

District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 3, 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

MEETING NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

School Council chairs, principals, and senior administration in Kawartha Lakes, Muskoka, and Haliburton were welcomed by District School Council –PIC Chair Grant Boudreault

2. Update from the Director of Education

Director of Education, Larry Hope, provided an update and information on the following topics:

- **Embrace Learning** - thank you to everyone who provided input to our community consultation. The result is a multi-year strategic action plan called Embrace Learning. The [multi year plan](#) as well as the [annual strategic plan](#) are available on the school board website.
- **Accommodation Reviews** – trustees have approved accommodation reviews for Honey Harbour Public School and Lady Eaton Elementary School. A recommendation to close both of these schools has been made and needs to be considered by an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC). The ARC is made up of parents to each of the affected schools. Members of this committee will review all community feedback. All information will be available on the [Accommodation Reviews webpage](#) on the school board website.
- **Elementary Arts Advisory Committee** – an elementary arts consultant has been hired to enhance supports and invigorate the elementary arts curriculum including drama, arts, dance, and visual arts.
- **Measuring What Matters** – an initiative of People for Education called Measuring What Matters started in two TLDSB schools last year. Both of these schools have new principals and there is an increased expectation by the Ministry of Education to measure well-being. Due to some uncertainty about how this will work out, we have asked People for Education to give us a little bit more time before we become directly involved in the study.
- **Online Payments** – we have been investigating the possibility of online payments for parents at schools. In TLDSB there are some costs associated with this. Some of these will be absorbed centrally, however, there is a cost for every transaction which will likely be passed along to the consumer (parents paying online) – this could be approximately 3%. We want to be absolutely certain that parents are comfortable with this knowing that it is 3% less for fundraising or it may mean a slight increase in the cost of things for online payment. For this to take place, all schools will have to participate. Full implementation should be in place for September 2017.

- There was a question raised about the possibility of parents making e-payments at a lower cost than an online payment system.

RESPONSE: The system proposed is going to charge us .85% regardless of how payment is made as part of the software cost. The other 2% is to cover credit card administrative fees. The system already partners with some direct e-payment providers which will not cost the school board, but will charge the sender for the e-transfer. We could choose to run the online payment system with only those e-payment providers with only the provider .85%. However, there is ultimately the demand for credit card payments and additional charges will have to be picked up in the school pricing. Whether it's an e-payment transfer cost that the parent pays directly, or a credit card administrative fee charge that the school has to pay and recover in their pricing of the event, parents are ultimately going to be paying for the convenience of paying online. We are trying to provide the convenience in as cost efficient method possible and eliminate workload for parents and staff.

3. EQAO Update

Superintendents of Learning Bruce Barrett, Andrea Gillespie, and Katherine MacIver provided an overview of the recent EQAO assessment results.

- Grade 3 and 6 students wrote the EQAO assessment in late May and early June – the board is not pleased with the results and are working extremely hard to remedy the results. Schools are working very hard and are looking very closely at the data.
- Results for students with special needs are concerning as well in Grade 3 and 6 assessments.
- An action plan has been put in place which include superintendent visits and a focus on adjusting teaching practice to address students not reaching targets.
- The grade 10 literacy test (OSSLT) is the only EQAO assessment that has a consequence for students as it is a graduation requirement.
- This year there was a significant decline for TLDSB in the OSSLT overall, however proportionally students did out perform the province.
- The slide presentations for Grade 3 and 6 EQAO and Grade 10 OSSLT are attached.

4. Nourishment Program in TLDSB

Catherine Shedden, Manager of Corporate Services and Communications provided an update on nourishment programs in TLDSB:

- Each year the school board budgets for each school to receive \$1500 towards nourishment programs – we are one of very few school boards that provide funding for nourishment programs. An additional \$39,100 was provided in the 2015-2016 school year to schools who requested a top up. There is a top-up offer provided 3-4 times a year.
- Each of our areas – Kawartha Lakes, Muskoka, and Haliburton – have a nourishment program coordinator who works independently of the school board to help schools maintain their programs and to help with augmented funding and/or donations.

