

## AGENDA

### **MEETING OF THE WATERLOO REGION ASSEMBLY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS TUESDAY NOV 1st, 2022 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

| <b><u>Time</u></b>          | <b><u>Agenda Item</u></b>   | <b><u>Presenter/<br/>Facilitator</u></b> |
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| <b>7:00<br/>to<br/>7:05</b> | <b>Welcome and Territorial<br/>Acknowledgment</b><br><br>- <b>Review of Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 25 people online and 11 people in the room.</li><li>● Online attendees are asked to email WRAPSC with the school they are representing.</li><li>● We will be recording this meeting to have the option to watch at a later time.</li><li>● Sara played the WRDSB territorial acknowledgment.</li><li>● 2 Speakers tonight - Coalition of Muslim Women KW and Volunteer Waterloo Region. How can we get our high school kids involved?</li></ul>  | <b>Sara</b>                              |
| <b>7:05-7<br/>:30</b>       | <b>Coalition of Muslim Women KW</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Mifra Abid will share a one-page summary of her information after the presentation.</li><li>● The Coalition of Muslim Women was started from Bill 21 but has expanded.</li><li>● 4 main programs. Violence in Community - together against Islamophobia, Violence in the family - Violence free</li><li>● Today is focused on Violence in Community. No one is safe unless everyone is safe.</li><li>● Started a hate reporting line. One of a kind in Canada. Reportinghate.ca. The threshold for hate crime is really high, but also hate incidents. Providing one on one support to victims.</li><li>● Partner with legal, counseling services. Also with Community Justice Initiatives. They have a team of trained mediators that are trained in restorative justice. Advocate with Ontario Human Rights Tribunal.</li><li>● Hate crime - there is much confusion. Based on the Criminal Code of Canada. Need Crown Attorney's consent to charge. Must be a designated crime under the criminal code with an aspect of hate - hate-motivated crime.</li><li>● Hate incidents - large range of incidents where there is no criminal</li></ul> | <b>Mifrah,<br/>Maryam</b>                |

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|  | <p>act. No legal action can be taken, but just as impactful to the victim.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hate crime - offense specifically designates in the Criminal Code of Canada.</li> <li>● Discrimination - violates Ontario Human Rights Code.</li> <li>● Hate speech - verbal, online, or print. Online hate is a subcategory.</li> <li>● Why is reporting important? Not just Muslims, but anyone who experiences racism. You can access support, show numbers, educate, advocate, and where and who is impacted. Can develop prevention programs.</li> <li>● Who can report - victim, someone on behalf, witness, or bystanders.</li> <li>● Can report in many ways - as barrier-free as possible. They have 10 languages available.</li> <li>● If it is an emergency call 911. Not a 24/7 service.</li> <li>● If any school would like a session the Coalition can come in and present. They have presented at many schools. Public education is free. Training is at a cost.</li> <li>● You don't have to have an issue to have them come present. Can do it in person or online depending on school protocols.</li> <li>● What other training is provided? Very detailed anti islamophobia training. Also, provide active bystander training. Designed to address any oppression - there are some common elements. Training is in 3 parts - 2.5 hours for each session. Can be customized and adapted. It can be interactive, depending on how much time you have. Longer sessions are more interactive.</li> <li>● Are there other resources aside from training that teachers can incorporate? There are many resources. Tea and tales are not specifically addressing hate but are about building bridges. There is a fee for the host, but not for participants. Food at tables with people at each table. Very engaging and a chance to learn about different cultures. Another program called Brave Circles - provides a space where you can ask difficult questions. Keep it respectful, but ask difficult questions. The panel answers from lived experience. Fill out an anonymous form with questions.</li> <li>● Are there other training to ensure schools offer inclusive events i.e. fundraising etc? There are events they can develop for customized topics.</li> <li>● Many schools have daily issues such as pizza day. How do we address there has to be a solution? Training can talk about universal design. Barrier-free structures.</li> <li>● Part of the problem is that Councils don't have diversity at the table</li> </ul> |  |
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|                  | <p>to provide that input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Reporting Hate Contact info: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="mailto:report@cmw-kw.org">report@cmw-kw.org</a></li> <li>○ Repotinghate.ca</li> <li>○ 519-722-2449</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |                          |
| <b>7:30-7:50</b> | <p><b>Volunteer Waterloo Region</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Diane thanked all the attendees for their volunteerism.</li> <li>● The slides will be provided to attendees.</li> <li>● <a href="http://www.volunteerwr.ca">www.volunteerwr.ca</a></li> <li>● Have been presenting to schools for many years. Target the careers classes.</li> <li>● Formal and informal volunteering. Can go with your child!</li> <li>● Have intergenerational and cultural programs.</li> <li>● Question: would be great to have more opportunities in Cambridge.</li> <li>● There are some neighborhood opportunities that don't always get on the website. Kids can create their own volunteer opportunities - it doesn't have to be formal.</li> </ul> | <b>Dianne Boston-Nyp</b> |
| <b>7:30-7:50</b> | <p><b>Best Practices-Grants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 15 responses were received to the survey.</li> <li>● The summary of the survey was presented.</li> <li>● Each school is given \$500 for parent engagement each year from the Ministry. It needs to go to a specific activity.</li> <li>● There are a variety of links in the presentation for many grant options.</li> <li>● You can apply for Pro Regional Grant. May only be available for PIC. We will follow up.</li> </ul>  | <b>Sara</b>              |
| <b>7:50-8:20</b> | <p><b>Answers to By-Law Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Many members have been asking about what by-laws are mandatory for School Councils. The presentation provides a summary and a link to the full requirements from the Ministry.</li> <li>● Question: do School Council members manage the section of the school website related to the Council? No, usually school staff manage that site.</li> <li>● What makes a council member? Anyone can be a council member and vote. Others can attend but they can't vote. Principals don't vote.</li> <li>● Some schools have community reps, not parents of pupils.</li> </ul>  | <b>Sara</b>              |

