

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Innovation and Inquiry Projects

Dianna Scates, Superintendent of Information Communication and Technology, highlighted two of the projects approved last year to support technology in classrooms as it relates to student engagement and achievement. Twenty-three “Innovation and Inquiry Projects” were awarded a total of \$156,000 from a variety of sources. This year there have been 90 applications and \$100,000 has been awarded to 21 projects. “These projects are not just about technology,” Scates stated, “They are all about teaching and learning.”



Central Senior School Principal Jamie Stone, with two teachers Rory Ellis and Nathan Stephenson, showcased a project that focused on trying to engage reluctant learners. The strategies used to engage these students actually engaged all students in the classroom leading the team to realize that their work is “good for all, necessary for some.” Using iPads, the teachers offered a series of apps to engage students. One app was called “Explain Everything” which allowed students to visually and orally express ideas about geography, history, or reading responses. Trustees heard examples of how iPads were used by students to explain their ideas. Google Drive was another application that was used on laptops in the classroom to create documents, presentations, and a classroom website.

Teachers Corinna Thompson and Nancy Gammon from Muskoka Beechgrove Public School and a board Speech Language Pathologist, Anne Braithwaite, shared information about their project which targeted students with language difficulties. Oral language is fundamental for academic achievement so the focus of the project was to improve oral language development. Using a number of iPad apps, students were able to improve their vocabulary, concept development, as well as understand connections between words. The project team noticed that the use of iPads resulted in a profound impact on comprehension in the classroom and that outcomes were quite dramatic with four out of five students making good gains.

2012-2013 School Climate Survey

Superintendent of Safe and Accepting Schools, Kevin Cutler presented the results of the climate survey that took place in TLDSB in the 2012-2013 school year. The Ministry of Education requires that school boards complete a climate survey every two years. The board received more than 4500 responses to the survey answering questions about how students, staff, parents, and community members feel about their school or work place, whether they feel safe and included, whether or not bullying is an issue, and how TLDSB can become a better place to work and learn.

The majority of respondents feel safe in TLDSB workplaces and schools. A perception of elementary students is that staff members try to stop bullying when it is observed. Components of the survey will help the Safe and Accepting Schools department continue their work in bullying prevention. This will include a focus on perceptions of what keeps people from stepping in when they see bullying or other problems occurring. Common perceptions include: not being sure if it was bullying; fear of making it worse; fear of being harmed; and not knowing how to stop it or deal with it. There will be continued education, professional development, and support to address concerns raised in the survey. Schools will continue to focus on strategies to create safe spaces for students and ensure physical safety in all areas of schools. There will also be promotion of the diversity of programs and initiatives available in TLDSB so that there is increased awareness for all members of the school community about where to go for help and resources.

Audited Financial Statements

Trustees approved the 2012-2013 financial statements and accepted the auditor's report which was prepared by BDO Dunwoody LLP, Chartered Accountants.

Future Meetings:

2013		
December 10, 2013	Organizational Board Meeting	Lindsay
2014 (tentative until approved at December 10 Organizational Meeting)		
January 14, 2014	Committee of the Whole	Bracebridge
January 28, 2014	Regular Board Meeting	Lindsay
February 11, 2014	Committee of the Whole	Minden
February 25, 2014	Regular Board Meeting	Lindsay
March 25, 2014	Regular Board Meeting	Lindsay
April 8, 2014	Committee of the Whole	Bracebridge
April 22, 2014	Regular Board Meeting	Lindsay
May 13, 2014	Committee of the Whole	Minden
May 27, 2014	Regular Board Meeting	Lindsay

June 10, 2014	Regular Board Meeting	Lindsay
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All meetings begin at 6 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.