

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement, Agenda

Meet the Trustees

- Jane Herring
 - Role in budget and hiring director, liaison with community – connect them with people at the board office, help hear community concerns and who to go to next
 - Held many roles as chair/vice-chair and many committees
- Kathleen Woodcock
 - Role is also to be advocates for properly, fully funded education system across the province in the English public system
 - Was first interested because it is a governance board and writing policy
 - 5th term in Waterloo/Wilmont, served as vice-chair/chair and many committees
- Mike Ramsay
 - Role is also to make sure kids, parents, and front-line educators are put first and make sure that the finances are appropriately allocated
- Kathleen Smith
 - Serves on WRAPSC and PIC committee – important to work together and work with all different types of parents to work together to meet the needs of the kids
 - Served on the board for 20+ years, joined due to being passionate about education and children to help students get what they need
- Laurie Tremble
 - Key role is to be involved in the strategic planning to determine what the board will focus on for the next 5 years
 - Became interested in becoming a trustee due to work in WRAPSC and PIC as a parent
 - Has served on the board for 2 years and serves on many committees as well as the OBSPA representative (negotiating arm of trustees at provincial level)
- Scott Piatkowski
 - Helps guide board hires/leadership team hires to ensure meeting goals of strategic plan
 - Has served as trustee since 2018, served as vice-chair/chair and several committees, voting delegate at OBSPA
- Trustees guide the board through the strategic plan and the “what” through the director and the board figures out the “how”, chair of trustees communicates directly with minister of education, writes letters to take positions that are sent to ministry
- Breakout Rooms –
 - Kitchener (Smith, Tremble, Ramsay)
 - Moving forward
 - Smith - Understanding that spending time on a Monday night to attend a board meeting is a hurdle but Trustees can help you and

direct you to the person who can answer your questions. You can start by contacting any trustee with questions, doesn't have to be within your area.

- Tremble - developing a new process in creation of policies. Getting feedback from groups such as PIC and SEAC to advise the board. Feedback opportunities from the general public as well. You can reach out regarding any policy or lack thereof. Can connect you with staff and encourage them to get back to you but can't be the person in the room that tells them what to do to solve those individual issues - help you find the people that can help resolve any issues.
- Relationship between WRAPSC/PIC and the Trustees
 - Tremble - PIC is mandated. WRAPSC is unique to our board in a reaction to political events at that time, a council for a school council but not an official committee. PIC is to be the parent voice of our board and WRAPSC tends to have more of a direct line to individual schools.
 - Smith - WRAPSC has taken on the role of being more for training purposes. A great place to do training with speakers, an opportunity for parents to learn more about the school board and the community
 - Ramsay - before PIC there was WRAPSC and happy to see WRAPSC continue. I have a lot of respect for the work that WRAPSC has done and unfortunately the voices get lost with what has been happening but I appreciate the work they do.
- Do trustees reach out to committees and groups or do they wait to receive communication?
 - Smith - Probably not so much in terms of reaching out. Some parent groups are choosing not to involve Trustees; Black Lives Matter for example because of the lack of diversity.
 - Tremble - there are mandated Trustees on some committees but some groups are choosing not to ask for a Trustee representative and they are not official entities so they don't have to. We have reached out for feedback but they are under no obligation. We will be reaching out for policy review in the future.
 - Ramsay - we have to try to balance the needs of one group and not elevate one group over another just because they are the loudest.
- Member Question - Parents are frustrated with too many restrictions and no options or examples given from the board. "You can't do this but we have no idea what you can do"
 - Ramsay - we hear your frustrations, if you tried to come to the board you would probably be discouraged from coming, parents

are being shut out. I am very frustrated as well and I'm sorry I don't really have an answer.

- Smith - Ever since the pandemic the focus has not been on education, there are no good communication lines because everyone is so exhausted. Parents are falling between the cracks because we haven't done this before. Please don't give up - call Trustees. Principals and teachers are overworked and people have gone crazy with the pandemic, we are worried about the future and we hear your concerns.

