

Attendance:

- 23 representatives from 25 different schools and 3 guests
- 5 members of the 2014-15 WRAPSC Steering Committee

Agenda & Approval of April Minutes: Christine Gillis Bilton

- One addition for tonight: Chris Martin-Root
- No amendments to the April minutes
- Motion to approve: Jeff Stephens, second: Angelica Allen. Approved.

Chris Martin-Root, parent, New Dundee PS : School Speed Zones

- Concerns have been raised regarding the speed limits on our regional roads, around our schools.
- Taken this issue beyond his town of New Dundee, to the other schools in Wilmot Township (Baden, Forest Glen, Grandview), and to Wilmot Township itself.
- Most recently raised to Regional Council where Chris “...stated that the schools want speed restrictions to be permanent, consistent, well-communicated and strictly enforced and no periodic restrictions...”
- School principals are isolated from the issue; parent councils need to speak up and get involved. Contact Chris at (chrisandjoelle@rogers.com) for more information
- Update: in a Kitchener Post article on May 7th, speed surveys will be conducted from May to September and the information presented back to Regional Council in October.

PIC Event: Laurie Tremble

Building Skills to Navigate the School Years" at Bluevale: had 300 register but only 225 attend. Great feedback about keynote, Lesley Andrew. We had 7 translators working with parents. Presentations being gathered. Huge thank you to Alicia Sumner & Christine Rose for leading this initiative and ALL of our fantastic volunteers!

Nick Chiarelli, Vice-Principal, Queensmount PS

Nick opened with the following slide:

Welcome
Добродошао - Serbian
Bienvenida- Spanish
歡迎 - Chinese
مرحبا - Arabic
Chào mừng - Vietnamese
soo dhowow - Somali
Karibu- Swahili

Parents/guardians/new immigrant families from grades 7 and 8 were invited to learn more about the report card, what to ask during a parent/teacher interview and to try and make them feel more welcome in the school. Steps:

- Identify the languages spoken in the building (used Trillium; 39 languages were identified!)
- Top 7 languages + English were chosen to translate and build letters to send home to families (used Google translate and made a lot of phone calls)
- Communicate the workshop (Twitter, Facebook, school website, called parents personally asking for their attendance)
- Held the workshop in the morning, providing interpreters and daycare
- Provided a package for parents with the PowerPoint notes, a homework tip sheet, in their language and a sample of progress/report cards
- New immigrants are leery to attend school council because they do not know what it is and what the rules are. An invitation needs to be personal!
- Presentation on the WRAPSC public Google doc site.

Open discussion/Presentations – Assembly members

Open forum for Assembly Members to share your successes and events from the year. Posters around to room, for you to record the topics you like to see on future agendas.

Bridgeport PS presented “Binary Tattoo” about web safety and extremely informative! Approximately 50 attended; up from 20 at a previous event. Contact Cat Coode at www.binarytattoo.com if you would like more information.

Forest Hill PS provided KW Counselling on “Big Feelings” which was not well attended; although translation was offered. Future ideas include a seminar about lice prevention and how to make lunches your kids will eat.

KCI provided a series of 3 free seminars for parents: mental health, sex, drugs. Advertised by website, email & WRAPSC Facebook page. 25 attendees including some new immigrants; even though no translation offered.

CedarBrae PS used their PRO grant to run a Science Night with Engineering Science Quest, who did all the setup and cleanup, as well as the actual science experiments. Cost was \$725 which was four workshops and was better attended than anything else they have run. Moffat Creek PS also ran a similar night to this.

Topics written by members on the posters, included:

- Google Apps for Education (GAPE)
- The new physical education curriculum

Matthew Gerard, Superintendent of Business and Treasurer of the Board & Karen Newland, Controller of Financial Services

- Funding = \$22.46 billion which is approximately \$11, 451 per student
- Two-thirds of GSN (Grant for Student Needs) is enrollment based and GSN is 90% of revenue received
- 1516 GSN is forecast to be 226 ADE (avg days enrolled which is similar to FTE) over this current year
- 1516 forecast: elementary up and secondary stable
- 1617 forecast : decline in secondary
- Extended day does not generate profit
- Classroom instruction (teacher salaries/benefits) make up 76% of expenditures
- This year a 102% reduction of GSN was expected but wasn't as significant.
- 1617 will likely be difficult also
- New reporting required this year for Safe Schools allocation
- Budget discussion at board meetings in June, approved by June 29, submitted to MOE by June 30
- Tons of information on the Ministry of Education website
- Presentation available on the WRAPSC public Google doc site

Q: Previously Marilyn Allen asked for parental input from WRAPSC parents. Is this still the case?

A: Yes, always looking for parental input and are currently looking at the data collected from 1415 survey. Public meetings being held in June or send input to Matthew directly: matthew_gerard@wrdsb.on.ca

Q: How does collective bargaining impact the budget?

A: Lots of unknowns but moving forward by making assumptions and hope that if there are increases, there will be increases to the GSN also.

