

District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 1, 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**

Judi Paul – Haliburton DSC-PIC Chair

- Laurie welcomed everyone to the meeting

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

Director of Education – Larry Hope

- New summer program for grades Kindergarten to grade 3
- Reach Ahead opportunities – looking for online opportunities for students
- Thick into budget time – plan on taking a balanced budget to our trustees. Ontario announced a budget today – but we do not have any details on any of the announcements
- Achieving Excellence in Education – it is clear that the response from TLDSB is reflected in this document

3. **Parent Resource Toolbox**

Laurie Campbell – Muskoka DSC-PIC Chair

- The Muskoka group of school council chairs have worked on a promotional piece to assist parents in the board – this will be a 3.5 x 5” magnet that will be sent home with each family in the school board.
- A graphic image “Parent Resource Toolbox” has been developed which will be placed on the magnet and will direct parents to the school board website. The same image will be on the home page and the parent page of the website and there will be a link to puzzlepeace.ca to provide student well-being resources, wegotyoucovered.ca to provide resources for parents of students transitioning to secondary school, and the tldsb.ca website for student achievement resources

4. **Strategic Directions Feedback**

Director of Education – Larry Hope

- We will be offering an opportunity for feedback to our Strategic Action Plan in a different way this year – hoping to have more engagement from our stakeholders

5. **Ministry Symposium Update**

- Two school council chairs attended the Ministry Symposium which took place April 25 and 26, 2014 in Toronto.

- Angela Field from Leslie Frost Public School in CKL and Patricia Wark from Macaulay Public School in Muskoka provided an update on the variety of presenters, workshops, and information available to school councils at the symposium.

6. Updates for School Councils

a. Principal Profiles

- Each school has been sent their profile and is to review and submit to the board office by the end of May, 2014.

b. Reports

- The Parent Engagement Fund report and the School Council annual report are due in the Director's Office by June 15, 2014 – the template for these reports will be emailed to school council chairs but it is available on the board website on the DSC-PIC page
- Parents Reaching Out grant projects must be completed and all funds used by June 30th, 2014. The final report is due to the ministry by August 31st by submitting to the online secure site.

7. Site Discussion

City of Kawartha Lakes

- Introductions were made
- Comments about the report about the participation at the Ministry's PIC symposium
- Discussion on how schools are using their Parent Engagement \$500 grant – "spring flings" seem to be popular events at schools
- Discussion on a variety of approaches to engage parents – from thinking outside the box and taking parent council to where parents are. Examples would be at a sporting event, etc. Another idea is considering what parent engagement actually means – perhaps parents engaging in their child's education at home is just as valid as parents coming into the school
- Discussion on principal profiles – school councils are spending time making sure that there is feedback from school council members, staff members, and others. Some school councils will share their document with others to assist.
- French Summer Camp will be running this summer at Parkview during the last three week of July – need to have one year of French

Muskoka

- Fridge Magnet: discussed content of letter to accompany distribution of magnets to families; would like magnets attached to letter by means other than stapling
- S.C. chairs were encouraged to provide feedback for ideas/topics of interest to consider for inclusion on website in the future.
- Principal Profiles were discussed and consensus among group was that this was a very worthwhile exercise for providing feedback to the board.
- Cherie Robinson provided handouts from CAMH with focus on reducing prescription opioid misuse across Muskoka and offered contact information for anyone wanting to have presentations for parents and/or students. Interest was expressed in having future presentation for parents.
- Patricia Wark shared some of the resources from the Ministry Symposium and has offered to put together a list of these resources for distribution to Muskoka S.C. chairs.

- Cherie Robinson, GHS S.C. Chair was thanked for her dedication to students and her leadership in her school community for her time spent on School Council at both Muskoka Beechgrove and GHS over the past 15 years.

District Chairs 2013-2014:

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Haliburton County	Judi Paul	705-457-2950	judi.paul@tldsbc.on.ca
District of Muskoka	Laurie Campbell	705-765-7239	lakejoebuilders@rogers.com