- These coordinators are part of our Healthy Schools Advisory Committee – they provide us with updates and statistics but we have not yet met this year.
- An update from the Kawartha Lakes coordinator:
 - 39 Student Nutrition Programs are operating out of 25 TLDSB schools in CKL
 - In September, 40,088 healthy meals were served
 - In October (18 schools have submitted stats so far) 34,004 meals were served....and still counting!
 - TOTAL meals served for 2016-17 so far: 74,092
 - Food For Kids has provided funding for 5 dishwashers so far this year and a 6th request is in process. We have also provided an oven and fridge, as well as other smaller items to TLDSB schools. Approximate funding support provided in September and October: \$6843.16
- An update from the Muskoka area coordinator:
 - now supporting all Muskoka schools with a breakfast or snack program.
 - We have had a couple of schools move from a snack program to a breakfast program.
 - The SNP (as a provincial program) have developed a great partnership with the Egg Farmers of Ontario, and Canada. The Muskoka area has recently received funding from the Egg Farmers of Ontario to help enhance several school breakfast programs with purchasing equipment to cook eggs (griddles, egg cookers, frypans). Schools are being encouraged to serve eggs and have started to see a great response.
 - Many schools recently received coupons for free eggs from the Breakfast Club of Canada.
 - The Grocery Foundation provided some funding to recognize volunteers by purchasing a piece of equipment for their breakfast program. The Muskoka school volunteers recognized were:
 - Penny Wilder and volunteers from Spruce Glen. They requested blenders, cutting boards and griddles.
 - A large group of volunteers from VK Greer. They received a new fridge.
 - Monck Public school received a new dishwasher in memory of their long term breakfast program volunteer, who passed away in May.
- An Update from Haliburton
 - There is a new nutritional guideline outlined by the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Central Eastern Ontario is discussing implementation on November the 14th. The guidelines are not drastically different but focus on fresh produce and lower sugar content in processed foods.
 - To date this academic year in Haliburton County there has been 32,000 nutritious breakfasts or snacks served to Haliburton's school children. The Student Nutrition Program has a good financial position currently, benefiting from a United Way fundraiser last summer.
 - All but one program are running at capacity and that one is due to a lack of volunteers although several new volunteers have been acquired through Media interviews and social enterprise advocacy.

5. Updates for School Councils

Catherine Shedden, Manager of Corporate Services and Communications, provided an update on the following:

- **Annual Report** – The District School Council – [PIC annual report](#) may be found on the school board website. The report provides an outline of topics presented at each of the 4 District School Council-PIC meetings held last year (actually 3 as one ended up being an inclement weather day). You will also find in the report a list of the things that school councils did with their \$500 Parent Engagement Fund. Often school council chairs ask what other schools have done with their funds. This document gives you the title. You can contact the school council chair from the school where there is something that you'd like to receive more information.
- **Parent Engagement Fund / Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants** – 13 schools received Parents Reaching out Grants this year – most received the maximum of \$1000, some a little less – just a reminder to those schools that this money must be spent by June of this year and a report needs to be submitted to the Ministry of Education and a copy to our office! You'll find the [list on our website](#). Each of our school councils have received \$500 to put towards events, activities, or projects that will help to encourage parent involvement in the school or in their child's education. This money also MUST be spent by the end of June – as mentioned earlier there are ideas from other schools in last year's [District School Council – PIC annual report](#)
- **Board Parent Engagement Fund** – Last year the District School Council – PIC agreed to help with the cost to purchase video equipment and software using the board Parent Engagement Fund in the hopes that a series of short videos could be produced. At our last meeting of the year each area developed a list of topics they would like considered for videos. This has been very exciting for us in the our small communications department – we have purchased the equipment, installed the software, set up a studio and are on the very large learning curve.

One recent production is [Embrace Learning](#). The other is the first of a series of many videos we plan to produce and launch on our social media channels called TLDSB Quick Tips [“Practicing Math in the Kitchen.”](#) Our plan is to initially launch these on TLDSB Facebook and Twitter – the videos are pinned to the top of the sites so that they get optimal play. The first one I just showed you was posted on Monday. As of today it has reached 1750 people on Facebook, had 104 views, a couple of shares and a comment. On Twitter it has had 9 retweets, 6 likes, 304 views, and 1833 impressions. We also posted the video on Instagram. Once the video has had some time on our social channels we will promote again through our schools encouraging education staff to share out on their own social sites. We are working on several more parent tips videos in this series, we are developing a series of student tips, and we are working with our departments on some full scale videos with clips of students and educators.

