

District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 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

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

1. Welcome and Introductions

Frank Arnold – City of Kawartha Lakes Chair

2. Update from the Director of Education

Superintendent of Student Success and Secondary School Improvement – Bruce Barrett

- *We have just concluded five Early Learning network sessions across the district.*
- *Trillium Lakelands Arts Camp – trustees annually finance the TLAC camp available for grade 7 to grade 12 students; we currently have 345 students registered for this May's camp.*
- *NTIP teachers spent the day in training today – this is for new teachers and their mentors, recent work includes looking at Dr. Ross Green's book "The Explosive Child" and his work as well as CPS (collaborative and proactive solutions) for challenging students.*
- *Funding has just been released from the government for technology – TLDSB will be receiving almost \$300,000 for staff development, hardware and software, and other supports.*
- *We just recently hired a consultant to continue work around First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education.*
- *The Ministry of Education is currently working on the Pupil Accommodation review process – the revised version is not available yet but something will be coming in the near future.*

3. Financial Literacy

Superintendent of Student Success and Secondary School Improvement – Bruce Barrett

- *In 2010 the Ministry of Education produced a working document around financial literacy which was followed up with a document that could be used alongside math curriculum in grade 8.*
- *The province continues to struggle with math scores in EQAO – this is now the focus so there has never been a Ministry launch of financial literacy. The document has never been delivered at a school board level. Most documents that come from the Ministry have a target location – they say "this is how this will fit in this particular grade" or "this is the year in which this will happen". So, while the document has enormous value, it is exceedingly difficult for a teacher to find a space to fit financial literacy into the curriculum.*
- *In K through grade 8 there are multiple opportunities to incorporate finance into the math curriculum; this is true for grade 9 and 10 as well. Once students get to grade 11 they choose a track – either university or college. There are only 3 credits that a student requires in math to graduate from high school. Financial literacy does not hit the curriculum until grade 11, the last credit that they are mandated to take for graduation.*

- *In this day and age, if a student wants to attend a game or go to a concert, they will need the use of a credit card (likely through the parent) – the use of cheques is not going to be a common experience for today’s students.*
- *Every student must take a half credit of Careers – this could possibly be an excellent opportunity for a Financial Literacy unit.*
- *From a home perspective – the earlier the conversation starts at home the better. A credit card statement is an excellent learning opportunity because they companies are very good at showing how long a credit balance will take to pay if minimum payments are made.*
- *School councils could provide links to parents as well as point them in the direction of other financial literacy resources – e.g. at local banks.*

4. Updates for School Councils

a. Power Outage protocol at schools

- *From time to time, there is an unexpected power outage at schools. All of our schools have emergency preparedness plans that take into account this possibility.*
- *When there is a power outage our facilities department as well as the school superintendent and the Director’s Office are made aware. From that point, the outage is carefully monitored in terms of current outdoor temperature and proposed length of power outage (www.hydroone.com/StormCenter3/).*
- *The school maintains regular programming where possible. In some circumstances where there is not sufficient light from windows, students may be moved to an alternate location in the building. In most cases classes can proceed as normal for several hours.*
- *Most power outages are temporary and do not last for very long. If the school is considered unsafe at any time, all schools have a safety plan and can evacuate the school if needed.*

b. Parent Engagement Funding

- **Kids Club parenting tips video**
 - *Each year the Ministry of Education provides schools with \$500 per school for parent engagement initiatives and the school board Parent Involvement Committee with approximately \$8000.*
 - *We are using approximately half of this money to contribute to the development of Kid’s Club videos which provide helpful tips for parents on topics ranging from Talking to your Teens about Impaired Driving, to Kindness, Respiratory Etiquette, and more. Click on the YouTube button on the TLDSB webpage to see all the Kids Club videos.*
- **Take Me Outside to Learn**
 - *We are very excited to be using some of our Board Parent Engagement Funding for a new initiative called “Take Me Outside To Learn”.*
 - *Families with children from 0 to age 8 are invited to come to the Muskoka Education Centre on Saturday, May 2nd from 10 until noon for a free outdoor adventure and learning event.*
 - *This event is actually a full day from 10 until 4 for educators with the 10 till noon event for families. When families arrive they will receive a bag with a journey stick and a map. Families will then go outside and, using their map, visit a number of learning stations – some of these stations will be “Feed All Four,” Garden of Learning, Beauty of Trees, Musical campfire, and more. At each station, a ribbon or string will be tied to the journey stick.*
 - *Families will return to the centre to pick up a box lunch for their journey home. Bussing will be provided for families from CKL and Haliburton with pick up in Kirkfield and in Minden. Watch for information coming to your school Peachjar page soon.*