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| <p><b>8:20-8:40</b></p> | <p><b>PIC/WRAPSC Bridging Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sara provided an update on PIC. Information is in the presentation.</li> <li>● There are 2 members of PIC that were part of the committee last year. All new members.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Sara</b></p> |
| <p><b>8:40-8:55</b></p> | <p><b>Answers to Some Questions from the last meeting and Open Discussion for more questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A presentation was given about questions received and answers. Some answers were provided by the board staff. Minutes will include detailed information.</li> <li>● Questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pizza day - some schools are looking to give an option where you can donate to pay for kids who can't pay.</li> <li>○ Ontario catch-up payments - how do we make sure all parents are aware of it? Many parents thought it was taking it away from school. It doesn't go to schools! We can share it on WRAPSC. Some parents are choosing to donate the funds to the school through WEFI.</li> <li>○ Are there plans to update the Waterloo Region School Council Handbook? It's a great resource, but it's dated. We can add to the minutes and can ask if it will be updated. Trustees, PIC, and WRAPSC members created this.</li> <li>○ Can only gr 9s come in only on the first day? Will ask Della.</li> <li>○ Some school councils have a fundraised line item to support students who can't afford school activities.</li> <li>○ Some schools freeze leftover pizza to send home to kids who need it.</li> <li>○ Running into an issue with purchasing licensing for movie night. There is a free catalog for certain movies. More current you pay.</li> <li>○ What are the options for a Council when they feel they cannot move forward with their Principal? If it's serious you can go to the Superintendent if you have raised it with Principal. Follow the escalation process. You can find who your Superintendent is on the Board website. Trustees are more limited in how they can help.</li> <li>○ Some schools pay for police vulnerability checks if there are regular volunteers. Board has made that more stringent. It's actually some schools have made it more</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>Sara</b></p> |

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|           | <p>stringent. There is some confusion. We will clarify.<br/>There is a policy from the Board on volunteering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some schools have fundraised in past for materials to be used in schools. They are now being told they can't buy anything that is directly being used by a student. The guidance from Matthew at the Board can be used to help Councils make these decisions.</li> </ul> |      |
| 8:55-9:00 | <p><b>Closing: Future meeting dates (Jan 10, Feb 7, Apr 4, May 2)</b></p> <p><b>Next meeting: Tues. Jan 10, 7-9 pm</b></p>  | Sara |