- **Parent Communication** – We continue to post items to Peachjar - this is available on all school websites. Each month you will find [Parent Engagement Tips](#). If you are not already subscribed to Peachjar, please do so and encourage parents at your school to [subscribe](#). We have taken the burden of posting and uploading community information away from our school administrators. Our community partners are uploading their own information through Peachjar. But we need parents to be visiting the site from their school websites or

subscribing so that they can receive this information in their own email inboxes.

Parents will be receiving a reminder soon to sign up for School Connects text messages. Schools can send messages to all parents by email, phone and also by text – but the parent needs to text this number to register for this service. [School Connects](#) serves the school well in being able to share information with everyone quickly. It's also useful from the district level as we can centrally send messages out to all parents, parents of a certain grade grouping, and/or select schools. Especially in a crisis or emergency, this is a good tool to have in place. And a last note – we started a District School Council – PIC newsletter that comes to each School Council Chairs inbox. <http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=488051e5c3a8e1f975684d5f1&id=317ddedfab> At this point in time we only have a 47.5% open rate (as you can see here) so there are lots of school council chairs not opening the newsletter – the information we post there is intended to be helpful for your meetings with upcoming information, notes from our latest District School Council meetings, our most recent videos, etc. And we'd love to have your feedback about other items you'd like to see posted here. You'll find an archive of all our newsletters on the District School Council webpage.

6. Site Discussion

KAWARTHA LAKES

- Jen Armitage is the Nourishment Coordinator for the City of Kawartha Lakes
- You can apply to the Green Apple school program for funding
- Family events seem to be more successful and offering a meal is another draw for parents

MUSKOKA

- Nourishment program update from your school –
 - With the transfer of a new teacher to Spruce Glen, instead of having vegetables at the breakfast club, a platter of veggies (no dip) is sent to each classroom to enable all the kids access to fresh produce in the morning. The platters come back empty! This is a great way to see peers enjoying it and for exposure to veggies they may not be getting at home. The challenges are getting the volunteers in early in the morning to cut up the veggies so it is done the night before and kids are volunteering to help. They are looking at storage containers to have “celery in water” overnight ready to go in the am as it needs to be prepared at the school. They estimate it to be \$75 per week for 12 classes just over 300 students. The kids at her former school missed it and asked for it back. So it is now going once again. Parents noted how the kids now eat their veggies at home without dip also.
 - The amount of kids utilizing the breakfast club at BMLSS is very low, feel it is because it has a stigma attached to it and perhaps because Oliver's coffee is right there. Do we need to add coffee to the high schools breakfast club? Another high school has a great turn out. Felt it was because the teachers grab a snack also and hang out there a bit.
- Ideas for District Parent Engagement Fund
 - Expand on the reach and development of the video's build upon it (Could tutorials to help teach “the new math to parents”)

- Guest speaker: BMLSS is working towards having [Greg Wells](#) come and speak on November 17th. He has done a lot of research on cancer and works with high performance athletes with a focus on sleep, he touts no screen 1 ½ before bed, nutrition and overall wellness. Our thoughts were to bring him back perhaps in May when Health and wellness week happens and to live stream the event to outlining schools to cut down on the driving for people and maybe start with a group shot like we do for the PIC meetings to say hi and get some cheers from each host site. This would create a greater sense of community within TLDSB.
- Open discussion
 - Discussed family events including food, Take Me Outside, Agenda's and app for agenda.
 - Parents loved having the agendas back this year. Thank you to Andrea Gillespie's department for funding this from the math budget. The pockets in the agenda are well used.
 - Great communication is happening with SchoolConnects and Dojo for teacher to parent communication. Request to teach parents the "New Math"

HALIBURTON

- Nourishment Program from individual schools:
 - Archie Stouffer Elementary School:
 - "catering crew" run program 3 days per week
 - students are taught proper food handling & prepare balanced snacks
 - adult volunteers prepare hot snacks twice per week
 - tower gardens (rock wool instead of soil)
 - salad club (salad potluck- everyone brings in a vegetable & they run a salad bar at lunch)
 - will look for information from the other schools nutritional programs at next council meetings (JDH, SBES and HHSS)
- District Parent Engagement fund Ideas
 - requested everyone attending to discuss with their respective school councils and bring feedback for next DSC Meeting (Dec 1st)
- Open discussion:
 - ASES does an email, not a newsletter re. parent communication

