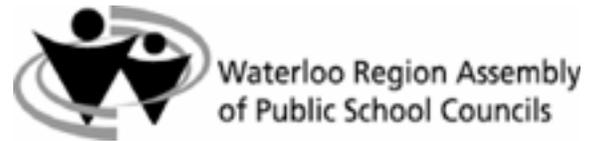


**WRAPSC Assembly Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 1, 2016
St Jacobs Learning Hub, WRDSB Office**



Attendance:

32 School Council Representatives

15 Guests

Welcome - meeting start 7:05pm

Introduction

Review of Agenda

Guests - Angela Mercier, (Superintendent), Mark Schinkel (Sr Superintendent), Elaine Ranney (Superintendent), Natalie Waddell (Trustee), Ted Martin (Trustee) , Kathi Smith (Trustee), Peter Rubenschuh (Superintendent), Matthew Gerard (Sr Superintendent), Graham Shantz (Superintendent), Ron DeBoer (Superintendent), Scott Lomax (Superintendent), Lila Read (Sr Superintendent), Nick Manning (Communications), John Bryant (Director of Education), Kathleen Woodcock (Chairperson of the Board)

Approval of agenda and minutes from September 2016, *Jessica Rodriguez, WRAPSC Co-Chair*

Agenda

Motioned by: Christine Rose

Seconded by: Sarah Hearous

Minutes:

Motioned by: Kerri Gettliffe

Seconded by: Jordan Jackson

WRAPSC co-chair report, *Laurie Tremble, PIC-WRAPSC Co-Chair*

Jessica and Laurie were invited to the October Equity and Inclusion meeting to introduce WRAPSC and PIC.

Upcoming Events:

Susan Watt presented the following event:

Digital Citizenship Conference: November 26, 2016. Bluevale Cl. 9am-2pm

The purpose is to provide support of digital citizenship with parents/families in support of student achievement and well-being.

Free event

Keynote - Jennifer Moss, Co-founder of Plasticity Labs - positivity in the workplace and the school

Many other speakers and educators will be leading sessions

Digital Playground for parents to try out some of the tools students are using in the schools.

Lunch and childcare options available

Dcsummit.weebly.com to register and for more information

Formal launch - October 15

There is also a volunteer section on the registration link if you are interested in helping out. Susanmwatt@gmail.com

People For Education Conference - November 12. Toronto www.peopleforeducation.ca

Conference about Dyslexia - November 12 www.idaontario.com

Perimeter Institute - Power of Ideas. Will take place in 2017. Theme is process of science with lots of hands on exhibits for grade 6 and up.

Safetalk - This is a program that continues in the Region. There are two dates upcoming - Nov 7 and Dec 1 taking place at the Education Centre. If interested in signing up, reach out to Laurie/Jessica.

Parent Involvement Committee - Next meeting is November 8. IES subcommittee is running workshops for newcomers at Franklin this fall. SCIS subcommittee has been working on SCIS materials to support safe school teams. PIC-WRAPSC Parent Event is April 8, 2017. Save the date! More information to follow in the coming months.

Learning Disabilities Association Conference - Dec 8, Guelph. ADHD and Mental Health. www.idawc.ca

Check out the WRDSB website, WRAPSC website and PIC website for information. To sign up for regular news updates go to board's main page and at the bottom you can subscribe to receive news items.

Board Strategic Plan

Kathleen Woodcock (Chairperson of the Board)

Kathleen made reference to the book, 'The Happiness Equation', Neil Pasricha, and how the structure of happiness leaves you with one bucket to spend on you and doing things that make you happy. Kathleen fills her final bucket with her passion about education and this passion is what brings everyone here tonight. Kathleen thanked everyone attending for their ongoing support and commitment.

John Bryant (Director of Education)

John made the connection that Jennifer Moss, keynote speaker of the Digital Citizenship Conference, is also a speaker at the World Summit of Happiness.

John welcomed everyone to the 'Learning Hub' and how it is a dream come true to have this room completed to support student achievement and well being. John opened up the Learning Hub and Education Centre to parents and welcomed them to come here anytime to work and learn.