PIC Co-Chair report: Laurie Tremble

- PIC Co-Chairs: Laurie & Christine Rose attended the PIC Symposium held by the Ministry of Education ; document with highlights will be sent out soon.
- CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) website has tons of great resources for parents and school councils & they are working on a “math skills” program.
- Pan Am & Para Pan Am games are coming in July; activity day box (green pizza box) sent to schools.
- PIC website now has a resource centre for Safe, Caring Inclusive Schools!
- Regarding the new physical education curriculum: sex ed part is one small part of this new curriculum. Parent resources on the Ministry of Education website: elementary and secondary. People for Education has also developed a tip sheet which is on their website also.
- PIC has formed a subcommittee on new immigrant/parent engagement and is in early planning stages. Ideas include going to schools with a high percentage of immigrants. Let PIC know if you are interested in joining
- Looking for new members: application now available on the PIC website; application due Oct 16/15.

WRAPSC Co-Chair report: Christine Gillis Bilton

Grad costs: we were able to collect the following information from a few schools about how they cover costs:

- Eastwood Student costs: Commencement: \$35, Prom: \$55
- Baden: the school buys all the awards, certificates and plaques for the students, church/hall rental, DJ. Charge a fee of \$25 but that is primarily for the school yearbook and council pays up to \$1000 for costs.
- JF Carmicheal: School Council covers the cost of some graduation expenses: provide "locks" for all graduates (grade 6) and we provide baked goods at the ceremony for the graduates and their families.

Discussion ensued about high schools and whether they are allowed to have their grad events off site.

- Forest Heights grad committee was taking it offsite this year.
- Bluevale is holding its dance on a different night than grad and got sponsors to reduce the costs.
- MacGregor sent home a letter about what is not appropriate i.e. limos and tuxedos.
- This has been done for years in this area.
- What is your school doing for grad? How is it handed? If your school is doing grad items different than plaques, please share.

WRAPSC Steering Committee

- October starts the new term and we are looking for new members!

School Council handbook: project will be done over summer

- We got some fantastic suggestions after the last meeting. Any volunteers?

Trustees advised there are special meetings coming up to discuss the 1516 budget, and hear from delegations.

- June 1: Special Committee of the Whole - 7pm -table 15-16 Budget
- June 3: Special Committee of the Whole - 7pm - 15-16 Budget Discussions
- June 10: Special Committee of the Whole - 7pm 15-16 Budget Discussions, Special Delegation Meeting
- June 15: Committee of the Whole - 7pm
- June 17: Special Committee of the Whole - 7pm - 15-16 Budget Discussions
- June 22: Committee of the Whole - 7pm
- June 24: Special Board Meeting - 7pm Approval of the 15-16 Budget
- June 29: Board Meeting - 7pm

Director's Town Hall

- Coming this November! An evening for all School Council Chairs and principals to join board staff, WRAPSC and PIC members along with seasoned council members to hear from our director and attend breakout sessions focused around school council.

WRAPSC Facebook page - tons of great feedback about this resource. Please continue!

Q: Are school councils allowed to start their own Facebook page?

A: Facebook is a fantastic resource and communication tool. Because users have to opt into using it, it does not fall under CASL. ~~Principals cannot veto the school council from using Facebook.~~

****Amended to include this update we received. Marty Deacon (Communications and Engagement) and Mark Carbone (Chief Information Officer) have clarified this information on Facebook, to school principals and to school council chairs that have made contact with the office. We would ask that this information be corrected as part of the minutes distributed to WRAPSC.*

Issue: School Council Facebook and Social Media must be supervised and led by the school administration. Principals must hold these accounts, School Councils may provide input, School Councils are part of the WRDSB and so the information must be vetted by the principal. There has been some confusion that School Councils can set up and run Facebooks independent of the school; this is not accurate. Any further inquiries on this can be sent to Mark Carbone. We want to work together & engage school councils through every communication tool possible but the school must have oversight of the information shared.

This is our last meeting of the 1415 school year.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 6th at 7pm at Forest Heights Collegiate, school library.

Agenda will be on health and wellbeing of our students, including the new physical education curriculum. See you then!

The Top 10 Reasons to Join Your School Council

1. It's FUN! An evening out with adults!
2. It's a chance to meet nice people, with similar interests. Get to know other parents and members of the school community who share your values.
3. It is better to participate in the process than to stand in the school yard and complain.
4. Get a sense of accomplishment! Feel good about contributing to decisions about your child's education.
5. Being on council is a way to be involved for those who work during the day and cannot volunteer in the classroom.
6. It's a good way to learn about things that are happening at the school before they actually happen.
7. You get to be on a first-name basis with the school staff – teachers know you and they know your children by extension.
8. It's a good place for informed dialogue – where you can ask questions and learn more about your school.
9. Let your children know how much you care and support them. They will see that your commitment to their future is strong.
10. You can choose your time commitment. How much you get involved beyond monthly meetings is up to you!