District Chairs 2016-2017:



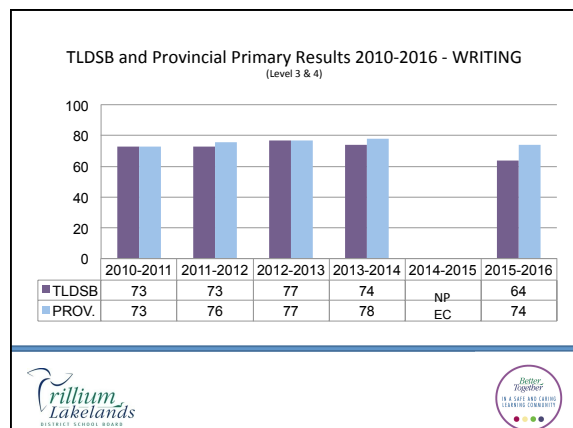
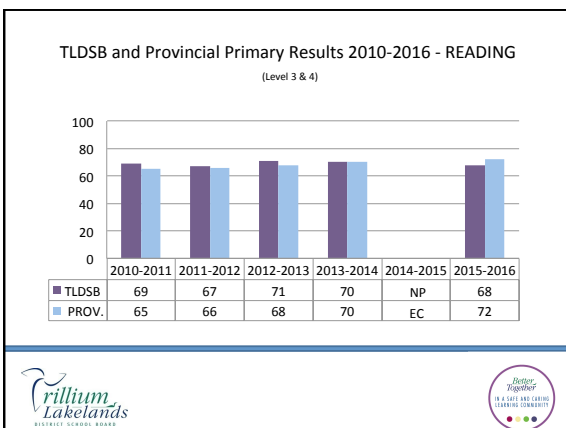
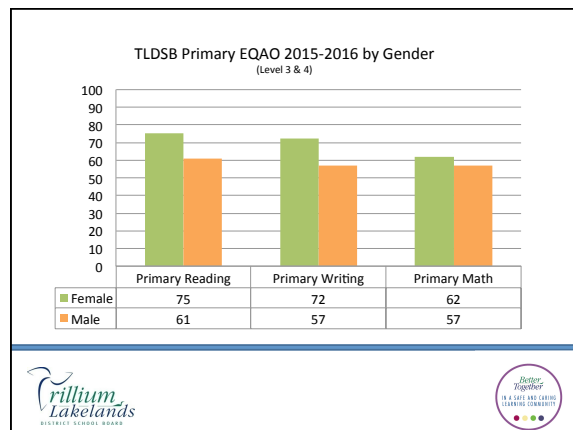
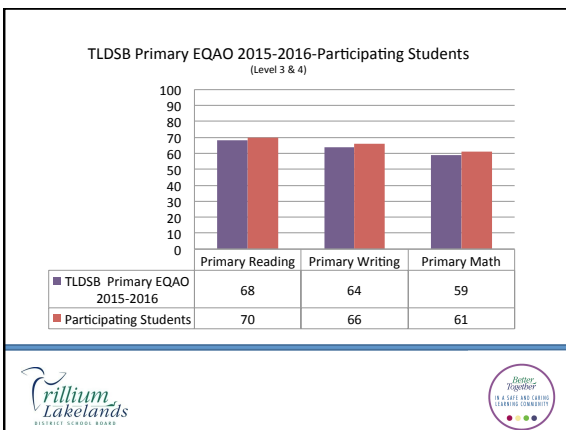
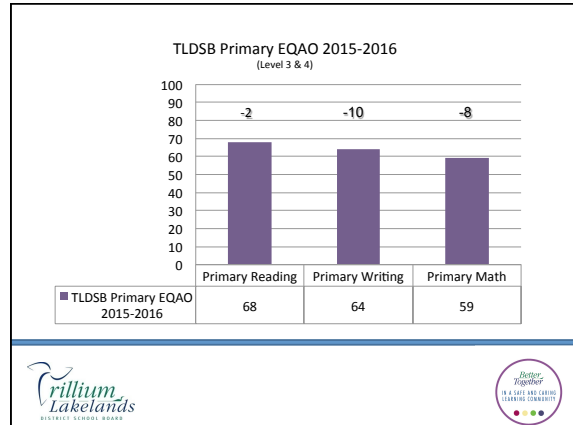
City of Kawartha Lakes	Grant Boudreault	705-786-3937	eyespydogs@bell.net
Haliburton County	Sam Itani	705-457-7407	sam_itani@hotmail.com
	Jenn Sharp	705-457-6564	jennsharp2@gmail.com
District of Muskoka	Patricia Wark	705-637-0413	pbwark@hotmail.com

