

ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday November 3, 2015 7:00-9:00pm

Forest Heights Collegiate Library

Attendance: 29 School Council Representatives

1 Guest

6 Members of the 2015-2016 WRAPSC Steering Committee

1. Welcome & Introduction of Steering Committee

Laurie Tremble, PIC/WRAPSC Co-Chair

Laurie welcomed everyone and introduced the WRAPSC Steering Committee.

WRAPSC Steering Committee 2015/2016

Laurie Tremble, Co-Chair, WRAPSC/PIC

Jessica Rodriguez, Co-Chair, WRAPSC

Glenn Anderson, Treasurer, WRAPSC/PIC

Erica Beck, Communications Coordinator, WRAPSC

Jordan Jackson, WRAPSC/PIC Member-at-large

Kerri Gettliffe, WRAPSC/PIC Member-at-large

Hend Shalan, WRAPSC/PIC Member-at-large

Motion: approve agenda for November 3, 2015.

Francios Sfigakis motioned. Hend Shalan seconded. Motion carried by majority vote.

Motion: Approve minutes from October 7, 2015 WRAPSC Meeting

Francios Sfigakis motioned. Jennifer McKinnon seconded. Motion carried by majority vote.

2. PIC/WRAPSC Co-Chairs Report

Laurie Tremble, PIC/WRAPSC Co-Chair

- Director Town Hall - Laurie promoted the the Director Town Hall and encouraged everyone to sign up to support the event. Dates are November 12 at Eastwood, November 19 at Bluevale and November 26 at Galt.
- PRO Grant - safeTALK Training information night November 10th at 7pm at the Ed Centre for parents that might want to be a safeTALK trainer or learn more information. More information can be obtained from Laurie.
- Upcoming events - WRAPSC would like to help councils and staff promote engagement opportunities for parents across the WRDSB. If you have an event coming up that you would like us to promote, email details to wrapsc@gmail.com and we will post it on Facebook and on the PIC website as a News Item and in the Events section. Coming up at Cameron Heights is Your Child, Our Future, an information night for parents, students and the community about LGBTQ Youth. The event runs from 6:30-8:30pm on Wednesday, November 18. Contact kelly_main@wrdsb.on.ca for more information.
- Reps were encouraged to suggest future WRAPSC meeting agenda topics. The following suggestions were received:
 - o a presentation by SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee)
- Communication Update - There was confusion on the use of social media for councils (Administrative Procedure 4065). The following information was received by Marty Deacon, Superintendent, Communication and Engagement:
 - o A school council member will approach the principal to request a social media account. The principal should provide support in the following ways: work with central staff to set page up, meet with school council rep to determine next steps including who will have access, communication protocol. Understandings this is board business, school councils are part of the board and therefore this work must be led and have oversight by the principal. Principals require overview and access. Information posted could be posted by the principal, a school staff member or a designated rep from your school council
 - o School councils will be included in that section for social media on the website procedure
- PIC Update - The meeting took place on October 27, 2015 and the 2015/2016 team is
 - o Laurie Tremble, WRAPSC/PIC Co-Chair
 - o Christine Rose, PIC Co-Chair
 - o Glenn Anderson, WRAPSC/PIC Treasurer
 - o Hend Shalan, Kerri Gettliffe, Jordan Jackson, WRAPSC/PIC Members-at-Large
 - o Jill Magazine, Joe Ortiz, Kathryn Aucoin Kuldeep Singh Rana, PIC Members-at-Large
 - o Alayne Hynes, Community Rep
 - o Kevin O'Reilly, Secondary Principal Rep
 - o Kim Graham, Teacher Rep
 - o Kathi Smith, Trustee
 - o John Bryant, Director of Education

- o Vacant, Elementary Principal Rep
- WRPASC/PIC Parent Event - April 16, 2015 - The sub-committee has been formed and the members organizing the event are Jordan Jackson, Co-chair, Christine Rose, interim co-chair, Kathi Smith, Barb Dowling, Angelica Allen, Glenn Anderson, Kerri Gettliffe, Alayne Hynes, along with various parent volunteers. We are always looking for more help for the event! Contact Jordan Jackson at jordan2@rogers.com for more information.
- Community Hubs - the Ontario government created a panel to look into the barriers to creating community hubs in the province and ways to overcome those barriers. The use of school buildings came up throughout the report. Copies of the report generated were sent to our board and through WRAPSC to parents. Feedback was requested. Several WRAPSC and PIC members provided feedback which was combined into a report given to trustees to consider in drafting their own feedback for the provincial government. Laurie is willing to share the Community HUB report that she put together. Contact WRAPSC to get a copy.
- Labour Update - EFTO reached a tentative agreement and teachers are resuming normal duties. Support staff is still being negotiated. Members had asked if WRAPSC could have done anything during the labour unrest. Laurie reached out to the group to see if anyone had feedback or concerns.

Q. Would parents have been able to have provided more extracurricular support during a labour action?

A. The WRDSB policy is that parents are not able to for liability reasons, but that Trustees are re-looking at it during the next Trustees January meeting. The only circumstance might be if a parent/student is offering to work alongside of a board staff member, vs in place of.

Action Item: Kathi Smith urged all to provide feedback for the meeting in January, and will pass forward the actual policy for reference to Laurie/Jessica to share. Pursuant to the conversation, AP 1415 speaks to the use of volunteers in the school specifically, section 3.3.4:

"3.3 Volunteers shall:

3.3.4 Be responsible to the Principal and work under the supervision of the teaching staff;"

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/AP-1415-Use-of-Volunteers-March-2015.pdf>

Comment: A rep commented that if you wanted to organize an event offsite, you could still have extracurricular activities but then it wouldn't be considered a board organized event. There could be liability issues for parents running this type of event.

