

Presentations

Assistive Technology in TLDSB Schools

Superintendent Kevin Cutler introduced an initiative launched by the Department of Specialized Services District Principal, Katherine Maclver, which brings teachers and students together to learn about the latest assistive technology tools.

Assistive technology has been available to students with special needs for a number of years. There is always concern around possible stigma and lack of understanding that may arise when students use

specialized equipment. Itinerant EA, Lisa Worsley, shared the goals and objectives for introducing iPads and apps as assistive technology tools, ensuring that this technology is embedded in classroom instruction. The focus for this initiative has been on iPad training for students in grades 5 to 8. Teachers and students working and learning together helps to increase awareness and knowledge around assistive tools.

Scott Young Public School grade 5 teacher, Kristy Hainer, and her student Chelsea shared with trustees the impact of a full-day training they participated in together. Students from a number of schools worked and learned with teachers at the training day to familiarize themselves with iPad use as well as a number of apps on the iPad. This approach has helped students with special needs gain their own expertise and has increased interest in learning. By working together, teachers and students build trusting relationships which encourage students to take more risks and try new things - gaining increased confidence along the way.



From left: District Principal Katherine Maclver, Itinerant EA Lisa Worsley, Grade 5 Teacher Kristy Hainer with student Chelsea

Administrative Reports:

AODA Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

Human Resources Administrator, Earl Manners, presented to trustees the annual status report outlining initiatives in place, completed, or in process to remove and prevent accessibility barriers throughout the organization. Of special note is the TLDSB website which has been evaluated and is considered completely AODA compliant. Other architectural, communication, technological, and attitudinal possible barriers are monitored and improved as needed and there are plans in place for ongoing staff training.

Future Meetings:

MEETING	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Committee of the Whole	April 14, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Minden
Regular Board Meeting	April 28, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Lindsay
Committee of the Whole	May 12, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Bracebridge
Regular Board Meeting	May 26, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Lindsay
Regular Board Meeting	June 9, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Lindsay
Regular Board Meeting	August 25, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Lindsay
Committee of the Whole	September 8, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Minden
Regular Board Meeting	September 22, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Lindsay
Committee of the Whole	October 13, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Bracebridge
Regular Board Meeting	October 27, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Lindsay
Committee of the Whole	November 10, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Minden
Regular Board Meeting	November 24, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Lindsay
Organizational Meeting	December 8, 2015	6:30 p.m.	Lindsay

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.