

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

STUDENT SENATE MEETING

Minutes

Date: February 10, 2016

Call to Order: 19:07 (7:07 PM)

Adjournment: 21:10 (9:10 PM)

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Speakers

Ms. Marty Deacon, Executive Officer of Engagement & Communications (7:09 PM)

Discussion on Student Senate and Student Trustees

- Topics of discussion
 - Expanding student senate for the next year
 - The importance of student senate
 - Selection process for student trustees next year
- How were/are student senate members recruited at your school?
 - CHCI: Peer-to-peer information
 - ECI: No prerequisite; students are asked by SAC members, principal, or teachers
 - HH: Peer-to-peer information
 - GRCI: Incoming co-president told that student senate is part of their responsibilities
 - WO: Picked from a list of interested SAC students
 - WCI: Previous student senate members recruit members for the next year
 - FHCI: Individuals are recruited by school staff or other senators
 - Overall...
 - There is little information on what student senate is
 - The recruitment process lacks consistency between schools
 - Staff and teachers may only know that there is a student trustee and that they get paid
- What did your friends or peers tell you about student senate?
 - Similar to student council but with the school board
 - Opportunity for student voice to be heard at the board level
 - Forum for students to give input on what they would like to see happen
- As a student senate member, how would you describe it?
 - Forum for students
 - Group for students by students where you can learn how to make an impact
- What did you expect student senate to be that it isn't?
 - Thought there would be more trustees at each meeting

- All senate members are encouraged to come to board meetings
 - Thought that senate would be more formal
 - Glad that the adults are not just talking at us, but seem to be listening to what we have to say
- What does senate not do that you wish it did?
 - Relevant questions from students at each school are not brought in for consideration
 - More discussion on day-to-day student events
 - Showing of best practices for events
 - Agenda should be driven by senate members
 - Live tweeting of questions and answers during senate meetings
- How do you communicate with students/staff at school after each senate meeting?
 - Limited communication exists concerning senate
 - Google form used to gather feedback and opinions from students
 - e.g. WO and the budget meeting
 - Most students are not aware of what student senate is
 - Advertise that it is not just for SAC members and that all students are welcome to attend
- How do you (or would you) go about recruiting senate members?
 - Should primarily be based on interest not roll within SAC (i.e. no prerequisites)
 - Be prepared with a story on what senate is and why it's important
 - Ryan and Andy will create boilerplate text to describe senate that can be shared on social media
 - Recruit during school announcements, assemblies, etc.
 - Create a strategy
 - Everyone bring one friend to the next meeting
 - Unified messaging plan
- How can we (as senate) represent all of the learners in the WRDSB?
 - New structure may be necessary to consider all of the backgrounds, cultures, etc.
- New student trustees will be needed in the coming months
 - Ryan and Andy will post the policy soon (Facebook group)
 - Remember that involvement in SAC is not a prerequisite to become a trustee

Mr. Chris Harold, Waterloo Public Health: Sexual Health Youth Strategy Manager (7:50 PM)

An overview of the Sexual Health Youth Strategy

- Strategy is not just about sex
 - Also involves healthy relationships, consent, etc.
- Where did the strategy come from?
 - 10-20 years ago, Waterloo's teenage pregnancy rates were higher than the provincial average
 - Waterloo's other health indicators (e.g. diseases) were better than the provincial average
 - Rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea were highest among 20-24 year olds, then 15-19 year olds, and more common in females
- Public health has been offering services in schools for over 20 years
 - Never asked what services students wanted
 - Polled 1,600 students and held 18 focus groups

