

Meeting began at 7:00pm

- Executive Team of WRAPSC is running this meeting (chair is away)

Welcome John Galbraith

- Review of the agenda

Territorial acknowledgment by Angie Hallman

WRDSB cell phone policy by Brock Murovec (Safety Officer) & Paula Bender (principal)

- Cell phone policy admin procedure 1375: Student Use of Personal Mobile Devices:
<https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/AP1375-Student-Use-of-Personal-Mobile-Devices-OCT-2024.pdf>
- When use phones in school:
 - o Educational purposes
 - o Health & medical purposes
 - o Support special needs, as in IEP
 - o During breaks, lunch, & spares in Grade 7-12
- Consequences for students using phones at inappropriate times:
 - o Progressive Discipline:
 - 1st offense: designate to a backpack or locker, educator notifies parent, student can retrieve phone no later than day's end
 - Early: oral reminders, review of expectations, contact parent
 - More serious: detention, withdrawal of privileges, withdrawal from class
 - Even more serious: Suspension
 - Final stage: expulsion
- Why remove phones:
 - o Want students to focus on learning
- Why not have students surrender phones at the beginning of the day?
 - o They want students to develop strategies around appropriate cell phone usage
- Notify parents to reinforce message
- This new policy builds consistency throughout schools
 - o Even if a single school did better before, all the schools are doing better now.
- Stats on phone use & mental health of students:
 - o Teens average 9 hours/day on phones
 - o 87% of 12-17 yr. olds have a smartphone
 - o Some teens are on phones for 14-15 hours/day
 - o 66% students are anxious
 - o 34% teens say they have excessive smartphone use
 - o 47% of teens say they are constantly checking their phones
 - o Social media correlated with body image concerns & disordered eating
 - o Media multitasking: cognitive issues

- Spending more than a few hours/week using electronic media correlates with levels of self-reported happiness
- Expectations at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute:
 - When bell rings, phones go away (in backpack so students can't see, hear, or feel phones: feeling phones distracts from learning)
 - Students put phones out of sight (put in a paper bag that the teacher staples): having good results so far with this method
 - Ear buds/headphones will be removed from ears unless invited by a teacher to use them
 - Teachers may invite you to take out your phones during learning activities (Forest Heights hasn't found the need to use phones in this way)
- Helpful Visual for Students about the phone rules (see WRAPSC slides):
 - RED: means Tech Free
 - All devices including chromebooks & cellphones are away
 - YELLOW: Some Tech is allowed
 - Teacher will let you know what devices are permitted to be used & how
 - GREEN: Tech permitted
 - Class-related tech use is permitted
 - This is a time to practice & develop healthy digital habits
- Member Question: Concerns about using tech to reward good behaviour. For example, some students have a whole school week compiled of free tech use due to good behaviour.
- Member Concern: students in Grade 7-12 using ChatGPT or looking up solutions to online questions that the teacher has found. Teacher then ends up displaying best student work done, and it is a student that has cheated using online solutions which discourages kids that took hours on an assignment when the second student saw the first cheating on chromebook
- Member Question: How does the cellphone use of teachers affect students? Teachers are on their cellphones. Answer: Teachers do need cellphones for limited things like attendance and fire drills.
- Talked to staff on the PD day about phone use of students. Forest Heights has been very successful in curtailing phone use in school. They later realized that they needed to stop phone use in hallways & washrooms. Working on this.
- Member Question: What do you do about body tech on students in schools (ie Apple watches, Fitbits, etc)? Answer: Body tech is trickier to watch & catch. They also don't see body tech as much of a problem as phones because they aren't causing as much student disengagement.
- Member Question: Concerns about chromebook misuse. Chromebooks should only be pulled out for certain activities, and shouldn't be used as regularly for grade 7-8s. Some principals seem to have no rules or guidelines surrounding this.
- Member Concern: Quite a bit of "tech" in school isn't really tech that will prepare them for the business or trade world. Google docs and Google slides shows are heavily used in grade 7-8s and high school, yet students can't type, make spreadsheets, or use other tech in the business world. This also becomes an issue also when students enter trade school and don't have the skills that they need.
- Some teachers allow a white noise playlist for students at Forest Heights. They don't allow all ear bud use though because even though some students don't have their phones on them, they

found that they were however listening to movies through their ear buds, which is distracting to learning.

- Students think phones manage anxiety, but the opposite is true.
- Member Concern: Their grade 2 student saw images on a phone of a classmate. Answer: School rules: for K-grade 6: no phones are allowed at all any day.
- Member Concern: Their child saw pornographic images due to another student showing it to them on their phone.
- Member Concern: All grades need to have a serious reduction of chromebook use.

