



District School Council - Parent Involvement Committee Minutes

Date: February 17, 2026
Location: Virtual
Time: 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to order

Superintendent of Learning Williams called the meeting to order.

2. Land acknowledgement

Superintendent Williams shared a land acknowledgement.

3. Director's update

Director of Education Hahn shared updates on the following topics:

Newsletter

The second Director's newsletter of the year went to families today.

Grade 7-9 Learning

TLDSB's current focus is in literacy and math by bringing Grade 7-9 teachers together to advance learning.

Artificial intelligence (AI)

AI Learning at TLDSB is progressing. TLDSB is one of the leading boards in the province for our AI rollout.

Meetings with school council chairs

Direction Hahn has met with 16 school council chairs and their principals to discuss school communities. At the meetings the Director asks for suggestions to improve our communities and helps everyone understand the role school council, which is to support the principal while they work on student achievement.

At one meeting it was suggested that a video to show parents what reading with students at home looks like would help families, so our curriculum team created one.

Most important themes from the school council chair meetings:

- school pride
- more classroom-to-home communication
- homework - what is too much, or too little?
- extracurricular activities - taking students out of school
- mental health - how is the school board supporting student mental health?

Trustees

There has been a lot of media communication around the role of Trustees in Ontario school boards. TLDSB does not know the future but our trustees are excellent governors and stewards. We would like to see the role of the trustee continue.

Outdoor Education Centre

The outdoor education centre has been approved by the Ministry of Education. No money has been or will be taken from the classroom for the building of the new centre. School boards are allowed to save for projects like this one.

Congratulations to Superintendent Jay MacJanet, who is now the new Director of Near North DSB.

4. Administrative updates

4.1 Student Census

Superintendent Hubbert shared a presentation on the Student Census.

- 2025-26 will be TLDSB's third Student Census
- Student Census Day is Tuesday, March 3, 2026

4.2 Artificial Intelligence in TLDSB

Superintendent Williams and TELT Consultant Richard Bergman shared a presentation on TLDSB's Artificial Intelligence implementation.

4.3 School council guidelines and best practices

Superintendent Williams shared school council guidelines and best practices.

4.4 Communications Services update

Communications Services Manager Bull provided details on the following upcoming events and activities:

- *Positive Parenting* webinar series (upcoming dates February 19th & May 14th)
- Free webinar series promoting student well-being
- Kindergarten registration

4.5 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Superintendent Williams let school council members know that the PRO grants funding emails were sent out on February 6th letting all school councils know how much funding they would receive. The email included personalized reporting forms for June 2026.

4.6 Parent Engagement (PEG) Grant

Superintendent Williams reminded school council members that each school receives \$500 to support parent/guardian engagement in their schools.

5. Other business

5.1 Advance questions

Questions were shared in advance on the following topics:

What formal efforts have been made to amend the policy to increase the number of first aid trained adults in school buildings?

- 422 staff members have participated in voluntary first aid training that has taken place over the past two years.

- Custodial staff in each building typically have first aid certification
- It is not mandatory that all staff are trained in first aid. WSIB publishes minimum requirements that school boards must meet. We offer and pay for the training, to ensure we are meeting those requirements, for those that wish to attend.
- PA day topics are specified by the ministry and First Aid is not one of those topics.

Only 14% of eligible families responded to the Return to School Survey which is statistically irrelevant, what tangible steps is the board making to increase engagements with surveys and to better assess completion rates?

- According to a standardized sample size equation, the ideal sample size for a population of 17,048 is 376 respondents. For the parent/guardian fall survey, we received 2,331 responses.
- TLDSB would love for more parents and guardians to respond to our surveys.
- As school council chairs, please feel empowered to share information being sent by the board with your school's families.
- To view the past 2 student census results please visit tldsb.ca/student-census

What is the educational and community benefit of routinely rotating principals every few years and will the Board be willing to seek input from school staff, parents and guardians on this practice?

- Decisions to move principals follow an intentional, thoughtful process where we carefully analyze student achievement data and input from the regional Superintendent who is familiar with the culture of the school as well as any concerns from staff and parents/guardians. The needs of the school are matched to the strengths of the principal.
- Part of the School Council process is that when a principal retires a form can be filled out by the council that gives feedback on the qualities, attributes, strengths they feel would be best for the school.

How can the Parent Council get access to the school internet during Parent Council meetings at the school?

- Schools have the ability to set up guest wifi for each event / meeting. They require the meeting attendees' email accounts in advance. The guest wifi access is time limited (5 days maximum).

What are the top 5 take-aways the Director has from his meetings with Parent Council/Principals? How will you use the information going forward?

Director Hahn addressed this question in his opening remarks (above). Director Hahn plans to publish a report for Trustees and schools in late spring or early fall for 2026.

Will chromebooks be required for learning in high school classes and will TLDSB be issuing them to every student?

- We are currently reviewing evidence based instructional strategies to determine the best way to strengthen academic skills (across all pathways).
- We are learning a lot this year about teaching and learning. This learning has highlighted the importance of hands-on work, such as manipulatives, and the need for students to learn to handwrite, which evidence shows improves reading and learning.

What is the process for winter electives?

Winter electives are an individual school-based decision. Principals make this decision based on their local context and priorities. Their decisions must align with school culture or improvement goals. Factors that principals consider when deciding on winter electives are:

- Equitable access for every student
- Financial implications for families
- Staff skills and abilities to offer electives
- Logistical considerations (eg. supervision, space, scheduling)

This question has prompted us to begin a review of winter electives.

6. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

7. Upcoming meetings and events

DSC-PIC meetings are held four times per year. All meetings take place from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The last scheduled meeting for 2025-26 is:

- Wednesday, May 13, 2026, Lindsay Education Centre | Virtual

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.