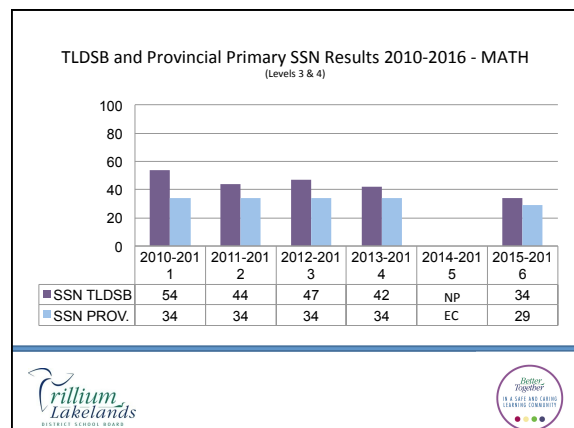
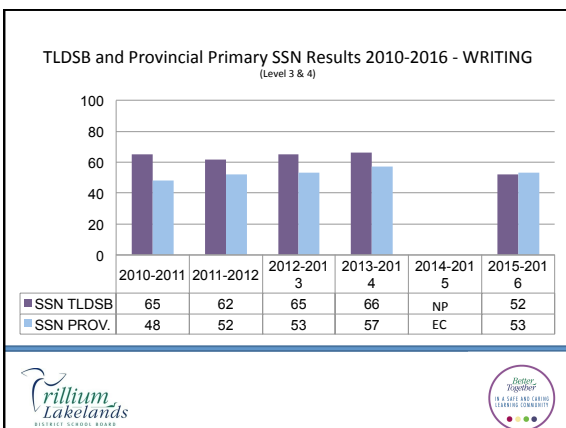
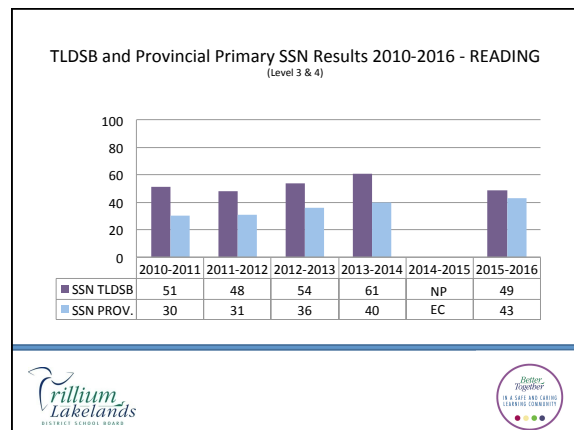
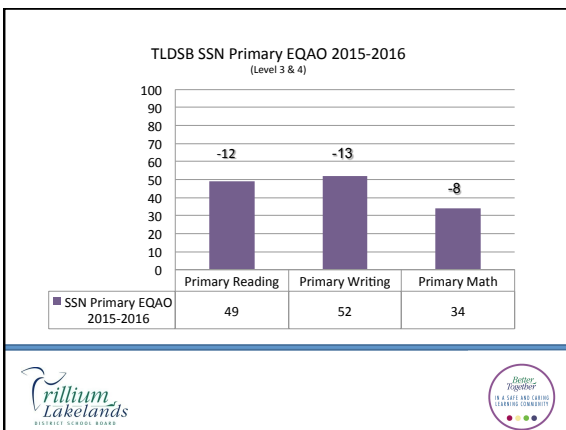
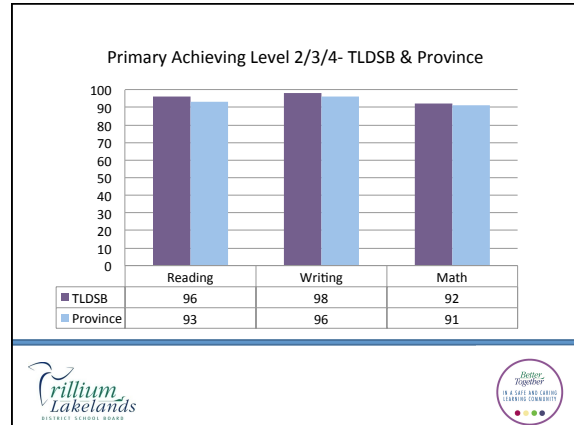
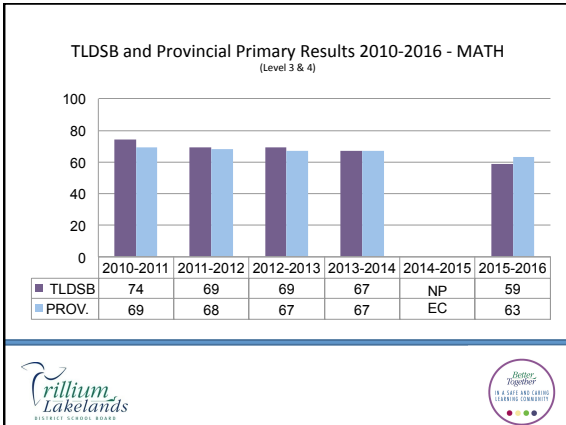
Meetings 2016-2017:

