

District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2015 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

Frank Arnold – City of Kawartha Lakes Area Chair

2. Update from the Director of Education

Director of Education – Larry Hope

- In spite of challenges as it relates to labour – we have had a very smooth start up in getting classrooms up and running. Up over 200 students in secondary schools, up over 300 students in elementary schools
- Strategic Action Plan for 2015-2016 is available on the board website – specifically undertaken strategic initiatives for and with parents and community partners. One item identified is that at some point this year between now and March we will be bringing forward a 5 year accommodation review schedule – this report will identify the schools that need to be looked at. We have many schools functioning at below enrolment capacity and we need to address this. We will take a very careful and very open approach to the accommodation review process.
- What's going on in our schools with regards to labour as of October 22nd – in spite of challenges we face, so far we have been managing things as smoothly as possible.
 - i. Our principals, particularly in our elementary schools, are carrying an enormous load at this time. We continue to negotiate locally. In our secondary schools there is CUPE job action taking place. In our elementary schools there is the CUPE and ETFO strike action going on at the same time.
 - ii. As of next Wednesday there will be no more extra-curricular activities in our elementary schools. This is a dispute between the unions, the government, and the school boards as a whole in the Province of Ontario. There is not a whole lot of progress going on at this point in time.
 - iii. While we have not made an official decision and are waiting to see if the ministry provides guidance, we have indicated that we are not in favour of getting report cards done as we did last spring. At that time we were able to hire support staff to help with inputting data. The problem now is that the support staff is part of the CUPE strike action so cannot help with work that is struck work from another union. However, progress reports are not scheduled to go home between now and November 20th and things may change. We may need to re-evaluate at that time. Parents can always contact their child's teacher for an update on student progress.

3. Health and Physical Education Curriculum

Andrea Gillespie – Superintendent Early Learning and Elementary School Improvement

- Presentation on the new curriculum with resources distributed to all in attendance. These resources will be coming to schools soon.

4. DSC-PIC Parent Engagement Funds

- Kid's Club Videos – Kids Club videos are developed each month in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club in Lindsay. They are posted on the [TLDSB YouTube site](#).
- Ace Your Money – On October 29th starting at 6 pm., this financial literacy event is offered for free and includes a free pizza dinner. Participants will have the opportunity to attend three of seven workshops.
- Take Me Outside to Learn – an event for families with children ages 0 to 8 on May 2 in Muskoka and on October 3rd in the City of Kawartha Lakes. Currently Haliburton opportunities being explored.
- People for Education conference – Saturday, November 7th – we can fund some people to attend but we will need to know by Monday if you would like to attend. We sent out a message to all council chairs at the beginning of the month.

5. Updates for School Councils

- 2014-2015 DSC-PIC Annual Report – annual report on the DSC-PIC activities last year – will be posted on the District School Council section of the website.
- \$500 Parent Engagement Fund for every school – come up with a plan, spend the money, report back on how the money was spent.
- PRO grants – 23 schools received Parents Reaching Out grants this year with a total allocation of \$22,000.
- Communication – there is lots for parents on our board website. A few good places to visit:
 - i. [Parent Resource Toolbox](#)
 - ii. [Follow TLDSB on twitter](#)
 - iii. Visit [Puzzle Peace](#) for lots of resources for students, parents, and educators

6. Site Discussion

- Parent Engagement
- School Council Planning
- Open discussion

District Chairs 2015-2016:

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

2014-2015 Meetings:

Thursday, December 3, 2015
Thursday, February 25, 2016
Thursday, May 5, 2016

Please use the following questions to guide site discussion:

Parent Engagement

- What does "Parent Engagement" mean to you?
- What are the barriers to effective parent engagement?
- Think of a parent you have not reached out to. Walk for a moment in their shoes.
- What does the parent think, feel, hear, see, say and do?
- How can School Councils help reduce the barriers?
- What does an effective School Council meeting look like?
- What are some characteristics of effective School Councils?
- Select and share an example of something your School Council initiated that made/makes a difference in parent engagement in your school.

School Council

- How did you become involved in school council?
- How do you believe your involvement impacts students?
- What is the biggest change you have seen driven by your involvement?
- What is the goal of your school council activities for this year?
- How do think you will reach that goal?
- Do you think that our District School Council – Parent Involvement Committee meetings are helpful in your own school council involvement?
- Should there be anything different? What can we do at the district level to help your school council work at the school level?

Here's to an "engaging" school year!