

District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 17, 2013 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 area DSC-PIC Chair

2. Update from the Director of Education

a. 2013-2014 Strategic Action Plan

- A Strategic Plan is put together every year – it is the work plan of senior administration which ties back to the Strategic Directions with our 3 broad goals (Student engagement and achievement, staff engagement and development, and parent and community engagement)
- Both the Plan and the Strategic Directions are available on the board website www.tldsb.ca
- Every year in late spring we put out a notice that we want feedback on how our stakeholders think we are doing – we are always looking for your input
- This year when Larry does his formal school visit he is inviting the school superintendent to be in attendance at some schools – during this visit there is an invitation for the school council chair to meet with Larry
- We have a new healthy active living consultant who is supporting teachers and schools in fitness, outdoor education, and other healthy schools components
- We are in year 3 of the ministry of education mental health strategy – it is making a difference in our schools. We have mental health nurses in two areas of the board who are responsible for supporting our students in mental health and well-being. We also have student services counsellors as well as two staff members who provide professional development to our staff.
- We are looking closely at our Report Bullying button on school websites as well as resources available to schools and families as part of the Safe Schools initiatives
- We continue to work on IEPs in our special education department – ensuring that they are written in understandable language
- Please look at the school board website www.tldsb.ca – we are trying to get more and more of our messaging out through Facebook and Twitter

- We are very pleased with our Full Day Kindergarten implementation. There are some instances where schools have not qualified for a new addition to the school so we are working on retrofitting already established kindergarten classrooms to incorporate the new full day program
 - There is a new initiative called “We’ve Got You Covered” to help with the transition from grade 8 to grade 9 – this includes a website www.wegotyoucovered.ca and a new colour brochure
- b. **Recent EQAO Results**
- Grade 3 – reading was our best scores ever (71%); writing was also best ever (77%); mathematics stayed the same as year before (69%)
 - Grade 6 – second best score (76%); writing best ever (71%); mathematics is a concern with 52% attaining a level 3 or 4
 - There seems to be a disconnect in mathematics between group work and individual practice activity, we need to find a balance, this is a provincial issue
 - In spite of the mathematics we are very pleased – we recognize that it is a snapshot in time and not what we hang our hats on. There is so much more involved for our students to become well-rounded
 - Grade 9 mathematics– applied level outpaced the province (53%) although a sharp decline than the year before; academic students scored (82%) which is consistent with how we do every year
 - Grade 10 OSSLT – 82% of students were successful – this is the same score that we had last year and we are on par with the province
 - Our students with special needs consistently outperform the province – a lot of our work is around closing the gap between students throughout the system
- c. **Safe Welcome Schools program**
- in the spring we asked principals to engage staff and school councils to determine whether or not all doors in the school would be locked
 - we did not want to have a one-size-fits-all solution
 - there are 10 schools that have requested a buzzer system with locked doors
 - none have been installed yet, we are looking at the best solution for schools before sending the project out for tender
 - there is some concern from other school boards that have these systems in place already that secretaries are spending a tremendous amount of time monitoring the security system
- d. **Yearley Outdoor Education Centre**
- We run an outdoor education centre that is fairly remote
 - It is a rite of passage for our grade 6 students
 - However about 3 weeks ago the media in Huntsville through the OPP released a story about a high risk sexual offender – there was concern expressed in the story that this person could reoffend. It came to our attention that this individual had moved to less than a kilometre from our outdoor centre

- After considering all the facts we decided that we needed to take steps to mitigate anything possibly happening
- In consultation with staff and our unions we decided for the short term we would cease operating at Yearley – the outdoor centre staff would offer the program at individual schools for the time being
- At this point in time we understand that this individual has been re-arrested and is in custody until October 28th – so there is one school attending next week
- We do shut the centre down during deer and moose hunting seasons each year
- We will re-evaluate at the end of this month whether or not programs will continue at the Yearley Outdoor Centre
- We are investigating using other outdoor facilities

3. Parent Engagement Opportunities for Schools

- a. Kid's Club Videos – resource for schools
 - http://www.youtube.com/user/TLDSBcommunications/videos?view=0&shelf_index=0&sort=dd
 - Two videos per month are produced and will be made available to school councils to share at meetings and events
 - Board level DSC-PIC funding will be supporting the cost of production
- b. The Capsule Families – online resource
 - <http://infocopa.com/capsules-en.html>
 - This resource is designed for elementary school age students and families and focuses on parent engagement and bullying prevention

4. Upcoming dates and deadlines

- a. PRO Grants
 - 13 TLDSB schools received PRO grants this year totalling \$11,765
 - Each school receiving a PRO grant must ensure that a report is submitted through the ministry of education PRO grants website and the Director's Office receives a copy of this report
- b. Parent Engagement \$500 grant
 - Reminder that the \$500 grant per school is to be spent, in consultation with the school principal, on initiatives that encourage parent involvement in their child's education
 - A report on expenditure will be due in the Director's Office by June 15

5. Site Discussions

City of Kawartha Lakes

- a. Open Discussion
 - Discussion on procedure for schools determining whether or not to have locked doors during the school day

- b. Ministry Community Consultation – from Great to Excellent
 - Each school was asked to review the 7 questions posed by the Ministry of Education as part of their community consultation. Discussion was held and items were recorded.
- c. Ideas and topics for area-wide events
 - Spring fling, salsa dancing, arts night with silent auction, fundraising
 - Math games for parents with children
 - School wide graduation day
 - Board wide – bring in authors and engage students in reading
- d. Ministry of Education Community Consultation – reviewed questions and submitted responses

Muskoka Area

- a. Pro Grants ~ a number of schools in Muskoka did not apply for the PRO Grant in the spring as there was uncertainty as to whether the school council chair would be continuing in that position in the fall to oversee the execution.
- b. Ministry of Education Community Consultation – reviewed questions and submitted responses

Haliburton Area

- a. Ministry of Education Community Consultation – reviewed questions and submitted responses

District Chairs 2012-2013:

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, November 28, 2013
 Thursday, February 6, 2014
 Thursday, May 1, 2014