

**Council of Commissioners Report****Meeting of December 15, 2014****Report of Chair**

- talked to school visits during their Xmas performances
- spoke to schools' deliverance of food baskets and clothing to needy families
- spoke to Commissioners meeting their community stakeholders
- spoke to annual Xmas show performance by LBPSB personnel
- wished everyone a merry holiday season

**Report of Director General**

- spoke to developing plans for 2015-2016 year, based upon enrollment projections
- spoke to enrollment process
- spoke to retirement of Thorndale Principal – Patricia Higgins
- wished everyone a happy holiday

**PTU President**

- Spoke to anger among teachers due to Board's decision to maintain Dec 19<sup>th</sup> as a full day of teaching, instead of the tradition of the approximately 15 or so past years of making it a half day.
- Asked the following specific questions:
  1. Who made the decision?
  2. What was the logic?
  3. What forces were behind the decision?
  4. Why was it announced at a relatively late date?

**Reply:**

1. School board directorate
2. Dec. 19 is a full day in the calendar so this is not a change
3. Parents: they would have difficulty housing their children especially with day care closed. So school board took that into consideration.
4. There is no change to calendar so late date isn't relevant

Follow up question: So were parents the driving force?

Answer: Well, we looked at it after the previous June 23 issue; we will also look at next June 23. Of course the hard working teachers will instill other than book knowledge in the afternoon of Dec 19<sup>th</sup>; so it doesn't have to be pedagogical – teachers will surely perform in their usual professional manner.

PTU President said "I'll pass that comment along to the teachers".

Submitted by:  
John Donnelly