



York Region District School Board

Finland Jurisdictional Learning Opportunity

April 13-16, 2015



Jurisdictional Learning Goals

Continue our ongoing learning partnership with Espoo, Finland

Investigate Espoo's Partnerships with Community Mental Health Agencies

Explore Learning Spaces (physical learning environment, community use of schools, shared spaces)

Learn about post-secondary education pathways and explore Finland's increasing focus on STEM education



Participants

Staff:

Avital Amar, Ruth Carmichael, Shanti Caswell, Stephanie Gilbert, Allan Hoyle, Ken Leang, Maria Maiato, Janani Pathy, Kathy Prince, Rita Russo, Lisa Walsh, Fiona Weller, Heather Young

Trustees:

Corrie McBain, Juanita Nathan



Funding

Item	Amount	Notes
Hotels, Flights, Meals	\$ 1077	Staff Personal Professional Development Funds Board of Trustees Professional Development Allowance (as per YRDSB Policy/Procedure #228, Trustee Services)
Gifts and Plaques	\$ 389	Board Budget, National/International Events
Ground Transportation and Finnish Educational Leadership Consultant	\$ 13,802	Board Budget, National/International Events



Espoo City Education - Quick Facts

2nd Largest City in Finland, 265,000 People

91 Comprehensive Schools , 15 Upper/Vocational Schools

3,300 Teachers, 33,400 Students

3 Universities (2 Polytechnic)



The Finnish Education Unit, City of Espoo

New Pedagogies for Deep Learning: A Global Partnership

Ministry of Education

Learning Clusters

Partnerships

Capacity Building

Citizenship, Collaboration, Character, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking

School Visit to Etela-Tapiolan Lukio (Upper Secondary)

International Baccalaureate School

Flexible Learning Spaces

Student Voice in Designing Spaces



School Visits to Viherkallio & Koulumestari (Grades 0-6)

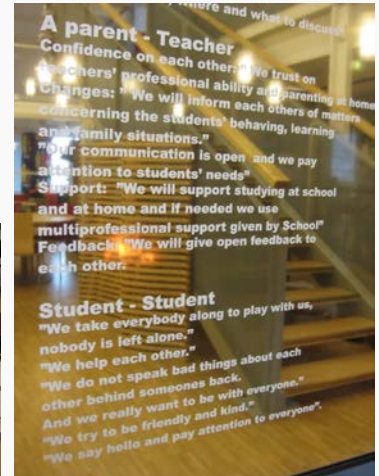
Goal: Make the School an Engaging Community-Innovation and Creativity

Team Organization and Shared Leadership

The Joy of Learning and Doing Together

ICT and 21st Century Skills

Mathematics - Develop Critical Thinking, Find and Solve Problems



School Visits to Tiistila (Grades 0-9) & Aarnivalkea and Tahtiniitty



Role of Daycare in Schools

The Outdoor Learning Environment

Hands-On Learning, Students as Specialists

Pedagogical Teams

STEM

Promoting Mental Health - Staircases to Step When a Child Needs Help (Under School Age - Psychologist at Child Health Clinic; School Age - School Social Worker, School Psychologist, School Doctor; Adult - Family Advice Centre)



Aalto University - Startup Sauna (Entrepreneur Startup)

To inspire entrepreneurs-to-be

To support early stage startups on their way

To change negative attitudes

To bring resources together

Coaching

Startup Life Internships

Build It. Code It. Pitch It (Talk)





Aalto University - Lumarts Laboratory



Mission - Where Science and Art meet Technology and Business (“Joy of Insight and Success”)

To inspire and motivate children and youth to study mathematics, natural sciences and technology through the latest tools and methods of science and technology education

Promote awareness among the parents of children and youth about the significance of studying STEM subjects and the professional opportunities they provide

Support educational research and the lifelong learning and education of future and current STEM teachers



Activities in Practice

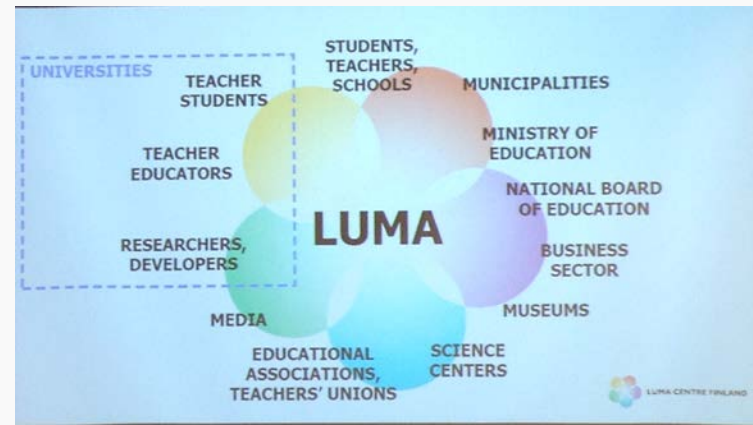
Science and technology clubs, camps, theme days and courses for children and youth (in both physical and virtual environments across the country; to support these activities instructor training is organized as part of basic teacher education)



Research-based development in the field is advanced via jointly organized events and the scientific journal LUMAT

Science Education in Finland

- LUMA Science Education Centre Finland inspires and motivates children and youth to study mathematics, natural sciences and technology through the latest tools and methods of science and technology education
- 11 LUMA centres in Finland focussing on STEM education
- Top courses for high school students (16-18) are micro and nano technology, space and satellites, geology and geophysics, biotechnology and the arts



Visit to University of Helsinki, Department of Teacher Education



Specifics of the Finnish School

Curriculum

Changes in Teacher Education

Finnish Classroom Teachership

Two Types of Teacher

Two Types of Teacher Education

Assessment - National Background

Assessment in Finland: The National Centre for Educational Evaluation (KAYM) The Finnish



Summary

Student Learning - Inquiry, Hands-On, Role of Student in Tasks, Extensions Across the Curriculum, The Joy of Learning, Exposure to holistic structures that support teaching & learning, Outdoor Learning Environments, STEM focus

Professional Culture - Trust, Relationships, Leadership, Education is a relatively highly regarded profession in Finland, all teachers have Master's degree

Collaboration - Partnerships in Student Learning and Educator Professional Practice, Educator teams are highly dependent on each other

Use and Design of Spaces - Student Voice, Environment as Third Teacher, School as Extension of Home, Common Lunches/Meals (Family)