

## District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 10, 2018 7 p.m.

**Lindsay Education Centre** – 300 County Road 36, Lindsay

**Haliburton County Education Centre** – 12 Vintage Crescent, Minden

**Muskoka Education Centre** – 1271 Cedar Lane, Bracebridge

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### MEETING NOTES

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1. Welcome and Introductions

*Jenn Sharpe / Sam Itani – Haliburton area co-chairs*

2. Update from the Director of Education

*Larry Hope – Director of Education*

- Larry Hope was unable to attend the meeting but wanted to share results from recent student and parent forums that took place during the year. The following video message “Building High Expectations Together” was shown providing Larry’s thoughts on these forums:  
<https://vimeo.com/266176692>

3. School Climate Survey – District Results

*Katherine MacIver, Superintendent of Learning*

- used a new tool this year called “our school” - wanted to hear from parents, students and staff members
- Parents and students had an opportunity in November to respond to the survey. Staff survey took place in April with results coming soon
- Student responses summary:
  - 76% of grade 4-8, 69% grade 9-12, 1315 responses from parents
  - results for specific schools are shared at school council meetings
  - positive peer relationships at schools - elementary 84%, secondary 77%
  - positive sense of belonging - elementary 76%, secondary 64%
  - feel safe - elementary 56%, secondary 60%
  - Anxious at school - elementary 26%, secondary 25%
  - able to dig in and drill down into the information - schools can find pockets of information - age group, gender etc. can help principals determine where there are issues to address
- Parent/guardian responses were on topics including:
  - how informed parents feel, etc.
  - parent involvement at schools, at committee meetings, etc.

- parent supporting learning at home
- time spent doing homework
- School supports learning
- Emerging themes
  - one quarter of students identified as having anxiety or depression
  - not all students feel safe at school
- experience with the new tool
  - increased response rate
  - timely access to data
  - target information available to school
  - school now exploring specific results, reviewing with staff and school council

#### 4. Ministry of Education PIC Symposium

*Debbie Marling - Muskoka area chair*

*Grant Boudrault - Kawartha Lakes area chair*

- Grant shared some highlights from the April PIC Symposium
- notes from all those who attended are available on request
- would like to see if we can have the evening keynote speaker come to TLDSB to speak to parents

#### 5. Updates for School Councils

*Catherine Shedden – District Manager of Corporate Communications*

- Parent Engagement Fund/Parents Reaching Out grants for Schools and District
- Parent Events
  - Dr. Alex Russell - this event taking place at IE Weldon SS on May 23rd and at the Muskoka Education Centre on May 24th. At this point in time we have 500 registrations between the two evenings.
- Parent Communication
  - [District App](#) - thank you to school council chairs who downloaded the app to provide us
  - [OverDrive](#) is adding new books all the time - students, staff, and parents can have access to hundreds of digital and audio books.

#### 6. Site Discussion

- School climate at your school
- Open Discussion

- Grant attended the Mass Band at Central Senior School which was good.
- Leslie Frost culture night was this evening.
- “Snippet of Spice” a great fundraising event being run at Leslie Frost Public School

### **Muskoka Area Schools**

- Muskoka discussion on reviewing the climate survey in our own schools revealed that not all schools have reviewed this information. Those schools in attendance who have not reviewed the results will follow up with their principals before next meeting. One of the elementary schools who had reviewed the results has already acted. The concern out of their school was bullying. They brought a speaker in to discuss bullying and define what bullying was. This seems now to have been successful.
- We also did a quick review of TLDSB app. Reported from Louise Clodd that the hope is to include a bullying report link to the app.
- Coming back to the discussion on bullying we agreed that more education around bullying might be necessary. A suggestion that secondary students learn that bullying is a harassment issue and that criminal charges can be laid.
- As for the survey itself Louise shared that some feedback for students was there was no spot to list I do not see bullying, n/a, or none of the above and the survey would not let you skip a question.
- Another discussion was the fact that as the parent survey was at the beginning of the school year there could be some discrepancy between parents answering for this year only or answer for all the years kids have attended schools. This could also adjust the results.
- We followed up the discussion with a review of the Ministers Parent Symposium as Debbie and Kerry reviewed and answered questions.

### **Haliburton Area Schools**

- Climate Surveys (School Specific):
  - all representatives agreed their school surveys reflected the Board results-need to differentiate Bullying from Conflict
  - survey given to Safe & Accepting School Committee to sift through, information will be shared with the School Council so Council can use the feedback as an opportunity for Parent Engagement
  - surveying parents about student's responses to offer further support at home-concern about consequences and reporting conflict situations-students think nothing happens when they report issues, need to reassure students that information shared is being used even if they don't see an immediate outcome
  - learning an expectation is a skill just like reading and math, some students require more time to learn the skill
- Open Discussion

- PEG grants used for September welcome night, Camp Day parent engagement and year end celebration -PRO Grant ideas & discussion, encouraged all schools to at least apply
- Safe & Accepting School Committees in all schools

**2017-2018 Meetings**

Thursday, November 16, 2017	Thursday, January 18, 2018
Thursday, March 22, 2018	Thursday, May 10, 2018

**District Chairs 2017-2018:**

City of Kawartha Lakes	Grant Boudrault	705-786-3937	<a href="mailto:eyespydogs@bell.net">eyespydogs@bell.net</a>
Haliburton County	Sam Itani	705-457-7407	<a href="mailto:sam_itani@hotmail.com">sam_itani@hotmail.com</a>
	Jenn Sharp	705-457-6564	<a href="mailto:jennsharp2@gmail.com">jennsharp2@gmail.com</a>
District of Muskoka	Debbie Marling	705-641-0944	<a href="mailto:marlingfam@gmail.com">marlingfam@gmail.com</a>