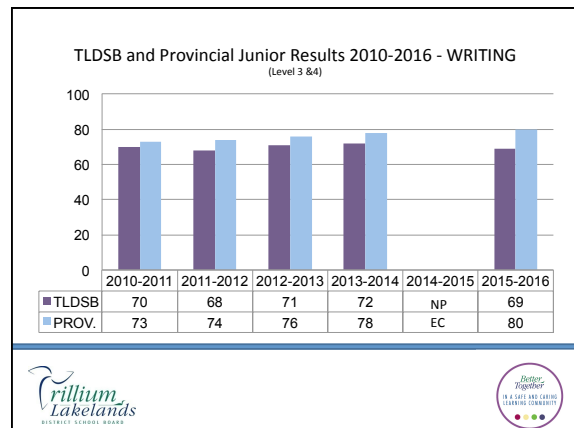
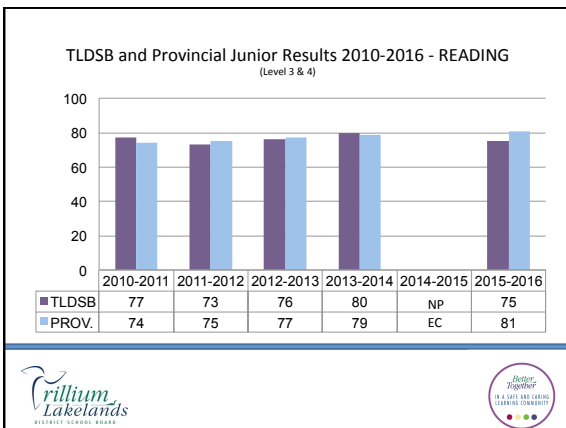
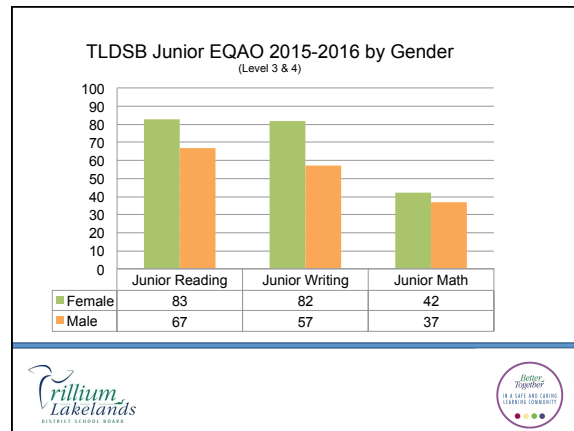
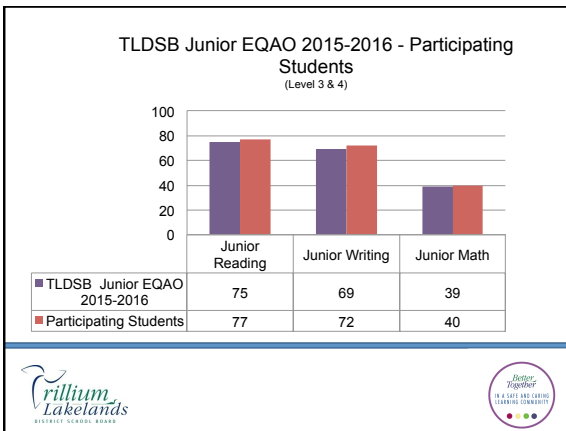
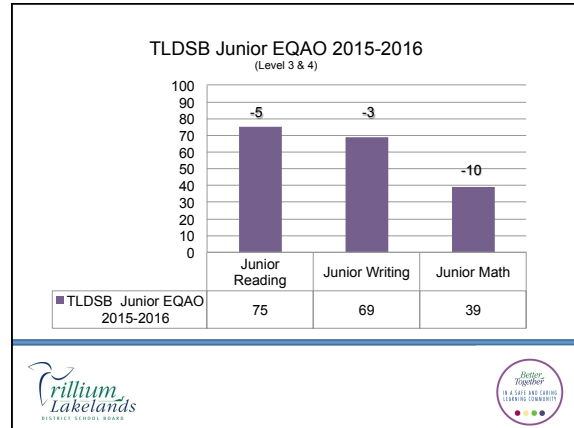
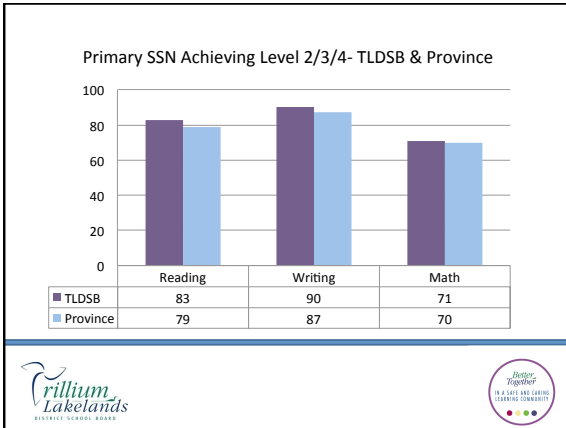
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 Thursday, December 1, 2016
 Thursday, March 2, 2017
 Thursday, May 4, 2017

