WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
STUDENT SENATE MEETING

Minutes

Speakers:
- Ms. A Mercier, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being
  Presentation and Discussion on Literacy Test and EQAO
    - EQAO developed by Ontario educators and are in line with Ontario curriculum
    - EQAO is standardized testing that takes place at every school in Ontario to assess the literacy and knowledge of students. It occurs in grade 3, grade 6 and grade 10.
    - Literacy Test - standardized grade 10 testing that all students must pass, allows reflection on current institutional practices
    - brainstorming definition of literacy- being able to interpret and analyze writing, how to work and deal with words, interpreting information assume for yourself what it means, affects every aspect of life (social perception)
    - if a student fails the test then the test must be retaken, if failed again they may take the Literacy Course (OSSLC), if they fail that then an adjudication process takes place (student is able to submit work to prove that they have reached the standard)
    - Students who did poorly in grade 6 EQAO tended to also do poorly in grade 10 literacy tests. -> what are we doing to help improve kids from grade 6 to grade 10?
    - There are accommodations for kids with learning disabilities
    - The WRDSB 7 family of school's superintendents are going to take action to improve results
    - Students provided feedback to the speaker via interactive discussions and app: Today's Meet

Policies and Governance:
- Terms of Reference - Discussed decision making process
- When a vote is called each school gets ONE vote, if a school is not present they do not get a vote as they won't be apart of the discussion and won't be able to make an informed opinion
- Majority rules
- If a tie occurs, Student Trustees break it

Board Policy/Procedures Review:
- Student Trustees posted a link on the Student Senate Facebook group to a document that explains every policy and when it will be reviewed
- They have also posted another link that explains each policy more in depth

- We would encourage that before coming to meetings you review what policies are going to be discussed at the board during that month, and if you would like to discuss it can be added to the Student Senate agenda

Issues and Discussion:

Gather Questions for Budget meeting
- Where does the money go? A lot of teachers have told us there is not enough funding to buy classroom materials such as textbooks. How is the money being distributed? How much money does each department get?
- How much money goes towards magnet programs?
- Why is some money being distributed to certain schools rather than others?
- How much does the ministry give per student?
- How do they decide which schools they implement "pilot programs" in?
- Does the location of a school affect the funding it receives?
- What portion of the budget is put towards health and safety?
- How much money goes towards maintenance?
- Budget for outdoor classrooms?
- Why is newcomer program funding different per schools?
- Do clubs or extracurricular clubs get different budgets?
- Who takes care of the budget, who's does the budget for individual schools?
- Why can't new magnet programs get as much funding?
- Has salaries for administrators within schools and within the board gone up or down in the last few years?

More Discussion on Student Senate Meeting Agenda Items
- More discussion of the schedule of events (sports, music, etc.)
- Who coordinates events that involve multiple schools (ie; WCSSA, CWOSSA)
- Discuss more about different schools (clubs, extracurricular activities, exchange of ideas)
- Collaboration of schools with similar programs (Schools with similar clubs having a collab sessionm eco summit?)
- Multi school council
- IT at schools -> Marc Carbone
- Internet safety
- Course fees
- Unhealthy food days, food and nutrition at schools
- Vending machine items, who decides what goes in?
- Implementation of non-gendered washrooms
- Sexual health policies

- Failing and late policies
- Late policies
- Selection of senators

Adjournment