

Presentations

Technology, Creativity and Innovation

New and innovative ways to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom were introduced to trustees by the Superintendent of Information Communication Technology, Dianna Scates. Up to \$150,000 has been distributed for the past two years for applications from system educators to bring technology in creative ways into the classroom.

Elementary teacher, Julie McColl, presented her project “Bringing Technology into the Classroom – Choice of Device.” Intermediate students Ayla, Sabastian, and Sammie shared the benefits of various types of hardware and software, explaining comfort level, impact, empowerment, and innovation. As part of the inquiry, it was noted that



over time, students began bringing their own devices into the classroom and that they were the most comfortable with devices that were also used at home.

Automotive, Construction, and Technology Studies teacher, Chris Simpson, and student Wilhelmena provided information to trustees around new technology tools in auto-shop classrooms. Chris explained that the newly funded project in the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School’s auto-shop demonstrated a significant move to qualitative, automotive diagnostics in a collaborative learning environment. Wilhelmena described the diagnostic tools reviewed over the school year – many of which determine where there are trouble spots in vehicle engines. She found the new technology very useful and much faster than older equipment, very efficient and can even be used with her own devices. Teachers enjoyed the point in time instructions, the engagement of students, cost effectiveness, ease of use, accessibility to live vehicle and frame data, as well as road test data records that can be replayed in the classroom. Exposure to these types of instruments helps students to determine pathways to apprenticeship and work.

Administrative Reports:

Secondary EQAO Results

Academic students in TLDSB secondary schools are performing at a very high level. Although above the province, applied level students do not perform as well and this is where attention is being focused. A new change has been implemented in the way professional development is offered in TLDSB secondary schools. Instead of pulling teachers out of school – the curriculum team is going into schools for several days at a time.

Academic results for math are the highest the board has ever had. Over time, TLDSB has been consistently strong in academic math, as has the province. For applied students, the board hovers around the 60% range which is well above the provincial average. Students with special needs have been at a consistent level for several years with 48% of TLDSB students receiving accommodations to assist in writing the test.

In the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – which students take in Grade 10 – 94% of academic and 52% of applied students are at level three or four. 23% of students with special needs receive accommodations for the OSSLT. The number of students receiving accommodations could be higher, but in many cases high school students with special needs are reluctant to bring their assistive technology devices into the classroom which is something the Specialized Services Department is reviewing.

Future Meetings:

2014		
November 11, 2014	Committee of the Whole	Bracebridge
November 25, 2014	Regular Board Meeting	Lindsay
December 9, 2014	Regular Board Meeting	Lindsay

All meetings begin at 6:00 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.