

# District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 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

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

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1. **Welcome and Introductions**

*Judi Paul – Haliburton County Chair*

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

*Director of Education – Larry Hope*

- a. *Physical Education and physical activity – working on this in our classrooms*
- b. *keep an eye out for things that are happening around the 3-4 level – wonderful resource to support the inclusion of FNMI into the curriculum. This was designed in support for teachers, not as an add-on but an add-in to classrooms, teachers can choose what portions they wish to use*
- c. *brand new board will be in place – two new trustees will be part of this new board*
- d. *Ministry of Education is talking about accommodation reviews, empty spaces in schools, etc. – you will hear about revised guidelines. This will likely come out prior to the next time we meet. My suggestion is that you “panic slowly.”*
- e. *SmartFind – a new automated way to call in supply teachers and support staff. We struggle to find enough qualified French language supply teachers – we are going to address this issue by recruiting French language teacher graduates at job fairs at 3 different universities*
- f. *We have followed up with secretaries and administrators around electronic forms – we are making progress with this and seeing more and more schools using this at this time.*

3. **Math Update**

*Andrea Gillespie – Superintendent Early Learning and Elementary School Improvement*

- a. *Update on math for both students and adults – consultants were on hand to help with some math problems with those in attendance*
- b. *Math has been in the headlines, TLDSB is a board that needs to work on math particularly in the Junior level*
- c. *We are experiencing some sustained successes in math literacy – we are into year 3 of our math journey. We are seeing success at the classroom level. Every school has a math goal – ask your principal what the math goal for your school is. The board math goal is “improving student thinking on number sense”*
- d. *We are asking schools to have a balanced math approach – we want students to have authenticity of math calculations, become good problem solvers with confidence*
- e. *There are simple things that parents can do at home to support math learning*
- f. *We have purchased a new assessment tool called “Numeracy Nets”*
- g. *Very few elementary teachers have a math degree – they typically have humanities degrees (English, History, etc.)*

- h. *3 part math lesson – opportunity to actively make connections that they have thought about before to the actual lesson, move the thinking along by looking at it a little differently, and then consolidate and synthesize the learning*
- i. *What can parents do at home?*
  - a. *Built strong positive attitudes about math-when children are positively engaged and successful, they are more likely to stick with an activity or a problem to find a solution*
  - b. *Begin with activities that match your child’s mathematical ability, early success will build your child’s confidence, gradually build to more challenging problems*
  - c. *If you and our child are more comfortable in a language other than English – use it*
  - d. *Use “think-alouds” to help your child see when you use math in the real world*
  - e. *Model a growth mindset – try not to say “You are smart” rather say “ you worked really hard on that problem” There is research that proves that kids who are told they are smart tend to take less risks, those that are encouraged around working hard, are more willing to take risks*
  - f. *In summary: At home you can do at home: play games, do puzzles. Think-alouds at home, mind your mindset*

4. P4E Conference

*Grant Boudreault from Dr. George Hall Public School and Kerry Foreman from Monck Public School attended the People for Education conference in Toronto on November 8<sup>th</sup>. They provided a thorough overview of their learning from the conference.*

5. Updates for School Councils

- a. DSC-PIC Annual Report

*An annual report of activities in the 2013-2014 school year from all TLDSB school councils was presented.*

6. Site Discussion

- a. What tool will school councils in your area use to help parents in supporting their child in math?
  - i. *A math curriculum math consultant was at each site to walk each participant through a math problem*
  - ii. *The booklet “Doing Mathematics With Your Child” was handed to each person and there are more available on request*
  - iii. *The math team from the curriculum department are available to come to schools and school councils to provide a workshop and support*
- b. Open discussion

**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@tldsbn.on.ca
District of Muskoka	Laurie Campbell	705-765-7239	lakejoebuilders@rogers.com

**2014-2015 Meetings:**

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Thursday, May 7, 2015