
- *Students in 2 years of full day kindergarten had a 60% reduction in risk*
- *Early years has expanded from kindergarten to include grades 1,2, and 3 to work with educators to continue the rich opportunities for neuron development in early years brains*
- *TLDSB has created an early years strategy which include attendance at some early years pedagogical sessions, established an advisory committee, promote early years network meetings and workshops. Other events have taken place to provide professional development for early childhood educators as well as parents.*
- *A natural learning environment help young children to self-regulate (muted colours of furniture, soft lighting)*

## 5. Updates for School Councils

- **Parent Engagement Fund** - just a reminder to spend your schools' \$500 Parent Engagement Grant. This money was transferred to your school council account and any expenditure must come from this account. Money is to be spent by the end of the school year and a report is due by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Report back forms are available on the board website "Get Involved" parent page and I will be sending a link out to forms in an upcoming newsletter.
- **Board Parent Engagement Fund** - As agreed at earlier meetings some of the board parent engagement fund would go towards building our capacity to develop parent engagement videos. We are ready to begin the preliminary steps to develop a series but need your help to determine the topics and subjects that are needed for parent engagement. This will be part of your conversation once we go to our site discussion. The chair at each site will record the list of topics you would like us to consider for our video series.
- **PRO grants** - It's time to apply for Parents Reaching out Grants – each school may apply for a maximum of \$1000. I have sent information out in a couple of the latest newsletters with links to the ministry website where you can register. Note that special consideration will be given to school councils that promote parent support for their children's math learning at home and at school, as well as projects that support engagement of parents in fostering safe, inclusive and accepting schools. You can apply with other school councils if you wish. There is an [information slide deck](#) available to school councils from the Ministry of Education.
  - The deadline for applications is Sunday May 29, 2016
  - We have the following criteria:
    1. You must apply with your school principal – the school principal must have a shared login and password with the school council member applying.
    2. You must forward a copy of the completed application to the Director's Office.
- **Parent Communication** – Please continue to visit the ["Get Involved" page](#)". Under the District School Council – Parent Involvement Committee section you will find all the agendas and meeting notes from previous meetings. We have been sending out a newsletter to all school council chairs once or twice every month. Archived copies of the newsletter are on the page mentioned above. The most recent copy is from [May 2, 2016](#). If you are a school council chair and you are not receiving the newsletter in your inbox, please check your spam file or contact Catherine Shedden at

[Catherine.shedden@tlds.on.ca](mailto:Catherine.shedden@tlds.on.ca) to ensure you receive the latest news. This newsletter has plenty of information to help with your school council agendas.

- **Your Voice Matters** – we are now in the second stage of this process. If you didn't participate in the first stage (SHARE), it's not too late. You can participate in STAR by registering [here](#).

## 6. Site Discussion

### City of Kawartha Lakes

Potential topics for parent engagement videos

- Financial Literacy
- Feed All Four
- Math games
- What to ask when reading a book with your child
- School council events best practices

### Haliburton County

Potential topics for parent engagement videos

- New math initiatives
- Boosting brain power
- Specialized school programs (dual credit, MMA, Practical Academics)
- Increasing self-regulation skills
- Mental health awareness
- Talking effectively to your teen
- Tolerance (Positive Space, etc.)

### Muskoka

Parent Engagement Video Suggestions:

- Financial Literacy
  - grocery shopping with a child and ways to engage estimating, budgeting, label reading, etc
  - grade 7/8 & high school student planning for a class trip with parent, how to budget, make a plan to earn money, save, etc
  - cell phone plans and how to budget
- Strategies to get out the door in the morning
- How to ask about a child's day so as not to get "I don't know" and "nothing" answers
- Time management
- Cooking
- Engaging your child while driving; games to play
- Giving accountability and responsibility to a child
- A day in the life of the kid
- What to do after school- geared towards intermediate and high school students
- How to have a good read out loud
- How to pick books at the library
- Human rock, paper, scissors
- Demonstrate how math & literacy are relevant to the everyday
- How parents can be explicit with their thinking, speaking it out loud, explain their thinking

- Social media engagement- how parents can know what their kids are saying and posting; the consequences of posting inappropriate photos & inappropriate use of language
- Teach how to "unplug"
- Lowering anxiety
- Anything related to Feed All Four
- Breathing techniques to cope with anxiety

It was also suggested these be on YouTube and Facebook feed.

Also, it was suggested at the beginning of the year that a suggestion list be circulated on ways to spend the \$500 parent engagement funds. All schools spend it so differently. For example, Muskoka Beechgrove Public School spends theirs on childcare during the school council meetings.

**District Chairs 2015-2016:**

City of Kawartha Lakes	Frank Arnold	705-439-3299	frank@fpps.ca
Haliburton County	Judi Paul	705-457-2950	judi.paul@tlds.on.ca
District of Muskoka	Patricia Wark	705-637-0413	pbwark@hotmail.com