

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Swearing In of 2012-2013 Student Trustee

Hana Ready, the elected student trustee for 2012-2013 was sworn in as student trustee. Hana will lead the Group of Seven (elected student representatives from each of the seven secondary schools) at several meetings throughout the year culminating in a year-end student leadership conference. She will also attend all board and committee of the whole meetings representing the student voice at the board table.



School Renovations and Repairs

Superintendent of Business, Bob Kaye, provided an update on construction projects ongoing at many TLDSB schools throughout the summer. Construction projects range from roofing, lift installation, office renovations, replacement windows, and more. Almost all planned projects will be completed by the time school begins for students on September 4. A few projects may need to extend into the first week or two in September. Principals at these schools have assured the TLDSB plant department that the construction left to do will not interrupt any school programs.

Math Camp-p-p

Summer Math Camp-p-p, introduced as “weapons of math instruction,” was presented by Superintendent of Elementary School Improvement, Andrea Gillespie. Last year TLDSB was the best represented school board at provincial math camp with approximately 35 educators attending. This summer TLDSB made the decision to have their own math camp with 141 Kindergarten to grade 12 educators attending. The purpose of the camp was to talk, think, and learn more about math. Organizers engaged workshop leader, Marion Small, a leading Canadian math educator and former Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of New Brunswick. The focus for the three day camp was on proportional reasoning – this topic crosses all 5 strands of mathematics and it is not an area that teachers are typically comfortable with.

Social Media Strategy

Catherine Shedden, Communications Manager, presented the launch of the TLDSB social media strategy “Grow the Good.” One of the goals for the TLDSB strategy is for social media to

promote the good things that students and staff do to have a meaningful impact in our communities and around the world. This goal fits well with the board's engagement efforts to "Grow the Good." TLDSB schools will have the capacity to share information via Facebook and Twitter. The school board will have Facebook and Twitter platforms with feedback options for stakeholders.

Suspension and Expulsions

Shelley Woon, Superintendent of Special Education and Safe Schools presented data on suspensions and expulsions from the 2011-2012 school year including some of the trends and actions planned to continue to reduce numbers. Overall suspension numbers decreased in the board by 114 from the previous year. Data was shown over time, by gender, and average length of suspension. TLDSB is continuing to show a decline in the number of one-day suspensions. Suspensions tend to peak in October, November, and May. Male students tend to be suspended more often than female students. The plan is to continue to work on a whole school approach, encouraging a positive school climate, restorative practice, and continue to explore strategies that might address the needs of male students including anger management strategies, and how to navigate challenging situations. Other initiatives that will continue include the Power to Change Camp, positive support planning, and encouraging schools to look at what is happening that helps to promote positive behaviour. There will be the application of more intensive supports that prevent behaviours that tend to lead to suspensions and expulsions.

Positive Space Signs

Larry Hope, Director of Education presented a report on the Positive Space initiative in TLDSB schools. Messaging to schools has been very clear indicating that there needs to be extensive and ongoing conversations with the school community through school councils prior to the installation of the plaques. There have been a number of comments from trustees, the public, and parents on both sides of the issue – some are very supportive, some are not comfortable with the initiative. Director Hope stressed that "We must ensure that conversation continues in earnest and that no decision on the placement of the signs takes place in elementary schools until conversations have occurred with school councils. These conversations are not with a goal or expectation of making a decision, but more around engaging families in conversation before any decision is made."

"We've said that these signs should stay in the principal's office for the time being with the exception of those schools where conversations and a great deal of background work has already occurred with students and the school community."

After October and November school council meetings, senior administrators will review data collected by schools. "We want to honour the request by trustees to go slowly on this initiative as well as respect the role of school councils."

Principals of Kindergarten to Grade 3 schools will be asked to step away from this initiative for the time being. There needs to be some age appropriate education occurring at all grades but there are terms on the signs that some feel are too advanced for younger children. All principals

will be receiving a memo from the Director’s Office to ensure that everyone understands the importance of ongoing conversations about how to deal with homophobia in our schools.

Strategic Directions Feedback

Director of Education Hope reminded everyone about the TLDSB Strategic Directions document which highlights the three goals: Student engagement and achievement; Staff engagement and development; and Parent and Community engagement. A feedback survey extended to all stakeholders received 191 responses, 58 of which were parents. Although this is not a high number of respondents, all feedback is valid. The written feedback is very helpful to senior administration and the following themes have emerged for consideration in the new school year: importance of leadership development – very clear to us that this continues to be a focus area; professional development needs to be based on need – staff appreciate that we offered a self-selection model; and the value of good communication from the board.

Awards and Achievements:

- \$141,000 from TLDSB schools went to the Terry Fox Foundation last year. IE Weldon SS raised almost \$32,000.
- Two communications awards have been received by TLDSB. NSPRA (National School Public Relations Association) has given TLDSB an Award of Merit for the board’s 2011 annual report and an Award of Excellence for the new Kindergarten package.

Future Meetings:

September 11, 2012	Committee of the Whole Board	Bracebridge
September 25, 2012	Regular Meeting of the Board	Lindsay
October 9, 2012	Committee of the Whole Board	Minden
October 23, 2012	Regular Meeting of the Board	Lindsay
November 13, 2012	Committee of the Whole Board	Bracebridge
November 27, 2012	Regular Meeting of the Board	Lindsay
December 11, 2012	Annual Organizational Meeting	Lindsay

All meetings begin at 6 p.m. with the In-Camera agenda. The public portion of all meetings begin 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.

For more information please contact Catherine Shedden, Communications Manager, 888.526.5552 ext 22118