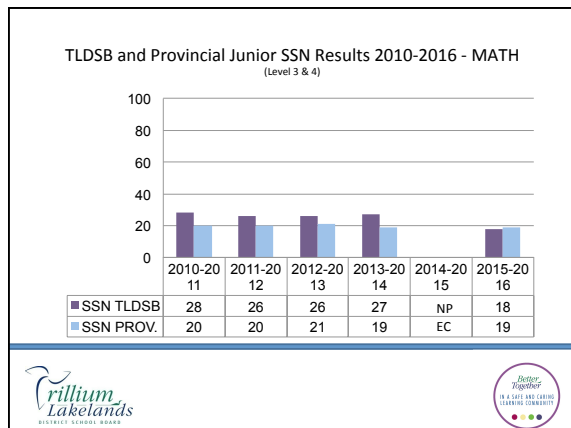
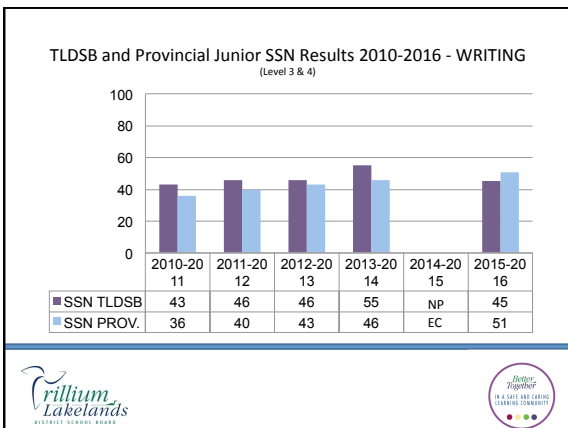
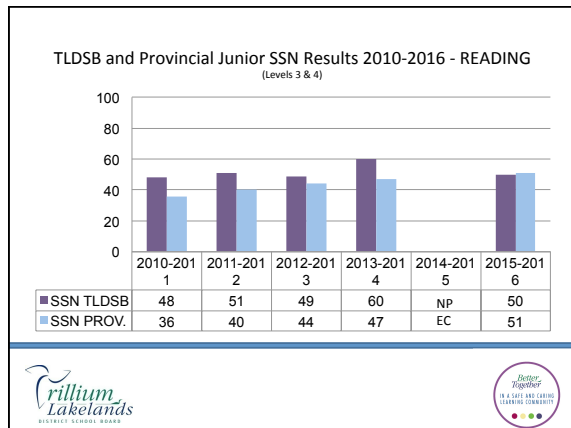
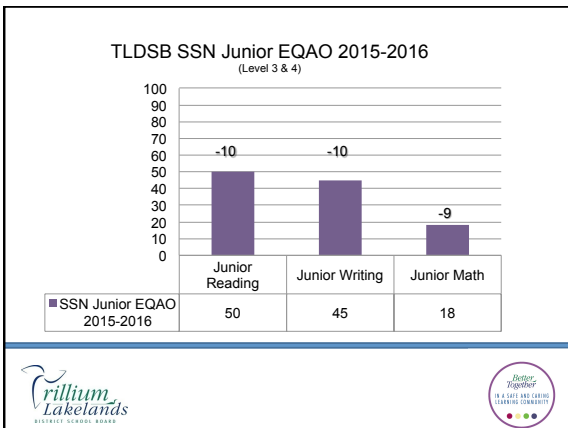
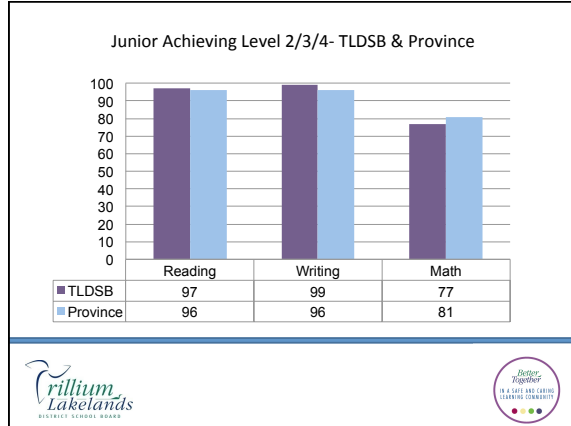
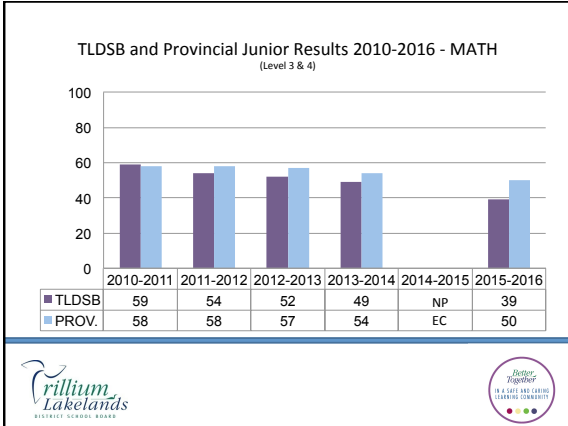
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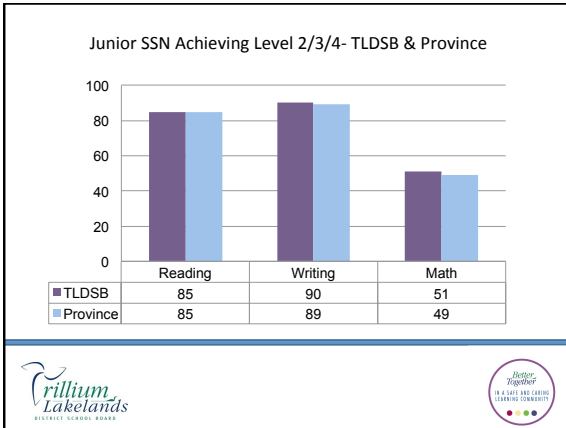
Andrea Gillespie
Superintendent of Learning
Katherine MacIver
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- ### Our Action Plan
- Focus on monitoring results by Superintendents and Principals
 - Reassignment of Instructional Leads to support schools showing significant decline
 - Tracking of students in reading, writing and math
 - School plans to focus on adjusting teaching practice to address students not reaching targets
- Trillium Lakelands DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
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Secondary EQAO Assessments Report

Bruce Barrett
Superintendent of Learning
Katherine MacIver
Superintendent of Learning

