

May 7, 2024 WRAPSC Minutes

Speakers from Facilities

- Lauren Agar: Planning
- Ron Dallon: Facilities
- Nick Landry: Facilities, Superintendent Business
- Maureen: Procurement
- Nick Colvent: Facilities

-system overall

-\$2.5 million in capital additions to schools

-facilities brings ideas to school trustees who make a plan to submit to province

-fall submissions to the ministry

-fall development

-school boundaries

-winter: staffing and budget projection

-portables: funding hasn't caught up

-new neighbourhoods have high enrollment so they need portables, as neighbourhood ages, enrollment decreases over time; thus decreasing the need for portables.

-every 5 years: education development

-last grade 7/8 school built in the 1970s

-cross consultant reviews cost

-WRDSB has 121 schools

-8 to 9 WRDSB schools aren't fully accessible

-SW Kitchener has no new secondary schools built there so teens are bussed in

-site planning takes time

-easier to clean new gym flooring

-camera in school elevator; privacy issue; TSA needs to approve

-barrier free washroom: easy to move through washroom for wheelchairs

-Question: why ramp added before elevator (in particular school) and then needs to be ripped out?
Answer: unsure specifically about the reasons for that particular school; will look at that later

-\$33-34 million in funding for facilities; accessibility isn't given specific funding from the province

-14 elevators in 14 years

-some Gr 7/8 schools need elevators

-some schools have issues with being able to be adapted for elevators

-Example: WCI & St. Andrews schools have issues with adding elevators

-WRDSB board fairly unique in trying to make schools accessible

-Question: At what point is a school too old so they can get to have a brand new school? Answer: Some old schools are really old but have a lot of new features but not accessible. If it is too expensive to fix compared to building a brand new school, then they build a new one. However, building new schools is a lot more expensive now.

-Example: Westmount, Grandview were knocked down to build new schools; had land though

-Washroom Projects in Our Board:

-universal: single use, larger, change table for children that need to be changed

-barrier free washrooms: single space, wide door for wheelchairs, sinks at correct level, bar

-gender neutral: sometimes sink in individual stalls, stall doors go to the floor, several stalls in a room, no outer door to large room that holds stalls (open to the hallway, which reduces vaping issues).

-Question: Is the goal for all schools to get each of these washrooms for each school: barrier free, universal, gender neutral, boys', and girls'? Answer: Yes

-boys' washroom

-girls' washroom

-facilities: secondary school: accommodation committees; science labs; can contact procurement "gift in kind" if interested in donating

-Playground:

-\$10.4 million to spend: facilities chooses elevators, bathrooms, science labs, program upgrades, & gyms over playgrounds.

-facilities does not support playgrounds; will tear down, but no magic list of playgrounds to be added; school councils raise funds for playgrounds

-inspect playgrounds yearly (the law)

-principals have the power to shut playgrounds down whenever they wish

-Sept/Oct facilities inspects playgrounds

-issue: accessible tire (sponge-like) ground cover can get frozen in the winter; thus making it a safety hazard that may need to be shut down in the winter.

-no board strategy to phase out swings

- Facilities pays for base of playground to be dug out and removal of old playground
- you don't have to change existing outdoor play spaces to comply with AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act)
- need more system fundraising for schools that can't afford playgrounds. Ideas?
- Thought: A member thought of holding an activity event at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School that all 4-5 local elementary schools could organize together. The fundraising profits could be pooled & divided evenly which would allow all elementary schools to benefit, even the ones that receive little fundraising money. Response by facilities: Good idea locally to do, but facilities cannot do this.
- sites sometimes have drainage issues; ie. Silverheights; facilities does a survey
- Air:
 - MERV filters 5x /yr
 - head of facilities feeds concerns into the system; a work order must be put in
 - HEPA units & carbon: hour rating; they change at appropriate time
 - ACE classes, any classes with mechanical ventilation
 - they know how many hours are used
- what can school councils fundraise for when it comes to facilities:
 - not: staff, tech, fences
 - yes: playgrounds, Monarch way stations, outdoor classrooms, food programs for kids
- rentals department can assist school councils in booking space: community use
- selecting a playground design:
 - submitted proposals: school council members, principal, etc.
 - public notification of proposal date of playground suppliers
 - \$45K for playground raised +installation
 - evaluation: design and elements is 45% of needs
 - facilities meets with principal and school council for consultation; different budgets for school councils; sometimes school councils ask facilities to come up with a playground design

- \$35K-\$50K as of 2023-2024 for a school to purchase a playground

- Suggestion: principals can set aside small amount of funds for playground if school councils don't have the money. Answer: Facilities says: No principals cannot. Response: They have.

- school council money has to use approved vendors to colour photocopy

- M&T is a contracted vendor of the board

- Principal Profile Form: May 24

- Principal Profile doesn't get seen by principal; goes straight to the board

- School Council Survey: Jn. 14; point form; mandatory

- PIC agenda: Principal Profile form; please keep it short; point form

- Question: How are councils handling needing to use approved vendors? Answer: They are contracted; go to principal to find out.

- delegates at board meetings

- Question: WRAPSC members like best practices & themes? Yes Want more speakers or board reps? Majority responded: keep board reps.

- Suggestion: board reps think of their audience more; be more direct

- Suggestion: Principals need best practices when dealing with school councils; principals vary in understanding rules

- May executive meeting at WRAPSC chair's house; email WRAPSC for more info

- all future WRAPSC meetings will be at Forest Heights from 7-9pm

- Oct 1, 2024 next WRAPSC meeting