

## District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 8, 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

*Grant Boudrault – Kawartha Lakes area chair*

- Grant welcomed school council chairs, members, trustees, and others in attendance at the three locations as well as those on teleconference.

#### 2. Update from the Director of Education

*Larry Hope – Director of Education*

- **Health and Physical Education Curriculum:** Larry was asked to speak about the rescinding of the Healthy and Physical Education Curriculum. Parents were updated in September on the current status of the PHE curriculum stating that a curriculum is not the be all and end all for discussions in our classrooms. We will always support all children. We know that topics will come up that will require teacher response that are not necessarily a part of the formal curriculum.
- **Math Instruction:** We have come through a time where we have had a lack of clear direction around math instruction. This is now changing and things are going to be far more prescriptive for our teachers. We will expect opportunities for math practice to be included in classroom learning. We will be targeting grade 6 students including adopting a scope and sequence that indicates what should be taught in what order and when. There will be a mid-year assessment for grade 6 students so that we can determine where students are at prior to the EQAO assessment
- **Facility Updates:**
  - In Muskoka we have been given funding to purchase the closed Catholic school in Honey Harbour.
  - In CKL we are still working on the plans for the additions at Scott Young Public School. We are hoping for approval soon from the Ministry of Education.
- **Zeroing in on high expectations** - have a look at Larry's [latest blog](#) which indicates that we all have a collective responsibility to challenge students and continue to keep high expectations. Larry is on this mission as a result of what he heard when visiting schools last year. He received a clear and unconditional message about raising the bar, working hard, all necessary to be successful in the work world.

### 3. **Student Services Attendance Counsellor (SSAC) Supports in Schools**

*Sonya Vellenga - District Manager of Mental Health Services*

- As the District Manager of Mental Health Services, Sonya Vellenga manages the mental health champions and leads team (Mental Health Champions and Leads)
- There are 15 SSACs supporting schools - Each elementary school has one day per week support from an SSAC; Each secondary school has 3 days of support
- The role of the counsellor is to
  - respond to identified risks of self harm and threats to others
  - Crisis intervention and support
  - Individual Brief service
  - System wide support for staff in times of loss, grief, and crisis
- The attendance role also includes responding to patterns of missed school days by engaging with parents
- includes a systematic response to prolonged absences of 15 days or more
- Universal Promotion examples
  - Feed all Four
  - Character Education
  - Equity and Inclusion (ie. Positive Space, Bridges out of Poverty)
  - Circles and Restorative Practices
  - Bullying Prevention
  - Substance Misuse Education
  - Mental health leads in each school (as point of contact)
  - Community Development: ie Planning Tables in each county

### 4. **Updates for School Councils**

*Catherine Shedden – District Manager of Corporate Communications*

- a. **School Councils Procedure Overview** - Catherine reviewed the [OP-6016 School Councils Procedure](#) highlighting supports available to school council chairs, the importance of a school council constitution, minute taking, financial records, fundraising, and the expenditure of the Parent Engagement Grant
- b. **Annual Report** - the [DSC-PIC 2017-2018 annual report](#) was presented
- c. **Parent Communication** - Catherine provided an overview of the School Messenger app which will allow parents to choose their notification preferences. The app may be downloaded from [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca). There was also an overview of the District App. Card holders to attach to the back of a phone were distributed. All school council chairs will receive a package of these card holders to distribute to parents at their school.

### 5. **Site Discussion**

- a. Open discussion - see below

## **City of Kawartha Lakes area schools**

Several questions were asked of Sonya Vellenga including:

- Request for explanation of 15 consecutive school days
- Response when students are not attending school.

Several questions raised around School Messenger including:

- Is it true that a parent must have an email registered at the school to be able to create a sign-in on the School Messenger app? (some parents have not been asked for an email address)
- If you delete the School Messenger app, will your preferences disappear?
- Some parents are completing the notification preferences and are still getting items from the school all three ways (phone, text, and email). Why is this? (perhaps the principal is using the “emergency” subject line which defaults to all ways of communication?)

Several questions around the District App including:

- When and how will notifications appear on the TLDSB District app?
- The safe arrival number for each school needs to be easily accessed. It is not right now.

Discussion on School Council procedure:

- Request that principals are told that a constitution is required for school councils

Other:

- Request for tech services to provide a School Messenger training at next DSC-PIC meeting
- Request for research into Harmony Movement and/or Karl Sabel as keynote to come to DSC-PIC or at an organized parent event.
- Concerns raised around parents parking in front of schools - deep concern for safety, need good solutions
- Concerns that no stopping and no parking signs are old and illegible in front of schools - is this school board or municipal responsibility
- Concern that Facilities will not place no parking signs on a school building.

## **Haliburton area schools**

The Haliburton site discussion was short with five participants including an SSAC staff member - Becky (SSAC rep).

- Becky gave an overview of the schedule of the mental health nurse in the local schools
- We discussed the School Council Constitutions and the need for them to be revised/created within our councils

## **Muskoka area schools**

- Introductions of everyone as many in attendance were new. We discussed needs and help for councils and chairs.

- Shared information on current council needs, required documentation such as constitution, principal wish list for and minutes.
- Discussion of a shared google drive very favourable. Request to set up folders to separate required documents, fundraising, upcoming events from other schools, etc...
- Some internal council concerns that Larry Hope and Louise Clodd were able to give some quick advice and suggestions for.
- Everyone very excited to feel included.
- As well a more detailed discussion of the roles and available help to students from SSAC reps in each of the schools.
- A lot of discussion centred around high expectations
- Some concerns expressed around safe arrival numbers not on the District App.

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**2018-2019 DSC-PIC Meetings**

Thursday, November 8, 2018

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Thursday, March 21, 2019

Thursday, May 9, 2019

**District Chairs 2018-2019:**

City of Kawartha Lakes

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