

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement, Agenda

WRDSB Communication and Engagement – Eusis Dougan-McKenzie, Kylie Penticost (see slide deck for additional information)

- Focus is to engage students, family, Parent Councils, people in the community
- Planned communications are being run by WRAPSC and PIC to try to improve clarity of communications
- Work on sharing innovations in classrooms
- Help share information that Director Chanicka and other senior staff have around changing education and help the Director connect with classrooms/schools
- Website development and communication through this medium – best place to get new information quickly
- Social media is also a good tool to follow board activities – feel this is the best place to engage a large variety of people
- Media relations – share information and respond to stories in mainstream media
- Parent Council Communications – key to understanding family expectations and understanding what’s happening at the school level
 - Look for upcoming opportunities for engagement related to the Strategic Planning process
 - Social media is a great place to focus efforts to allow open and 2-way communication – doesn’t have time-limits and doesn’t need to be sensationalized as mainstream media has
 - When developing social media platforms, make sure you have rules set up in advance for what will be shared and community standards and a way to hand off to the next council
 - Permission required to post images
 - Be clear that it is the Parent Council, not the official school account, and comments are not made on the behalf of the board
 - Be sure that administrators know you have an account as a courtesy
 - Helpful to also let the communications department of the board know you have an account as well
 - Don’t let it be a location to gripe about teachers, principals, etc
 - Direct them to the proper channels
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/communicating-with-our-school/addressing-concerns/>
 - Connect with the person via PM and make sure the principal is aware of the conversation as a heads up

- Feel free to shut the conversation down if it doesn't fit your community standards
- Member question – Is it better to be an official Parent Council account versus a parent community group?
 - Moderating is easier if the account is official and it's easier to get people to follow community standards
- Member question – How do we make social media channels more inclusive? How do we connect with parents that don't have social media?
 - It's not an either/or. It's a both. Social media should be used in connection with in person interactions. Use lots of different social media channels to connect with as many individuals as possible. Translate materials if possible. Ask your community how to best engage.
- Member question – Is it true that principals need to approve all posts that Parent Councils post to all social media channels?
 - That was the case when social media engagement started, but that is not required any longer.

Math Curriculum Update – Superintendent Ron DeBoer et al. (see slide deck for more information)

- Secondary Streaming
 - Streaming has a negative impact on marginalized individuals
 - Graduation rates are lower in applied streams
 - De-streamed classrooms improve learning for all individuals as “high achievers” tend to just mimic teaching, but not actually learn how to problem solve
 - De-streamed grade 9 math better translates from grade 8 learning with fewer gaps
 - Classrooms have become more collaborative learning environments
 - Decrease in use of nightly homework and test/exams
 - Provide more opportunities for in-class practice and more, lower stakes assessments
 - A new course has been developed to help with bridging between grade 9 and grade 10 math for students that need more foundational knowledge
 - GLD 20 is open to all students and will bridge between grade 9 and 10 math and teach skills necessary to be successful in the workplace
 - Resource for parents – <https://bhi61nm2cr3mkgk1dtaov18-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Parent-Night-Handout-vF-1-2.pdf>
 - Member question – Can you outline the specifics of the destreaming process?

- This year math is destreamed in grade 9 and next year applied math will not be offered in grade 10. Next year all grade 9 subjects will be offered in 1 stream.
- Member question – How is student learning assessed without the use of exams/tests?
 - Daily questions, observations and discussions in class, small group teaching
- Member question – What opportunities are available for students that excel at math?
 - Teachers have developed resources for students (i.e. material from math competitions) or students help their peers to develop a deeper understanding themselves
 - <https://www.cemc.uwaterloo.ca> is one resource used
- Member question – Is there any cohorting of students to use enthusiasm to encourage each other?
 - There are pilot projects looking at cohorts in some schools currently and looking for more ways for overlap between subjects
- Member question – How do you build confidence in a thinking classroom for students that struggle?
 - Three levels of daily questions (mild, medium, spicy), small group instruction, collaboration between students
- Elementary Math Curriculum
 - 2020 curriculum was developed based on research and community engagement from parents, educators, etc
 - Also looked at trends in high achieving regions to determine best practices
 - Vision is to look at math in all areas (nature, music, coding, etc) to allow all students to engage with math from their points of view
 - Cultural diversity of the student body is brought into the curriculum
 - Foundational mathematics concepts and skills have higher focus
 - Not a skill and drill (i.e. timed multiplication)
 - Allows students to solve problems in the most efficient way/way that makes the most sense to them
 - i.e. money model or clock model in addition to common denominator for fractions
 - Learning fractions earlier to assist with transition to secondary education

- Focus is on real-life examples – tracking temperature over time, methods to reduce waste in the classroom
- Social Emotional Learning is embedded in all of the typical mathematics strands
 - Students will reflect on their emotions and how to cope with stress related to mathematics rather than teachers assessing and introducing bias
- How to support your child
 - Avoid negative self-talk (We're not a math family)
 - Don't keep from teaching your child the way they are learning because you don't understand how it's being done now
 - This may create gaps when a student doesn't understand the process that's needed to solve more complex problems in the future
 - Teach yourself how to do it or help your student create questions to ask their teacher
 - Praise effort, not outcome – avoid "smart" label
 - Foster joy of math – mathy games, <https://mathbeforebed.com>
- Member question – How are students assessed in this new curriculum? Have the high stakes testing been taken out?
 - Testing has not been taken out, but is not the only assessment of understanding. Most assessment is in observation/conversations in class and small group instruction.
- Member question – Is this new curriculum helping increase math score in provincial testing?
 - No provincial testing has been done since the new curriculum came out, so we're not sure.
- Member question – Will there be EQAO this year?
 - Yes, but a reminder that EQAO is optional for parents
 - Also, grade 9 exams will be digital and will adapt as the student progresses through the exam to better assess student level
- Additional resources
 - Curriculum – <https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/>
 - EQAO results – <https://www.app.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/bpr/indresults.asp>
 - Presentation – https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yLINVtSZX_8ktiEQo50vFKrChJ6boIJY/view

Breakout Rooms

- Breakout rooms for K-6, 7-8, and 9-12 – discussed year end celebrations, PRO Grants, and parent engagement

Closing

- The next meeting will be on April 5, 2022 from 7-9 pm
 - Connection details will be sent prior to the meeting
- Minutes will be coming from tonight and January
 - If you don't see them by Monday, please reach out to the WRAPSC email account