John introduced the Strategic Plan and that earlier this year, and with input from across the system, an important part of the strategic plan has been finalized - the three strategic priorities: 'Our students are first, each and every one. Our staff, families and caregivers are partners in every student's learning journey. And... Our culture of innovation builds students' confidence and success as they face the future'. The three operational goals to support the strategic priorities are in the areas of mathematics, graduation rates and student and staff well-being. Staff have engaged in a process using the Assess, Reflect, Plan, Act framework. Each of the goals is broken down into four areas: Learning Services (covering schools and academic teams), Business Services (covering all aspects of financial management and facilities), Human Resources Services, Corporate Services (covering IT services and communications). Strategic plan messaging has been shared with system leaders and staff continue to work hard to ensure that priorities, commitments and operational goals are communicated to key audiences across the district.

John handed the presentation over to Lila Read to review the key strategies using the framework John had introduced.

Lila Read (Sr Superintendent)

Lila reinforced that although staff have put a lot of work into the process to date, they still have a lot of work ahead to ensure the ambitious targets are reached. Looking at each area, staff have identified strategies that will elevate performance over the next three years. Lila presented several examples of the work being done to reach the goals/objectives, along with performance indicators. Implementation of the

plans presented will be monitored closely with Senior Strategy Team meeting monthly to review progress and resulting data. A timeframe was presented. A year-end report in June will be presented to Trustees.

Learn more about the Strategic Plan at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/learning>.

Lila introduced Nick Manning, Chief Communications Officer, to speak next. Nick explained that the next step, which will be his focus, is to establish a purpose statement to align with the strategic plan. Nick showed a video 'We Are All About Learning' that sets the tone about the purpose statement. He rolled out the plan to search for the purpose statement, which will involve engaging students first and then a public consultation. November 21 will be the launch of a social media blitz to encourage parent community to vote. Result of the process will be mid-December. The purpose statement will be presented to Trustees at the board meeting end of January 2017.

John closed with a story that reinforces how much we can learn from children and that parents are an important part of student achievement.

Q. Reports - interim and final reports, are they made public?

A. Reports are all written reports that are presented at board meetings are made public and posted to the board website.

Q. Does the Student Senate represent those students that are struggling?

A. During the strategic plan, staff were very careful in terms of involving a wide cross section of students to ensure a wide range of voices heard (i.e. consulting with students from alternate programs and refugee students). Student senate is also tasked to reach out to other students at their schools to gain more input. One of the key students involved is included in Crossing Borders.

Q. Strategic Plan is exciting - what are we going to see in our schools?

A. November meeting will present the math focus goal. Ask your administrator about the school improvement plan for more details specific to your school. The strategic plan drives the system and each school's improvement plan drives the school goals.

Q. Analytics - do you look at gender?

A. Absolutely. When we break down the data (i.e. EQAO), we do see there is a difference with genders. As a system we need to look at that data to ask why is that and what we can do about it. Make sure we are not just data rich but also information rich. There are many pieces to look at to address the data.

Q. Math target goal - impressed with the parental/caregiver support piece. For the caregiving, are you taking into consideration all cultures?

A. We continue to have learning to do around the culturally sensitive. We work towards being inclusive and supportive. Ultimately the learning environment is supportive. Curriculum that is sensitive to our indigenous community - this is a good example of where math, well-being and grad rate interconnect. Students who see themselves in the curriculum are successful and we know that.

Q. How many years have we been trying this 'new math' concept?

A. It is being represented as 'new' but not so much 'new'. We are trying to teach for understanding and problem solving and promote learning for deep understanding, not so much the memorization. Comprehensive Math Strategy. Ministry has provided some resources to help support. Revised math curriculum has been around for about a decade.

Q. What is being done to engage community and build public support around math?

A. Math nights is a great resource to engage parents and build confidence, engaging school councils and administrators in the dialogue and how we can support our students. The board can do a better job to communicate with parents - Nick says, 'as a communicator I know that we can do a better job of finding a way to be more accessible'. For example, he is working on a resource on the board site focused on math tips. More info to follow once they have it ready.

Q. Standards seem to all come from data (i.e. around EQAO) - are you looking at other measures?

A. EQAO is a test to look at standards. We don't base it on one piece of data and do look at many factors / information. Student comments are also included in the results that come back and they are reviewed as

well.

Mix and Mingle

Closing

Adjourned at 8:55

Next meeting: Tuesday January 10 at Forest Height CI