

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement, Agenda

School Travel Planning – Leslie Maxwell (see slide deck for additional information)

- Society is car based with car being the king on the road → people concerned about using active school transport
- Being active can help students with their physical health, focus, mental health, and well-being
- Walking to school allows students to have graduated independence and is good for the environment
- The School Travel Planning (STP) team coordinates with other groups such as municipalities, local community groups, etc.
- The STP team offers and helps facilitate many programs
 - <https://www.stswr.ca/walkzone/>
- Individual schools can take on the school travel planning process by having the principal reach out
 - A school specific committee is formed to see what the needs are at that school and to provide an Action Plan with recommendations for that school
 - The process involves education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering, and evaluation
- STSWR provides many resources for families at www.stswr.ca/walkzone/home-support
- Drive to 5 maps can be constructed to help show parents safe places to park that are within 5 minutes' walk of the school to decrease congestion near the school
 - <https://www.stswr.ca/walkzone/maps/>
- Leslie is very open to connecting with individuals through email (leslie_maxwell@stswr.ca) or phone (519-744-7575 x 224)
- Q&A:
 - If members want to engage the STP team, it's best to go through the school principal. However, you can reach out directly to Leslie and she can connect with the principal if your principal seems unreceptive/doesn't follow up.
 - The STP team can be engaged in getting things like crosswalks into school communities. If consultation with municipalities is already occurring, continue to follow that process. However, if you are unhappy with the outcome you can reach out to the STP team. They cannot guarantee a crosswalk will go in, but can help advocate for what the school community needs.
 - Bylaw and police do help with enforcement, but there are not enough bylaw and police officers to be stationed at every school every day. When working with the STP team, there are programs they can use (such as a parking lot blitz, <https://www.stswr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020-SOP-Parking-Blitz.pdf>) where they will engage bylaw and law enforcement, but also provide drivers with

information about what they can do through pamphlets, etc. This can help facilitate more meaningful change in a school community.

Dress Code Policy – Teneile Warren & Crissa Hill (Note: slides cannot be shared as policy is still in draft form)

- Policy is a position that adopted by the board to provide a framework for a course of action
 - Because policies occur at the trustee table, it requires feedback from stakeholders to ensure it reflects the needs of the community
- Student dress is identity
- The student voice provided lots of useful feedback about when students felt “dress coded”
 - Students are sent home and shamed in a very public way
 - Dress code is not applied equally across all groups, including preferences to students to certain students depending on if they teacher likes them
 - Policies are extremely variable between schools as each school determines their own dress code → students have very different experiences based on their school
- Based on the student voice the new policy should include the following:
 - Religious items should be allowed
 - Dress code should be equal across all gender identities
 - Potential biases associated with race should not be allowed
 - Being “dress coded” for hats/hoodies/durags holds a racial connotation and occurs more commonly in schools with a higher population of marginalized students
- New dress policy will have equity and inclusion in mind, is student centered, and will be more explicit in what is/isn’t allowed and what to do if a student is non-complaint with the dress policy
 - Will respect all aspects covered by the Ontario Human Rights Code
 - Will require that groin, buttocks, and nipples are covered by opaque materials, but will not limit exposure of legs, hips, chest, etc
 - No requirements for length of shorts/dresses and spaghetti straps allowed
 - Undergarments will not be allowed to be worn as outerwear
 - Must be covered by another layer, straps and waistbands showing is ok
 - Will allow students to wear headwear that does not cover the face (ie hats and durags)
 - Will allow all religious/creed dress
 - Will not allow items that
 - Include hate speech
 - Promote/symbolize alcohol, drugs, illegal activity, porn, profanity, or hate/discrimination
 - Incite violence or harassment
 - Threatens health and safety

- New policy will limit students being sent home – turn shirt inside out, ask a friend, have someone bring a new shirt, etc
 - Administrators help students determine an appropriate plan with minimal interruption to learning
 - Repeat offenders that require more in-depth intervention will be handled on a case-by-case basis
- Safety comes first, so appropriate dress is required for specific situations (ie removing an earring for gym or requiring safety glasses for science class)
 - Students are aware of the requirements in these situations
- Idea is that students that are allowed to bring their whole and authentic selves to school will learn better and be happier
- Before being finalized, the policy will be voted on by the trustees. Once it is finalized, it will be available publicly.
 - Expected for 2022-2023 school year
 - You can find all board policies here: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/about-the-wrdsb/policiesprocedures/policies/>

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) – Mandi Ballentine, Mengda Wang, Christina Laughren

- Purpose is to interact with board and share information, to improve parent engagement,
- Some things that are to be considered for the future include improving the PRO grant process and in-person connection for new immigrant parents
- PIC looking forward to getting more feedback and bring information to the board, instead of just getting board updates every meeting
- PIC looking to work more with WRAPSC as a team and looking for the board to provide a framework for this to occur
- Board asked PIC to provide feedback on 3 questions
 - How can WRDSB adjust school council and other opportunities for parent volunteering to be more inclusive, productive, and varied? (discussed at WRAPSC tonight)
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k2hVVaddoE0LkdcGESctCJ6g31-C1BgP/view?usp=sharing>
 - Communication with teachers, recommendations on standardizing this
 - Navigating schools, how does a parent navigate through the school/school system, escalating a problem in the school, how does the school system work

Closing

- The next meeting will be on May 3, 2022 from 7-9 pm
 - Connection details will be sent prior to the meeting
 - Focus will be hearing about the role of trustees and connecting with your individual trustees in breakout rooms