3. SCIS update

Jill Magazine, PIC Member-at-large

Jill introduced herself as a 3rd term PIC member and current PIC SCIS sub-committee chair. She shared her passion for this important topic and has been involved with SCIS for 5 years in some capacity. Jill's handout is attached to these minutes. Jill reached out to reps to share the SCIS website and ask for all schools to help share the message, and her goal is to have the board support the initiative more. The website is CASL compliant. Additional questions or comments can be emailed to: sciscollaborate@gmail.com

Q. Should this be more administrators driven?

A. Yes, because this is board mandated, each administrator should be getting notification by the board to provide a list of the school's current SCIS team members.

4. School Bus Safety - *Safe Hand-off Procedures for our Youngest Riders*

Benoit Bourgeault, General Manager STSWR

Benoit spoke about Kindergarten Transportation Safety, and the challenges to the current process. New to the Best Practices: 1. All backpack tags are now colour coded, and the buses are colour coded, along with colour cones as visual aid to bussing support. 2. A parent to come to the bus door and ask for the kindergarten student by name. 3. Communication: A flyer will be mailed in August to all parents of children attending kindergarten in September with all important information.

STSWR faces many challenges. Children are new to school, new environment, can't see outside. Drivers have a very complex role with having to supervise up to 72 children, drive, other motorists, etc. STSWR also manages a high level of turnover/absenteeism drivers, along with language barriers. Review of best practices and improving training/education is on-going.

Q. On average, how many bus stops could one bus make?

A. The ideal is that less than 10 kindergarten children per stop, but depending on the density of population would alter. Number of stops varies greatly.

Q. Will eventually all elementary students have bus buddies, or is it just for kindergarten students or mandate that patrollers are STSWR staff vs other peer students?

A. The goal is to have a buddy for all kindergarten students, but manpower is always a challenge.

Q. Could there be more of a checks and balance of a head count before letting kids on/off the bus?

A. The challenge STSWR faces is that there are so many variables with their drivers and with children who are picked up early, picked up by people other than parents, etc.

Q. It seems that the new procedures are not being followed, for example that the younger kids are getting off first instead of last.

A. This is a challenge and clearly not all drivers have bought in to the new system. STSWR takes responsibility for that and is trying to get drivers to buy in.

The following questions were left and forwarded to Nick Landry and Benoit Bourgeault as we ran out of time for questions during the meeting.

Q. Has the bell time changes to "streamline" bussing created extra stress on the drivers to keep time spent at each stop to a minimum?

A. No, adjusting bell times allowed us to re-use a bus 2-3 times in the morning and afternoon, instead of just using the bus for one "run". We have not changed the amount of time built into a route for "stops".

Q. Why are students not allowed to take instruments on the bus? This is especially a problem in middle school. Kids can't practice if they can't take the instrument home, and parents can't always get off work to pick up the child/instrument. This impacts learning.

A. Safety is the primary issue- There are no empty seats on most runs to accommodate the number of instruments that would be brought onto the bus. The aisle must remain unobstructed for safety reasons and this regulated under the Highway Traffic Act.

The back rest of the seats are soft and energy absorbent in case of a collision or hard stopping. When a student has a hard shell case on their lap, the likelihood of serious injury occurring in the event of a sudden stop or collision increases significantly.

Q. If the bus is late, phone calls need to come sooner. If students are already standing on the corner freezing, it is too late.

The bus operator will attempt to contact families when the delay is longer than 20 minutes. However, with limited administrative staff available at the depot, this process becomes very difficult. The bus operators are posting delays over 10 minutes

on our web portal which can generate email notification to families. Families can register for this free service at <https://bpweb.stswr.ca/Subscriptions/Login.aspx>

A. We are currently investigating the possibility of sending the delays notification in SMS text format which may reach more people.

Q. If a replacement bus is sent, ID is needed on the bus. Driver can't just pull up and say "get on". How does the student know this is the right bus? Need sign that says "this is KCI bus route 2" or something.

A. With over 250 large buses on the road every day, the bus operators first priority is to get the students to school/home safely and timely. When an unexpected delay happens and a vehicle is reassigned at the last minute, adjusting signs is not always an option. Planned replacements have signs up.

The driver should inform the students where the bus is going and we will continue to communicate this to operators.

Q. Suggestion: re: School bus safety. Having a volunteer at each stop to organize and check who should be dropped off at this stop.

A. Great suggestion, can the School /School Council organize this?

5. The Ontario College of Teachers - What they do and resources available for parents

Gabriel Johnston & Joe Jamieson

Joe Jamieson thanked the group for having them speak, and gave an engaging presentation of the roles and responsibilities of the college in the interest of the public.

The Ontario College of Teachers was est. in 1997 to allow teachers to regulate and govern their own profession in the public interest. There are currently 240,000 members of Ontario College of Teachers. The ethical standards of the college are Care, Trust, Respect & Integrity. The college is governed by 37 council members (23 elected by the profession, 14 from the government), and is a council that is an opportunity for anyone in the public. You can always search the website (www.oct.ca) to look at the public register or disciplinary records. When operating in the public interest, the challenge is the right to privacy against the right against transparency. The college is committed to providing transparency to the public. A paper went around for members to sign up for The Standard, the OCT quarterly newsletter. If you didn't get a chance to sign this, contact WRAPSC and we can pass along Gabriel's contact information so you can get on the mailing list.

There was discussion of the appropriateness of taking action against a member based on religious beliefs as in the case of Trinity Western University in BC. Mr. Jamieson made the distinction that the Trinity Western case was about accreditation of a teacher training program vs. discipline of a member.

6. Miscellaneous and Closing

Jessica Rodriguez, WRAPSC Co-Chair

Jessica thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone of the next meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7pm.

