

# District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 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

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

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1. Welcome and Introductions

*Laurie Campbell – Muskoka Chair*

2. Update from the Director of Education

*Director of Education – Larry Hope*

- *Facing significant changes in funding across the province. For TLDSB a big change in funding for students with special needs. There has been a redistribution of funding, overall reduction for TLDSB looks like 1.3 million dollars. We have also been hit with a number of changes in the funding model which looks at maintaining our facilities. A new set of accommodation review guidelines have been developed and are now what we are required to follow when looking at schools based on declining enrolment. TLDSB anticipates being down by over 500 students next year. Our overall reduction in budget is somewhere around \$6 million dollars. We may have fewer staff members as we do each year. In secondary school, due to the number of retirements, we do not anticipate a reduction in the number of teachers in terms of layoffs. We will lose some educational assistants. One of the most important parts of this is that the ministry of education has been very clear with their funding model in that they will no longer fund empty spaces. The board will be looking closely at schools that are under-utilized to ensure that we are making the most efficient use of space possible while continuing to offer the best programming possible. Community partnerships are ways that we can utilize some of our spaces and we are exploring these options.*
- *We have prepared a balanced budget and have deliberately looked at drawing down some reserves to be able to do some of the important initiatives and projects. However we will need to look at alternatives that are cost-effective that will allow us to continue to meet the needs of our students.*
- *We will be revising our accommodation review policy to make sure that it meets all of the Ministry guidelines. School boards will now be required to declare what may happen if a particular school or area is being considered for closure.*
- *I cannot give you any reassurance about negotiations right now. We do not know what is going to happen next. We are in a brand new process for bargaining driven by a provincial negotiating table which works on everything that has to do with money. School boards work on local items that are more procedural and not related to money. Locally we continue to talk and have very good relationships with our bargaining units. The dispute you have heard about in the media is happening across the province and is between the union and the government and school board association. We do not know what the ETFO job action means and we should know more tomorrow afternoon what schools may look like on Monday, May 11. We do understand that much of what is being discussed relates to provincial priorities – things such as EQAO, FNMI initiatives, math initiatives – all of which have provincial profile.*

*We have not been given any indication that there is an intention for ETFO to target extra-curricular activities. We will be as up to date as we can on our board website when we receive information. With regard to secondary teachers, there is no plan as far as we know for job action to come to TLDSB.*

### 3. Feed All Four

*Special Programmes Consultant – Heather Truscott*

*Healthy Active Living Consultant – Dave Lyons*

*Mental Health Manager – Cheryl Roffe*

- *A presentation on Feed All Four as a way of being was made. The model is based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and the First Nations Medicine Wheel*
- *Emotion – when students learn strategies to deal with how they are feeling*
- *Spirit – what makes meaning and sense of the world and helping with purpose*
- *Mind – thoughts that have a direct impact on our emotions – allowing for an inclusive way of being for young people.*
- *Body – physical wellness – meeting 60 minutes of physical activity each day is needed for overall wellness – active kids learn better*

*Agencies and partners work closely with TLDSB to support feeding all four for students – we don't seek to do this by ourselves. We want to engage moms and dads and caregivers – this needs to be a way of living our lives in balance.*

### 4. Updates for School Councils

#### a. Financial Literacy Parent Event

- *Fenelon Falls Secondary School is planning an event for October 29 at 6 p.m. which will include a free dinner, a keynote, and eight workshops*
- *Workshops will include: banking, student loans, credit cards, savings, taxes, bankruptcy, starting a business*
- *This will be open to students and parents*
- *All planned with community partners*

#### b. PRO Grants

*The deadline the PRO grant applications is May 19<sup>th</sup> – I've sent the slide deck from the ministry to schools a couple of times now so I won't go through the 20 slides tonight. I will however outline what I think are important pieces of interest:*

- *Over 98% of applications were approved for full or partial funding last year – so good idea to put in an application*
- *Application due date is midnight May 19<sup>th</sup> – school council applications must be approved by a motion by the school council*
- *The maximum grant for a school council is \$1000. School Councils can do shared projects but each council must submit an application separately for their portion of the project (each council is eligible for \$1000)*
- *Get your login information as soon as possible – share this login information with the principal (please)*
- *You may submit only one proposal*
- *There is lots of information on the Ministry of Education website*
- *Projects are to inform or engage parents in their children's achievement and well-being – using the principles of equity and inclusion as key components to remove barriers*
- *special consideration will be given to first time applicants and to those projects that are promoting increased access to math strategies*