PIC Amanda (chair of PIC)

- Strengthening parent engagement @ school & board levels
- Promoting engagement
- PRO grant:
 - o 69 submissions for the PRO grant by WRDSB schools which is 55% of schools.
 - 68 out of the 69 were approved
 - \$58,881.59 was recommended to be approved
 - o PIC reviewed on Jan 30th with Michelle Newlands
 - o PRO grant criteria: on the slides
 - o PIC advocating for a longer window for schools to apply for the PRO grant
 - o PICs recommendations: send out a board communication & PRO grant info pkgs including a timeline by Oct.
 - o Longer window from initial communication to deadline
 - o When does the board get the PRO grant info? Answer: Someone answered in November. Michelle said they get info in the spring.
- Safe, Caring, Inclusive Schools (SCIS)
- Student mental health & wellbeing
 - o Violent incidents
 - o Safe caring inclusive schools is important in every school
 - o Member Question: How Many Schools have a Safe, Caring, Inclusive Schools group? Answer from Amanda & Michelle Newlands: Every school is required to have one. Board requirement.
 - https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/WRDSB_SCICmanual_web-1.pdf
 - The Ministry of Education tells us: “Each school must have in place a safe and accepting schools team responsible for fostering a safe, inclusive, and accepting school climate”
- Parent info night
- Google Workspace account: PIC has incurred 3 months of charges totaling \$44
- How to find out which school councils exist?
 - o Michelle Newlands: Principal’s report
 - o Member suggestion: Cold-calling schools
- IT issues with trying to find out which school councils exist
- Fridge magnets being made to lead to PIC website
- PIC meeting virtual & open to public; attendees do not have speaking privileges
- Agenda & link to be posted online 5 days before

AI Large Group Discussion Angie Hallman

- The purpose of this group discussion is to provide feedback to the board
- Top AI Questions for the School Board:
 - Will AI help or hinder my child's education?
 - Will AI weaken my child's problem-solving skills?
 - How is AI being used in the classrooms already?
 - Are teachers trained to use AI?
 - How is AI used in the classroom already?
 - AI isn't all bad. Place to help students. Multiple language speakers. Helps children with barriers to learning & for children with disabilities
 - How can we limit AI access (ie. use of phones by some grade 2s, who are seeing other kids' phones)?
 - How will young kids develop physical writing skills when they are on their chromebooks so much? Some kids are struggling to physically form letters on paper (in younger grades) because they are used to being on their chromebooks.
 - Can we use go back to paper and pencil instead of chromebooks for students (elementary and secondary)? (issues: cheating rampant using AI, Chat GPT, students are finding online solutions to teacher's questions that teachers get from online. Students aren't learning to research topics; they find answers on Chat GPT.)
 - How is AI supporting critical thinking?
 - Can we avoid the use of AI for reading during reading time? Kids are struggling to read in even grade 9, and yet some elementary schools allow most of the class to open chromebooks for reading time. Kids are also gaming on Chromebooks. (ie. commonly played in school without teacher's knowledge)
 - What rules will you implement surrounding reading using AI; what are your guidelines? Kids are "reading" on chromebooks during reading time. They aren't all actually reading on chromebooks.
 - How do you plan to navigate stopping students cheat with AI so students will be able to learn how to write an essay?
 - Are we going to teach in the classroom about using AI to identify bringing our best ideas together?
 - How are we holding teachers accountable for their own AI use in classrooms (ie. looking at their personal phones while in class & using AI to mark students' work)?
 - Will we teach students what is real and what is not with the use of AI?
 - What assessment policy is in place for AI?
 - How are we going to teach kids to be respectful around AI (ie. use respectful language, avoiding yelling at it, avoiding bad questions like how to rob a bank)?
 - How are students managing that are doing all their work using AI, versus a student who has used minimal AI?
- EFTO advises members to critically evaluate AI
- Michelle Newlands: Next school year, WRDSB will probably have an AI policy
- Member suggestion: WRDSB Psychology department should do a workshop for parents about AI

Mentorship Discussions Kelly Deml

- Bylaws
- School generated funds
- Elections
- Events
- memberships
- Movies:
 - Movie license criteria: annual license & a list on a website; family titles; list of titles; covered on a criterion license; can purchase a movie; can't stream on Netflix; movies are a little outdated.
 - School used a Google form to get all the students to vote for which movie to buy
 - Can purchase \$200-\$300; can get a 1-year license for a newer movie; can buy from local stores too
 - Another member commented that a newer movie cost over \$400 for them; movie can be a PJ day reward; can only use one device to watch the same movie in the school (one person can login at one time). For example: One class can watch Frozen 2, but no other classes can watch that movie at the same time.
- Member Question: Are there approved board games? Wanting a list. Answer: Contact board procurement <https://www.wrdsb.ca/about-the-wrdsb/procurement-services/>
- No approved vendors
- If you can't purchase item through approved vendors, you can purchase on your own, but board prefers their vendors being used. For example: chair reached out to superintendent about wanting to buy glowsticks; it was approved. Reach out to procurement if you want to purchase board games. If they don't have, then you can buy them.
- Events at schools
- Member Question: Are school concerts still allowed in WRDSB schools? Answer: Yes.
- WRAPSC's goal: Central Google drive, can use resources, central fundraising doc idea, etc.
- Member Question: Less parent engagement in high school and middle school. How do I get to meet parents? Answers: This is one of the reasons why middle schools are being stopped by the board. Negative incidents can bring parents into the school. Meet parents @ sports nights, semifinals (parents can volunteer), parents can ask to pay their way to go on trips even if the school doesn't need volunteers
- Member Question: How do we run equity fundraisers to help students in need? Answer by member: Can run a vendor fair and designate it for "students in need." Another answer: Grads helping Grads: everyone paying \$70-80 so that some that can't afford, can go.
- Fundraising policy
- Is WRAPSC all in favour of an all candidates meeting surrounding education? Answer by group consensus: Yes.
 - Doing an all candidates meeting during the week of Feb. 17. Education town hall.
- April 1, 2025 is the next WRAPSC meeting date

Adjourned 8:57pm

Minutes recorded by Amy Pharoah