

AGENDA

MEETING OF THE WATERLOO REGION ASSEMBLY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS TUESDAY, Feb 7th, 2023 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Presenter/ Facilitator</u>
7:00 to 7:05	Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgment - Review of Agenda	Sara
7:05- 7:35	Reporter From The Record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking about local graduation rates and trends. Presentation will be circulated after. • Lower than provincial average consistently for years. Both public and catholic board. Related to graduation rates. • School success is connected to socioeconomic factors. • Kids who are far behind in gr 3 move to average by high school. • Concerns with French Immersion • More students taking a 5th year vs other areas of the province. • Graphs to show graduation and achievement rates vs the provincial average. Graph of factory jobs in the Region. Jeff feels that families took a hit and affect achievement. • Graph to show that education rates of adults and young adults are increasing. • Questions about school board accountability. Concerns about changes to french immersion and what that will impact for other programs. What can we do as parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is a really difficult program to manage. No suggestion. • Question: many parents gave feedback about why 5th year is important. Concern that all of Jeff's data is based on EQAO which is known to be faulty. Not a good indicator of success. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes there are problems with EQAO but it's the only data he can get. • Question: alot of the data is factors beyond the school boards control. What can we do about this? Are there other school boards with similar socioeconomic data that is doing better? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Has not looked at other boards. Has only looked at individual schools that have made big achievements. • Question: You noted trustees and school boards are not focussed on achievement - what are they focussed on? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They don't have a lot of responsibility so they are focused on political, cultural and personal issues. No 	Jeff Ouhit

	<p>targets in their strategic plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow up question: If they don't have responsibility what can they focus on to improve? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Trustees seem lost and what they can influence. 	
7:35-7:50	<p>Presentation about BrainGym</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student scholarship program that they are hoping to launch this year. Want to intersect strong mind and body. Fully funding 4 kids for the first year. Targeting certain age groups 8-12 13-16. Would get in person oxford learning 2 times a week and 1 time a week in gym. Integrated program. After one pilot year may be able to help more kids. ● A lot of the information will be launched on social before the program goes live. ● Wanting to get the program on school council's radars and more information will come. ● Launch date for application is April 1st. 	Jacqueline Watty
7:50-8:10	<p>Best Practices-Using Council Funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sara presented - deck will be attached. Decent amount of participation in the survey. ● Some people questioned how you could have multiple accounts. ● Two Common ways to approve teacher requests is to have teachers submit a list. ● You are allowed to save up for outdoor equipment over multiple years. ● Sometimes for outdoor projects/ gardens - sometimes neighbourhood associations/ community centres will help. ● Things like chrome books are not allowed to be funded because it is a warranty issue, but there are concerns about why things like gym equipment allowed? Shouldn't school board pay for that? Sara will bring that up with the board. Principals sometimes have to draw their line on their budget. ● Rules of what you can't purchase is not clearly written anywhere. It's a vague statement that is open to interpretation. 	Sara

<p>8:10-8:25</p>	<p>PIC/WRAPSC Bridging Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jackie is being introduced as the PIC member who will also sit at WRAPSC. ● Used to have Della who was our lead for parent engagement she is on leave. ● Should know in a few weeks about the plan for going forward. Push for more accountability and better communications. ● Pro grant update. Parent Reaching out Grant. Ministry money allocated to schools. School council can put forward a grant. Identify and address barriers to connect parents to school. Between \$500 and 750 per school. Some examples that have been funded - social inclusion, safe and welcoming schools, enhancing communications and information parents about expectations of curriculum. Many guest speakers. There are two links - elementary and secondary schools. Due February 24th. PIC will put together a committee who will select along with various school board members. March 17th applicants will be notified. Will need to be spent by June 23rd. ● PIC members meet directly with the Director or equivalent. Jackie is willing to take concerns forward. Sara brings our questions/ concerns to PIC meetings. ● Parents can delegate at a Board meeting, not a PIC meeting. 	<p>Sara</p>
<p>8:25-8:55</p>	<p>Answers to Some Questions from last meeting and Open Discussion for more questions</p> <p>Answer to Valentines Day. It is up to each school to decide if they will celebrate. Main concern is that it is not consistent. Can we find out if parents actually want to celebrate some of these things and allow councils to fundraise for those that need help.</p> <p>Small Group format</p> <p>No time for small groups.</p>	<p>Sara</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In small groups can everyone share their experiences at council. What problems are you running into, how are you solving them. Can other members share how they have solved those problems in their own councils. • What successes are you having this year? What makes this year different then past years and how is that shaping council for the future. How is WRAPSC doing? What would you like to see from the Executive team and the Chair? <p>Question from Parent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerned about changes to French Immersion means that other specialized teachers will be eliminated. Home room teachers will be required to teach specialized classes they are not trained for it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PIC will have a chance to vote on policy changes. There was a committee dedicated to the issue. Sara will make sure it gets on a PIC agenda. ○ The memo that came out about changes to french immersion didn't speak about impacts to other courses. ○ Parents can apply to be a delegate on the issue. You can also individually email the superintendent. 	
8:55-9:00	<p>Closing: Future meetings dates (Apr 4, May 2)</p> <p>Next meeting: Tues. April 4th, 7-9 pm</p>	Sara