



District School Council - Parent Involvement Committee Minutes

Date: October 21, 2025
Location: Archie Stouffer Elementary School | Virtual
Time: 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order

Superintendent Williams called the meeting to order.

2. Territorial acknowledgement

Superintendent Williams shared a territorial acknowledgement.

3. Director's update

Director Hahn welcomed the 2025-26 Parent Council and noted that he had been into several schools since the beginning of the year and has been pleased to hear from staff that this has been a very smooth start up, very busy, but smooth. The [Board's Strategic Plan](#) is in its fourth year. This year we are concentrating on grade 7, 8 & 9 math and professional learning for teachers will continue.

Attendance is still a major focus for TLDSB. Most parents understand the importance of getting students to school but we encourage parents to reach out to us if they are having issues around attendance.

Possible removal of trustees in Ontario school boards is in the news. TLDSB trustees have done a fabulous job. TLDSB has run a surplus budget for the past 4 years. They are great governors and they hold the Director accountable. There will be a video explaining the role of trustees going out to families later this month.

TLDSB is preparing to build an outdoor education centre in Minden. We are waiting for the approval of the Ministry. Once complete, the outdoor education centre will be accessible to all TLDSB students for day programs.

4. Administrative updates

4.1 Pathways presentation

Superintendent Williams introduced the Pathways team; Penta Ledger, Steve Spiers and Ian McTavish.

Ian explained the Experiential Consultant role. Ian, along with high school students, worked with Pine Glen Public School to build picnic tables for their school yard working math into the fun activity. Ian has worked with 8 classes to help support coding / robotics opportunities.

Penta introduced Cooperative Education which occurs during the school year as well as over the summer. She also introduced OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program) which is accessed through the co-op program. In OYAP students can work toward a Registered Training Agreement (RTA). Once signed up they can earn hours and skills

before leaving school. 549 students participated in OYAP in 2024-25, ¼ of the students identified as female. Penta also introduced the Dual Credit program which allows students to earn a college credit as well as a high school credit at the same time. TLDSB offers 15 Dual Credit courses with 229 students participating this semester.

Steve explained the SHSM program. Students must still take math, english, business, science and CAWS as well as 2 coop credits that relate to the SHSM sector they are interested in but can concentrate on the skilled learning. TLDSB offers 28 SHSM sectors over our 7 high schools. 750 students participated in SHSM programs in 2024-25.

4.2 New Parent Engagement Platform

Carolynne Bull introduced the new Parent Engagement Platform. The platform is anonymous, requesting only the school you are attached to. The platform hosts surveys as well as access to provide input into policies up for review.

4.3 DSC-PIC orientation

Committee purpose: To bring their school community's voice to the Board and share information received from the Board back to their school communities.

- DSC-PIC focuses on supporting schools in the planning and implementation of strategies to engage families at the district level.
- Four meetings have been scheduled this year and additional communications will be shared periodically.
- Meeting minutes and the annual report from last year are available online.

For more information, chairs/co-chairs can contact Lisa Dow, executive assistant to Superintendent Kim Williams.

4.3 School Council Resources

Superintendent Williams reported that each school council will have access to a \$500 Parent Engagement Grant to be used to support parent and caregiver engagement and outreach activities.

4.4 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Superintendent Williams reported that \$24,500 is available to support initiatives that identify and address local parent and caregiver needs and help remove barriers that might prevent families from engaging fully in their school communities. Last year the majority of schools elected to distribute the funds equally to schools for the Parent Council to determine how it is spent. This will be the same in 2025-26.

5. Other business

5.1 Advance questions

The following questions were shared in advance with Superintendent Williams:

Please explain the break supervision system at schools.

Typically, schools at the elementary level are broken into two 40 minute nutrition breaks per day. 20 minutes outside and 20 minutes inside for both. The decision to play YouTube videos should never be permitted, especially unsupervised. If this is an issue at a school, have the parents speak to the school Principal.

For fundraising events at schools, when vendors come, what type of vendors need insurance or do all? What insurance do they need?

All vendors need proof of liability insurance.

Whether non-profit organizations require proof of liability depends on the services they are providing and the level of risk involved. Questions regarding whether insurance is needed can be sent to your school principal who can consult with the business department.

Students who are selling items they have made or second-hand items do not need insurance as they are covered under OSBIE for liability.
Proof of liability insurance for the company is typically sufficient - also called Evidence of Insurance.

Do food sellers need a food handlers' certificate?

Food sellers must have their food handler and/or the local health board proof of inspection for a commercial kitchen.
Schools keep copies of proof at the school.

How has TLDSB responded to this increase in violent incidents?

In TLDSB, the number of violent incidents has been on a steady decline. Between the 2017-18 school year and the 2024-25 school year, violent incidents have decreased 68%. All incidents are thoroughly investigated by the administration at the school, in consultation with their SO.

What is TLDSBs action plan moving forward to ensure all students and staff feel safe while at school.

As our declining violent incident numbers indicate, we have taken a proactive approach to setting consistent, high expectations for student behaviour. Along with these high expectations, we provide social-emotional learning for students to provide them with appropriate strategies to help them learn to self-regulate.

Our climate surveys conducted in 2022 and 2023 indicated that the majority of our students feel safe at school. We continue to work with students and administrators to address any concerns that arise.

Has TLDSB considered any strategies to mitigate learning loss resulting from snow days.

TLDSB has created 5 regions within the Board instead of 3 regions
Working with bus operators to see if there are other options for bussing at off times
When it is safe, schools are open and students are encouraged to attend in order

Can a parent, who is also an employee of TLDSB, be an elected member of the School Parent Council?

Yes, a parent who is an employee of TLDSB can be an elected member of the School Parent Council as long as they are not employed at that specific school. While they can be an elected member of the School Council, they cannot hold the position of chair or co-chair.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Upcoming meetings and events

DSC-PIC meetings are held four times per year at the Haliburton, Muskoka, and/or Lindsay Education Centres, with a virtual option available. All meetings take place from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The next scheduled meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday, December 9, 2025 (Muskoka)
- Tuesday, February 17, 2026 (Virtual)
- Wednesday, May 13, 2026 (Lindsay)

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.