

ASSEMBLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday April 5 2016 7:00-9:00pm

Forest Heights Collegiate Library

Attendance:

21 School Council Representatives

5 Guests

1. Welcome & Introduction of Steering Committee

Jessica Rodriguez, WRAPSC Co-Chair

Jessica welcomed everyone.

Motion: Approve agenda for April 5, 2016

Mary Kennedy Motioned. Glenn Anderson approved. Motion carried by majority vote.

Motion: Approve minutes from February 2, 2016 WRAPSC Meeting

Angelica Allen motioned. Kerri Gettliffe approved. Motion carried by majority vote.

2. PIC/WRAPSC Co-Chairs Report

Laurie Tremble, PIC/WRAPSC Co-Chair

Don't forget the FREE WRAPSC/PIC Parent Conference on Saturday, April 16th. Register at <http://www.wrdsb.ca/pic> For more information: pic@wrdsb.on.ca

There are FREE Harmony Movement workshops (Creating Safe and Inclusive Schools & Communities). Childcare and interpreters are available as needed. Email Deepa Ahluwalia at deepa_ahluwalia@wrdsb.ca

KW Counselling has workshops coming up with OK2BME. April 9th (Parents with LGBQ children), April 16th (Parents that are Trans), April 23 (Parents with Trans children) Check out www.kwcounselling.com and www.ok2bme.ca

Conestogo PS is hosting a free workshop featuring Brenda Wollenberg.

"A specialist in natural wellness programs for children, teens and adults, Brenda has been featured on TV and podcasts, including Jonathan Bailor's *Smarter Science of Slim* podcasts. Her numerous articles have been published in magazines such as *Canadian Living*, *Maclean's*, and *Family Fun*." For more info, or to register, visit <http://www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca/>

Safe Talk (suicide awareness) parent trainers have been trained. If you feel that there is a need within your school, contact your administrator and connect with Barbara Ward at the Education Centre or with Laurie Tremble using wrapsc@gmail.com. The focus of training is on parents, but if there is an interest and space within the groups, school staff could be part of the training.

TEDx KitchenerED (TED Talk) conference is happening on May 14th with the theme of *I Ideas Worth Spreading* details. The event is sold out, but there are a few tickets still available through an application process, or watch it streaming online. www.tedxkitchenered.com

PIC and WRAPSC committees will have some parent application vacancies. PIC is starting their application process in May. If you are interested in learning more, you are welcome to attend the next PIC meeting on May 24th. Contact pic@wrdsb.on.ca for more details. The WRAPSC applications will be beginning in September.

CODE Math is available online at www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement.html along with all of your schools should have been provided a copy by your administrators.

3. Full Day Kindergarten

Elaine Ranney WRDSB Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being

Questions the presentation hoped to answer:

1. What is Play-Based Learning?
2. A Day in Kindergarten
3. Learning for All – Early Identification.

Full Day Kindergarten - Presented by Wendy Golden, Loa Zilles

Full Day Kindergarten was launched in 2010. There are current 320 kindergarten classes for 2015/2016 school year. Of those 320 classrooms, 12 are without an ECE due to an organizational need. The average class size that is maintained this school year is an average of 26 students. Ideally each kindergarten classroom would have 1 washroom; however this is not always possible. When new schools are built or renovated, the board attempts to plan the needs of the school/community for the next 50 years. Despite the best attempts of the planning and facility departments trying to mitigate this situation, there are inevitability scenarios with an outcome that is not ideal (unforeseen community boost/school need, etc.). The six areas of learning in kindergarten are: 1. Health & Physical Activity 2. The Arts 3. Language 4. Mathematics 5. Personal & Social Development 6. Science & Technology. Children are given the opportunity to integrate all 6 areas of learning at any given moment of playing together and discovering as a group. The intent is to keep the students with the same teacher for both years of the program. However, each year the administrators look at all of the components to determine this (teacher availability, student/teacher dynamics, student transition concerns, etc) Beginning in September 2016, the assessment, evaluation, and reporting of children's learning in Kindergarten in Ontario schools will be based on the policies and practices described in this document.. More information can be found at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/kinderqarten.html>

What is Play-Based Learning – Presented by Loa Zilles consultant JK-6 team

The group was asked to consider what play means to adults; Choice driven activities, joyful and fun. Often, adults consider work and play very separate, but children don't necessarily consider play and work to be separate tasks at all. The goals of play-based classrooms are being built based on getting classrooms rich in child-initiated play along with a playful classroom with the focus on learning. The classrooms are open ended and inviting situations of discovery Key Message: *"Principal 5: Play is a meaning to learning that capitalizes on children's natural curiosity and exuberance."* Check out a video at www.wrdsb.ca/kindergarten to watch the FDK in action!

Learning for All – Early Identification - Presented by Wendy Golden

Kindergarten provides the school board an opportunity to identify various degrees of student learning needs, and identify what supports should be provided. Strong Start is an example of a resource and support that is provided to the early grades for early literacy intervention, focusing on the sounds of letters. This volunteer led program is provided to some students in addition to the classroom curriculum. Volunteers are always needed, especially in schools that have a higher need for the program.

The power point presentation that was used tonight is attached to the email.

4. High School/Credit Cap

Presented by Jim Woolley, System Administrator, Learning Services - Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools

Jim talked about the structure of high school credits & caps, things to consider when considering a path into University or College (or both), and Magnet Programs. 15 compulsory credits are required to graduate high school (8 credits per year). The trend is that students are taking more credits per year which poses challenges for the school board. Along with the 15 credits required, 3 more compulsory are also required (1 from each group): English, Healthy & Phys Ed or Science, & GR 11 & 12. There are a variety of options to obtain credits: Night School, Summer School, International Language School, Dual Credit & e-learning. Further requirements to graduate are to complete the grade 10 literacy test or literacy course and 40 hours of community service and hand in the tracking sheet (You are now allowed to begin the hours during the summer before grade nine). Course Type & Destination Paths include: Academic, Applied, Essential & Open (Grade 9 & 10) and University, University/College, College, Workplace, Open (Grade 11 & 12). Students may take a maximum of 34 credits through their high school career. There are some exceptions (i.e. ESL or IPRC students). The support of accommodations and modifications are more readily available for students to navigating through and beyond high school. Check out <https://myway.wrdsb.ca> and click onto "Career Cruising" to help your children discover what careers would be ideal for

them. Remember, the more engaged you and your children are engaged in their high school career, they are more successful academically and socially.

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Miscellaneous and Closing - Jessica Rodriguez, WRAPSC Co-Chair Jessica thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone of the next round table group setting meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd , 2016 at 7pm.