- *Here's what you cannot include in your project application*
  1. *Activities that have already taken place*
  2. *Payment to staff – including gifts*
  3. *Cost of police background checks for volunteers*
  4. *Purchase of anything for which the Ministry already provides funding (like text books, school furniture, etc)*
  5. *Student-focussed activities including fees for speakers for students and purchase of supplies for home use (markers, glue, etc.)*
  6. *Computer software, voice messaging systems, etc.*
  7. *Capital items like TVs, shelving, etc.*
  8. *Portable handheld devices – tablets or laptops*
  9. *Entertainment activities like barbecues, fun fairs, teas, dinners, movie nights*
  10. *Art mural projects, field trips, school signs, landscaping*
  11. *Prizes or incentives*
  12. *And please note – refreshment costs exceeding 15% and promotion costs exceeding 5% of approved funding*
- *Once you have applied, a copy of the application will automatically be sent to the principal and the school council for their records – send a copy of this copy to me!!!*
- *Need help – call my office or email PRO@ontario.ca*

c. *Parent Engagement Funding*

- *Each school is to have spent their \$500.00 Parent Engagement grant by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure to spend all of this money because we have to account for every penny you have not spent!*
- *There are 14 schools who receive PRO grants this year – this money must be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup> as well – and there is an online final report that needs to be submitted – please send a copy of this report to my office. We need to know to the penny how much money you have left over. Your report is due online on or before July 15<sup>th</sup>.*
- *There are two reports that all schools must submit by June 15 each year – one is the Parent Engagement Funding – no receipts – just what you spent the money on; the other report is your activities as a council – when you met, what you did. We will send you templates for these reports soon.*

d. *School-Home Communication*

- *There is going to be a change to one of our school to home communication tools next year. For the past several years we have developed student agendas for primary, junior and intermediate grades. We have had to have a close look at this for a few reasons*
  1. *There are less students in the board*
  2. *Schools are ordering less agendas because they are not popular for many classrooms – this is particularly true for intermediate classrooms*
  3. *The cost increases when our quantities diminish – schools cannot afford to cover the cost and we do not want to transfer the cost to parents*
- *So we are going to try something different for next year.*

- *We are developing a traditional looking calendar which will have a page for each of our major initiatives and programs in the board. All of the PA days and holidays will be plugged into the calendar.*
- *We will also produce a student handbook for each school to accompany the calendar – this will have all of the information we have typically kept in the front of the agendas – schedules, code of conduct, dress code, school bus information, etc.*
- *And we are going to produce a “Communication booklet” for the younger grades where a written back and forth between the classroom and home is important.*
- *And, best of all for parents and schools – in this pilot year, we will cover the cost centrally.*

e. 2015-2016 DSC-PIC

- *This is the time of year when we send out an invitation to anyone who is interested in being a Regional Chairperson (for CKL, Muskoka, or Haliburton). If you are interested please send me an email so that I can bring it to the attention of our Director of Education.*

5. Site Discussion – each site considered Feed All Four using the following questions: How can we engage families with Feed All Four?; What components of Feed All Four do you like?; Is there anything missing from Feed All Four?; and What suggestions do you have for us moving forward with Feed All Four?.

a. Feed All Four – CKL

- *Queen Victoria and Parkview are putting Feed All Four in their PRO Grant Applications*
- *It might be early to ask this question but good to be thinking about this*
- *Often physical activity doesn’t happen at home – support to encourage parents and their children to take physical activity outside of the school*
- *Measurements to know how this is making a difference and the impact it is having on students, staff, schools, and the school community*

b. Feed All Four – Muskoka

- *Site discussion continued with Dave Lyons regarding the "Feed All Four" initiative and feedback was given, including a discussion on the importance of educating parents to enable them to provide support from home. Discussed the potential to use the SchoolConnects system to provide suggestions/ideas to parents for involvement.*

**District Chairs 2014-2015:**

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