

District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 6, 2014 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

M E E T I N G N O T E S

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Laurie Campbell – Muskoka DSC-PIC Chair

- *Laurie welcomed everyone to the meeting*

2. **Update from the Director of Education**

Director of Education – Larry Hope

- *New consultant to work on creating a resource that incorporates First Nation, Metis, and Inuit education into elementary curriculum*
- *Involved in a project with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care – engaged in getting better access to supports in schools*
- *Looking forward to “The Vision” from the Ministry of Education consultations*
- *Eagerly awaiting the efficiency results from Ministry consultations – very interested in what’s happening with Use of Schools, how students are accessing technology*
- *Innovation and Technology projects are up and running – you are probably seeing iPads coming into schools, apps being used – these are pilots that are entirely driven by classroom teachers. Amazing things are happening in special education, math, and more*
- *We are exploring a Financial Literacy pilot for intermediate students with the Ministry – we have heard from the community that financial literacy is a concern*
- *Many schools are underway with construction in preparation for the last phase of the full day kindergarten – these new builds are nothing short of spectacular, renovations and updates are quite phenomenal*
- *Principal profiles – we do like to have a principal profile for your school, this is for the school council to tell us what they’d like to see in a principal – characteristics, attributes, skills, etc. please try to get one into the Director’s Office by May*

3. **Suicide Prevention Strategy**

Superintendent of Special Education – Shelley Woon

- *Superintendent Woon explained the process TLDSB is following to provide supports and education around Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention*
- *Suicide Prevention includes our efforts to reduce vulnerabilities, building protective factors and more*
- *Intervention is recognizing and responding to student with suicidal ideation or behaviour, supporting vulnerable students transitioning to and from mental health care*
- *safeTALK Training is being provided to school teams as well as to secondary students*
- *Postvention is the support for schools and communities in responding to needs following a suicide or an attempted suicide*

4. Math – A Balanced Approach

Superintendent of Early Learning, Elementary School Improvement and Operations – Andrea Gillespie

- *Media is presenting a “math crisis” – EQAO paints a picture for us around math achievement that helps us to know what to do to improve. We are doing extremely well in literacy because this is where our focus has been. At the end of Grade 3 math scores are okay but they are not great at the junior level.*
- *Elements that make a difference in student achievement in math*
 - *Teachers who possess a broad range of teaching strategies*
 - *Effective interventions when students are falling behind*
 - *Students having increased access to teachers with strong math content and pedagogical knowledge*
 - *Efforts and resources are aligned and focused on strategies to improve student outcomes*
 - *Increased ownership and accountability for making a difference for students improvement*
 - *Increased knowledge of what works*
- *Worth looking up Carol Dweck who has done some interesting work – we have to think hard about the messages we give out to children. Important to give positive messages about math that helps to build their confidence*

5. Updates for School Councils

Manager of the Directors Office & Communications – Catherine Shedden

a. Ministry Symposium for PIC Chairs

- *TLDSB PIC chairs are unable to attend so it is open for two school council chairs to attend – The school council chair from Macaulay Public School in Muskoka and Leslie Frost Public School in Lindsay expressed interest and will be attending the April symposium*

b. Principal Profiles

- *Review of principal profiles – each school will be sent their most recent principal profile and are asked to review and update their school document*
- *Items to consider are the characteristics the council would like to see in a new principal or vice principal and take into consideration the unique characteristics of your particular school (eg. Enrolment trends, languages spoken in the home, ethnic composition of the community, mission statement, etc.)*

6. Site Discussions

a. City of Kawartha Lakes

We spent time discussing both numeracy as well as Suicide Prevention.

Council members wanted to know what the red flags that would be present with students and how we ensure that we are aware of them. Maureen Marshall and I responded to this with quite a bit of detail. Council members thought it would be beneficial to know more about the signs and were glad to know there were supports at school and in the community. People also expressed really appreciating knowing what the overall strategy looked like and feeling that it made a great deal of sense to have the right tools in the right hands.

With the numeracy, the council members thought that it would be beneficial if parents had a better understanding of how to help their children at home and were more aware of the resources available. Someone referenced the ministry resource and the math helpline was also shared.

Everyone felt both topics were very informative and valuable..... they felt it was unfortunate that they were both on a night where the turnout was poor in Lindsay.

b. District of Muskoka

The group discussed both the Suicide Prevention presentation as well as the Math presentation. There was continued discussion on the Parent Engagement Grant and how to best promote ways for parents to find resources to help with a variety of topics. A desire to promote puzzlepeace.ca was discussed and a request that all school councils in the board are asked to provide information on what parents need on an informational website.

District Chairs 2013-2014:

City of Kawartha Lakes	Frank Arnold	705-439-3299	frankandanke@xplornet.ca
Haliburton County	Judi Paul	705-457-2950	judi.paul@tlds.on.ca
District of Muskoka	Laurie Campbell	705-765-7239	lakejoebuilders@rogers.com

2013-2014 Meetings:

Thursday, May 1, 2014