

# District School Council / Parent Involvement Committee

Thursday, November 21 2019 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 - Jen Sharpe, Haliburton Area DSC-PIC Chair**
  
2. **TLDSB Update - Larry Hope, Director of Education**
  - a. Swimming protocols
    - There is a specific set of criteria when students are around water - there was an inquiry following a tragic incident in Algonquin Park with a Toronto District School Board student
    - Research has been done with OPHEA and OSBIE where guidelines are provided for sporting and outdoor activities for school boards
    - in a natural setting we do expect students to wear certified life preservers
    - In pools and other circumstances we expect a successful swim test to take place
  - b. Curriculum updates
    - Cell phone use in schools
      - provincial government spoke about the distraction factor of cell phones in schools
      - Always taken the position that our teachers are in the best decision to determine whether a cell phone could be used as an appropriate learning tool
      - This position was reaffirmed when the government came out with new legislation that school boards must include in codes of conduct
      - It is not prohibitive - and offers a balance and complements what is already taking place in TLDSB
      - There are a variety of practices across the district asking teachers and administrators to use good judgement
    - Health and Physical Education curriculum
      - Parents now have the option to opt out of certain lessons and activities - most commonly known as “sex ed”
      - A new opt out policy and procedure has been presented to trustees and will come to the upcoming board meeting for final approval

- There is now a requirement to inform parents when certain topics are going to be taught
- Parents will now be able to pull their child under one of these options:
  - a. Parents collect child and take them from the school
  - b. Child can stay in the classroom but not participate
  - c. Child removed from classroom and provided with alternate supervision under the care of another staff member
- Careers curriculum
  - now an enhanced focus on financial literacy
  - This is in the grade 10 Careers course
  - Continually looking at ways to build more and more of this into other grades and classrooms
  - All secondary schools will assign teachers to teach Civics and Careers where this curriculum will be taught
  - The curriculum team have been training teachers and sharing resources internally
- c. Labour Challenges
  - Elementary and secondary teachers will begin job action on Tuesday, November 26th - this is a phase 1 for elementary teachers
  - This will be posted on the board website shortly
  - We have been reinforcing that this is not a local conflict - it is a provincial job action - working to continue a healthy and happy relationship with our local unions
  - Both unions have been public about this job action not disrupting student experiences at this point in time. Most of what they are going to pull back from are administrative tasks - for example, secondary teachers will not place personalized comments on report cards; elementary teachers will not be participating in professional development days and will be self-directing their own work on those days
  - There should be no difficulty with parent teacher interviews
  - We are engaging in local negotiations with CUPE - to iron out local matters
  - We will begin meeting with elementary teachers union in January and working

### 3. Your Thought Exchange Feedback

- a. In June a Thought Exchange was sent to school council chairs asking the following question: What are some important ways that school councils can be supported by the school board. The results may be viewed here:
 

<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/report/8f8cd1de26c6cbb7d697fff2dc033261>
- b. Top Thoughts:
  - *“Educate council chairs on what funding is available from the board if any for presentations Not everyone has the time to seek out the information a summary at the beginning of the year would be helpful.”*

- Information about available funding is provided at each DSC-PIC meeting and is available through the minutes of those meetings at <https://tldsbc.ca/parents/get-involved/>
- The only funding available this year is Parent Engagement Funding of \$500 for each school and school board allocation for Parents Reaching Out grant which is outlined below
- ***“Board members, trustee's visit the school. Attend school functions. For support, new ideas, available to solve any problems”***
  - Suggestion to send a specific invitation to the local trustee - always like to receive invitations.
- ***“Digital resources Easy access to various resources that would be useful to school council members.”***
  - Speak with your regional chair - there is a Google Shared Drive set up and your name (with a gmail address) can be added so that you have access to information specific to your area. Also, go to <https://tldsbc.ca/parents/get-involved/> and check ‘School Council’ to see other documents to assist.

