

## Presentations

### Roots of Empathy

Superintendent of Specialized Services Katherine MacIver introduced Cheryl Roffe, Manager of Mental Health who was instrumental in introducing the Roots of Empathy program in TLDSB. Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom program developed in Canada that has shown significant effect in reducing levels of aggression among school children while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. From the Roots of Empathy website:



**1 Measuring Baby Elliott**

*At the heart of the program are a neighbourhood infant and parent who visit the classroom every three weeks over the school year. A trained Roots of Empathy Instructor coaches students to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings. In this experiential learning, the baby is the "Teacher" and a lever, which the instructor uses to help children identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others. ... Research results from national and international evaluations of Roots of Empathy indicate significant reductions in aggression and increases in pro-social behaviour.*

Thirteen individuals have been trained in TLDSB as well as three public health nurses. Nine of the babies currently visiting classrooms are babies of TLDSB staff members who are currently on maternity leave. TLDSB has taken an innovate approach training instructors and introducing the program into several schools in Haliburton, Muskoka, and Kawartha Lakes.

Fenelon Township Public School Early Childhood Educator, Colleen Ingram, is a trained Roots of Empathy instructor. Colleen and Kindergarten teacher, Holly Earp, highlighted the positive impact having Baby Elliott come to visit their classroom has had on the classroom. After only 7 visits, they have observed tremendous response from the students. Two young students from their JK/SK class told trustees about visits from Baby Elliott.

## Administrative Reports

### Your Voice Matters



TLDSB is launching a strategic planning campaign that will begin with a strategic planning session where stakeholders including staff, trustees, students, parents, and community members will gather to begin the process. The campaign is called “Your Voice Matters” and will allow all stakeholders the opportunity to provide their thoughts about TLDSB and its schools through an online analytical tool. The information gathered through this campaign will help to inform the next multi-year plan for the board.

### Future Meetings:

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Committee of the Whole	April 12, 2016	6:30 p.m.	Bracebridge
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	<b>April 26, 2016</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lindsay</b>
Committee of the Whole	May 10, 2016	6:30 p.m.	Minden
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	<b>May 24, 2016</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lindsay</b>
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	<b>June 14, 2016</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lindsay</b>
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	<b>August 30, 2016</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lindsay</b>
Committee of the Whole	September 13, 2016	6:30 p.m.	Bracebridge
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	<b>September 27, 2016</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lindsay</b>
Committee of the Whole	October 11, 2016	6:30 p.m.	Minden
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	<b>October 25, 2016</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lindsay</b>
Committee of the Whole	November 8, 2016	6:30 p.m.	Bracebridge
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	<b>November 22, 2016</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lindsay</b>
<b>Annual Organizational Meeting</b>	<b>December 13, 2016</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lindsay</b>

All meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. with the In-Camera agenda. The public portion of all meetings begins at approximately 6:30 p.m. Videoconference facilities are available in Minden, Bracebridge, and Lindsay with prior notice to the Communications Department. The live webcast of **Regular Meetings of the Board of Trustees** is found at [www.tldsb.ca](http://www.tldsb.ca).