- Should we offer x or y
 - How should we advertise and deliver x and y
- Poll results
 - Where do students go for sexual health information
 - 1. Friends/peers
 - 2. Parents/caregivers (more common in grade 9/10)
 - 3. Internet (more common in grade 11/12)
 - Difficulties in accessing the public health nurse
 - Making appointments is too complex
 - Some services are only available at the public health office
- Public health is not the only option in the region
 - Planned parenthood
 - ACCKWA
 - Roof
 - SASC-WR
- The Strategy
 - Focus areas
 - Access
 - Education
 - Parents
 - Emphasis on
 - Begin earlier (access to nurses)
 - Continue later (access to nurses)
 - Use technology
 - Equity
 - Priority populations
 - Youth engagement
- Services for students
 - Text messaging service for questions
 - Contraception available onsite at 13/17 high schools
 - Condoms, birth control, emergency contraception
 - Youth sexual health clinics
 - Downtown community centre
 - YMCA teen drop-in
 - Posters in schools
 - Immunization clinic, tuberculosis clinic, and sexual health clinic operate together
 - Removes stigma
 - Working to make access easier
 - Problems getting information to students
 - Guides for parents on what they should discuss with their children
- Plan going forward
 - New focus on males
 - Traditional sexual health has been targeted at females
 - Working with the school board to integrate local information into the curriculum
 - Polling with parents on what they talk about with their children

- Making bus tickets and, in some cases, taxi rides, available to students if they need transportation to a clinic

Ms. Risa Gordon, Waterloo Public Health: In-School Public Health Nurse (8:20 PM)

The role of public health nurses

- Present at each school for ½ days and generally shared between two schools
 - Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays
 - Average of 15 people per day
- Nurses decide how students access them
 - Drop in or pre-booked appointments
- Always maintain confidentiality
- WO: Nurse's office is through the entryway to the boy's washroom
 - Difficult to access
- Not just contraception, but relationships as well
 - Can come with friends
- Looking into nurses being present more often
 - Presents a challenge as this would mean other programs may be cut
- All schools are not equal
 - GRCI has the most accessed nurse
 - Adopt strategies based on need, location, availability, etc.
- One session of comprehensive counselling can take up to an hour
 - Difficult to see many students
- Working on better advertising the programs and services through posters or in-school events
 - Tweet (via @wrdsb) when nurses are at each school

Question/Answer

- Are pregnancy tests available in schools?
 - Yes, and confidentiality will be maintained
- What services to males typically access?
 - Contraception
 - Testicular cancer screening/information
 - STI testing
 - Sexual orientation
 - Types of sexual acts
- Do you see a time when the HPV vaccine will be publicly provided for males? Question already Cced to MOHLTC
 - Ministry is currently looking at ages and conducting research
 - Cost benefit (outcome) analysis underway
 - Currently under discussion

Policies, Governance, and Updates (8:42 PM)

- Student Trustee Board Policy: Ryan and Andy
- Will take the below suggestions to the board for approval
 - In the event of only one or two applicants for student trustee
 - Allow the two applicants
 - Requirements

- Should have attended more than half of meetings
- Resume
- Letter of interest
- Letter of recommendation (principal or teacher)
- Letter of recommendation (community or teacher)
- Full time senior student (grade 11/12)
- Process
 - Submit application to Ms. Deacon
 - Checks if requirements are met
 - Applicant undergoes interview with trustees
 - Applicant gives presentation/speech to senate
 - Senate votes (if more than 2)
 - The winner is acclaimed
- Departing student trustees make recommendations for next year's trustees
- Application package/information will be available on Facebook
- Next meeting
 - Consider how we should promote student senate
 - Senate webpage coming soon
 - Consider adding pictures of the senators from each school so students can see who they should contact
 - Chief of Police for Waterloo Regional Police Service

Activity Updates (9:02 PM)

Event	Cause/Description	Date/Time	Location
Floorball tournament	School-wide competition in floorball	To end of n week	WO
Success at DECA	Congratulations!	Passed	GRCI
Semi-formal	"The best semi-formal in WRDSB"	Feb. 18	HH
Led Zeppelin*	LZ cover band plus string ensemble*	Feb, 27 at 7:30*	ECI*
Semi-formal	Held at the Pearl Nightclub	Feb. 11	CHCI
Fed/Prov	Model government simulation	Apr. 26-27	CHCI

* Message Angel on Facebook to get discounted tickets