○ Cambridge (Herring)

- What has been working/exciting that is coming up with the WRDSB?
 - Spoke about past projects in Cambridge
 - Passed the motion to keep up the videos of meetings on the website
 - Made an investment in equipment to continue streaming meetings in Sept when back in person. If need to be home or are travelling for work, option will be available for trustees.
 - Parents can delegate (we didn't get to hear if they will be allowed to delegate virtually)
- How do the trustees work with the WRDSB through issues?
 - Help navigate the system (info sharing) and act as a resource
 - Don't vote personal views, only based on information given by professionals (ie public health)
 - More information can be found at
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/Bylaws-WRDSB-September-2020.pdf>
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/trustees/about/trustee-policies-and-reports/>
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/G100-Governance-Policy-Foundation.pdf>
- Trustee elections
 - Term limits should be in place for trustees
 - Need to have more diversity to represent the community
 - People do not have to vote for the max number of spots, they should vote for people they really want
 - Cambridge has 3 seats, but if you really only like 2 people running, just vote for those. It won't spoil the ballot.
 - Municipal elections are slated for October 24, 2022
 - Waterloo Region, we have 11 public school board trustees
 - Cambridge – vote for up to 3 candidates
 - Kitchener – vote for up to 4 candidates
 - Waterloo/Wilmot – vote for up to 3 candidates
 - Wellesley/Woolwich – vote for 1 candidate

- For resources for voters and candidates, visit the Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) at <https://elections.ontarioschooltrustees.org>
 - Many trustees have participated in professional development through OPSBA and other organizations.
 - For more information visit
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/trustees/>
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/trustees/about/trustee-policies-and-reports/>
- Waterloo/Wilmont (Piatkowski, Woodcock)
 - How do trustees engage with parents?
 - Policy – reach out through PIC or trustee to ministry
 - If parent has brought concern to teacher and principal and appropriate action has not been taken, they can contact a trustee to bring that concern to board.
 - PIC and WRAPSC in WRDSB – trustee representatives on PIC to engage parents as well
 - Board has a research department that can do surveys etc to help with engagement
 - How can parents get on committees?
 - Ad hoc committees will have parent members
 - Board/trustees will approach PIC and WRAPSC for parent members for these committees
 - Sometimes parent members will be picked directly if have specific insight and have reached out to a trustee directly
 - Some committees require specific qualifications
 - i.e. Community members on audit committee need to be professional accountants
 - What are the key challenges currently and what innovative solutions do you have coming up?
 - Piatkowski – looking at academic achievement and student enrollment during COVID, looking to engage with students that didn't enroll in JK/SK for grade 1 (sum of decline in enrollment almost entirely), dealing with the effects of COVID in students for years to come, online learning what works/doesn't work, learning loss due to COVID, post COVID recovery, will continue to advocate for money and support
 - Woodcock – concerned about mental health impacts, concerned that will not get money from ministry to continue supports that were provided during COVID and mental health will suffer, would like to see support for mental health for staff and students increased, what will come is very reliant on the results of provincial election and what will be provided by the province

- Member question – What is the impact of bill 124?
 - Does limit all public workers to 1% raise per year. There is a negotiation process with school boards, province, teachers unions and other unions of people who work in schools and those were settled (at provincial level and raises are always discussed at this level). There is legal action to try to overturn this bill and if that occurs than the province will be required to come up with additional money to pay teachers, etc (Board doesn't money from taxes to fund schools. It comes from the province).
- Member question – What are trustees doing about ventilation in schools
 - Continue to try to improve ventilation
 - Pressure provincial government to try to fund improvements to decrease risk of disease spread, including COVID
- Member question – Seems like there are a lot of days off during the school year, how are all these days off determined?
 - This is operational, staff work this out with a committee, number of instructional days are established by regulation
 - Additional days were added in secondary calendars this year for instructional support due to de-streaming but shouldn't be there next school year
- Trustees can be reached via email or phone and contact information can be found at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/trustees/>

WRAPSC

- Learn more about WRAPSC at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/get-involved/wrapsc/>
- For next year we need a co-chair and secretary, as well as members-at-large
 - If want to learn more about being part of the executive, please email wrapsc@gmail.com
- Meetings for 2022-2023 are 1st Tuesday of October, November, February, April, and May and second Tuesday of January
- Topics for next year
 - Proposed:
 - Student/parent surveys results
 - Parent engagement survey results
 - Strategic plan
 - Equity and inclusion
 - Parent engagement
 - PRO grants
 - School council skills basic (how to run an election, how to connect with administrator, etc)
 - Ideas from members:
 - Comments on destreaming process and how it is going/what data is being examined to look at this

- Appropriate use/overuse of Chrome books for non-school purposes
- If you have additional ideas for topics or speakers, please email wrapsc@gmail.com

Closing

- The next meeting will be in October 2022 from 7-9 pm
 - Meetings will be in-person at Forest Heights