#### 4. **School Councils Information Updates - Grant Boudrault, CKL Area DSC-PIC Chair**

- a. Resources for school councils - there are two organizations that may be useful to school council chairs
  - **People for Education** People for education work in two main areas - providing research and evidence about public education; and engaging in dialogue, both within and outside the education sector, about the purpose, value, and future of public education. Visit their website at <https://peopleforeducation.ca/>
  - **Parents Engaged in Education** Parents Engaged in Education provides school council training and resources, offer parent engagement speakers, and provide information on running school events. Visit their website at <https://www.parentsengagedineducation.ca/>

#### 5. **Social Networking Safety Event -**

- a. A presentation by Paul Davis on Social Networking Safety will take place in all areas of our board over the course of the school year. This is being paid for by parent engagement funding and will feature information about social media, digital trails, online security, cyberbullying, and more. Paul Davis has presented to thousands of grade 4 to 12 students as well as to parents. Relating to kids as a father, and to parents as an IT professional, the presentation is targeted so that you will leave with a wealth of knowledge and empowerment about social networking safety. Our dates are as follows:
  - Huntsville area schools - Thursday, December 5th at 7 p.m. at the Algonquin Theatre

- Haliburton area schools - Thursday, April 30th at 7 p.m. at HHSS
- Fenelon Falls area schools - Wednesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at FFSS
- Lindsay area schools - Thursday May 14 at 7 p.m. at IEWSS
- Bracebridge area schools - Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7 p.m. Muskoka Education Centre

## 6. Updates for School Councils

- a. School Councils Procedure Overview
  - You will find the School Councils Policy and Procedure on the School Councils page of the TLDSB website <https://tldsb.ca/parents/get-involved/>
    - <https://tldsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/OP-6016-School-Council-Procedure.pdf>
    - Ministry of Education Guide for School Councils <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf>
- b. [Annual Report](#)
- c. Funding available to School Councils
  - Parent Engagement Funding for Schools (\$500 grant) - each school is provided \$500 to be used for parent engagement initiatives. The DSC-PIC receives \$9000.
  - Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Funding - this has changed from previous years and the board has been given \$10,983.64 to use for parent engagement projects with specific criteria and evaluation requirements.
- d. Parent Communication - where to find information for TLDSB parents <https://tldsb.ca/parents/>

## 7. Site Discussion - video conference ends, and each area holds a discussion forum led by area DSC-PIC chair

- a. Open discussion
- b. Discuss whether there should be an application process for accessing PRO funding or if a board-wide initiative needs to be determined. Record your area's response.

### Muskoka area schools site discussion

#### Schools represented:

Macaulay PS,  
 Gravenhurst PS,  
 Huntsville PS,  
 KP Manson PS,  
 Muskoka Beechgrove PS,  
 Monck PS,  
 Watt PS, and  
 Spruce Glen PS

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### **PRO Funding Allocation**

- Use the PRO Funding for Paul Davis Social Networking Safety presentations.
- Make the \$9000 available to schools with an application process. (Many schools don't or haven't applied for PRO Grants previously and/or don't spend their \$500 so let's ensure the funds are put to good use.)
- If the DSC-PIC chairs go the route of dividing the \$9000 by district, divide the funds evenly by the number of schools in the district.

### **Google Drive**

- Everyone would like to get the Google Drive set up.
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## **Kawartha Lakes Area Schools**

### **Schools Represented**

Mariposa ES  
Dr. George Hall PS  
Central Senior School  
Langton PS  
FFSS  
LCVI  
Parkview PS  
Bobcaygeon PS  
Leslie Frost PS  
Jack Callaghan PS  
Woodville ES  
Alexandra PS

### **PRO Funding Allocation**

- decision is to use the PRO grant for the Paul Davis presentation and to divvy up the Board parent engagement amongst schools

### **CPR and First Aid Training**

- Concern raised again about first aid and CPR trained staff in schools - do not think that a custodian is sufficient or appropriate.
- Can parent council funds be used to offer CPR training to school staff?
- Can someone donate money to a school to have this training occur?

### **Lunch Monitoring**

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- Lunch monitoring is not an adult anymore - it is a child - sometimes a grade 4 is watching grade 4 students
- Can parents volunteer to be lunch monitors? (there are a lot of people who would do it)

**Taste of Kawartha, Junior Arts and Crafts**

- Grade 3 students used to go to the Lindsay Fair for a tour
  - This did not happen this year but a Taste of Kawartha would like to offer the opportunity again to schools in the CKL area
  - Understanding how a meal is created from the farm to the table
  - Looking at March 30th and March 31st
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**Haliburton Area schools**

**PRO Funding Allocation**

- Our small group unanimously agreed that the PRO funding should go toward the Paul Davis presentation
  - Question about the need for a decision regarding the \$9000 PEG money and whether it will be divided between the schools to top up their \$500.00 Parent Engagement Fund
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**2019-2020 DSC-PIC Meetings**

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Thursday, March 26, 2020

Thursday, May 7, 2020

**District Chairs 2019-2020:**

City of Kawartha Lakes	Grant Boudrault	705-786-3937	<a href="mailto:eyespydogs@bell.net">eyespydogs@bell.net</a>
Haliburton County	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>