

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE WATERLOO REGION ASSEMBLY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2ND , 2021 7:00PM – 9:00PM

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>
7:00 to 7:05	<p>Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome- Territorial Acknowledgment- Review of Agenda approved- bel second agenda <p>Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Minutes from Jan 12th meeting were sent out Jan 22nd to WRAPSC members. Motioned; Seconded; no discussion. Carried.- WRAPSC Executive is working to have minutes from meetings sent out no more than 2 weeks following and will send from Gmail to WRAPSC General Assembly mailing list
7:05 to 7:10	<p>Update re: SHSM and Co-op from Ron Deboer (read by Heidi Holmes)</p> <p><i>For Quadmester 1 and 2, WRDSB made the decision given the uncertain landscape of COVID, to provide virtual coop in our secondary schools. In summer 2020, we piloted a virtual co-op class in summer school. Our learning services department consultants and system administrators developed resources and tools for teaching staff to offer virtual co-op. During Quadmester two, we began thinking about processes and ways to make available in-person co-op for students in Quadmester 3 and 4. Safety protocols and processes needed to be developed as well as methods for teachers to assess virtually to assure safety for students going into these worksites. The plan is that schools will also be offering virtual co-op. Our hope is to return to full in-person co-op in fall 2021 but as usual we await the landscape of Covid-19 and Public Health direction on many of these decisions. In April we will give a presentation on some more specifics about the Co-op program.</i></p>
7:10-7:40	<p>Food4Kids presentation: video shown https://vimeo.com/498701671</p> <p>Kelly Sue Oberle presented</p> <p>850 kids in the area are part of the program.</p> <p>Feeds kids that are food insecure on weekends. Schools identify the children/families in need. They fill out an application, this application is for</p>

	<p>the family information and household. Weekend program each child gets 16-20 items sent home.</p> <p>The program also feeds the children over the winter break. 421 families were fed during the last winter break. Cost 1145 per child a year.</p> <p>The need ranges from school to school from 89 to 2. They are getting kids off the waiting list in schools that the program is going in that way all kids are supported.</p> <p>There is a donation link through their web-site</p> <p>Coffee for Kids and soon Tea for kids is one way to support the program</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>The program takes place in Cambridge as well</p> <p>Referrals need to be through the school.</p> <p>Affiliated with the Catholic and French boards</p> <p>Funded through grants, and community support. Third party fundraisers, also corporations.</p>
7:40-8:45	<p>Role of Trustee – Laurie Tremble</p> <p>Elected officials, no party affiliations. 11 trustees at the Waterloo board. Trustees terms normally start in December. Next election will be Fall 2022. Trustees need to attend a specific amount of meetings to hold their seat.</p> <p>There are also two student Trustees, holding the seat for 1 year. They have voice and vote but can't be a tie breaker.</p> <p>Trustees bring forward concerns of their constituents. They have to support the board first.</p> <p>The Director of the Board is the employee of the trustees. They will be looking for a replacement for John Bryant this month.</p> <p>It could be a tight couple years ahead to get the budget back on track after the pandemic if the government does not give more funds. The reserve funds were used during this time. There won't be funds for special projects that had to be put on hold.</p> <p>Trustees are available for questions from the public. Trustees are never off the clock; they are there for any community member.</p> <p>Trustees sit on board committees.</p> <p>Trustees make decisions about facilities. Opening, closing schools, boundary changes.</p>

	<p>Professional development, board provides and other government options.</p> <p>Trustees attend school events. Any one in the community can ask a trustee to come to their school. Go through the chair of Trustees.</p> <p>Tip if you want to get an answer from all Trustees, put that in the email or only the first Trustee on the email chain will respond or the Chair.</p> <p>Answers to Questions:</p> <p>Our public health is talking to staff and the Ministry. Trustees will only be looped in hours before the decision is announced. Public health has been happy with the protocols and response to any issues in the school.</p> <p>What was the big change from the parent groups going to Trustee? The trustee role can be very frustrating at times, when you want to make a change. the limitations of the role can be surprising.</p> <p>Any new policies coming for safe school policy? Nothing at this time. If there are any concerns from the community bring it to a Trustee and they can bring it to the board.</p> <p>If parents want to write letters should they send it to the Trustees or board? It matters on the letter, loop the Trustee in but know that if it is day to day it is only information for the Trustee, they can't make a change to procedure. They can send you to the right staff member.</p> <p>Will the board be giving funds for outside learning? That is for the school to decide with the funds they get. Or if the Ministry decides to give more funding for outside learning.</p> <p>Where is the board on the overall budget for what they are allowed to be over? The board is now at 2% after using our reserves. Which is allowed right now due to the Ministry upping the amount boards can go over budget.</p> <p>Is there going to be any new Mental Health policies that will come out because of Covid? No new policies, but a committee will be looking at this issue. Funding or procedure level might change.</p> <p>At this time because of Covid, will the board let council funds be used for things that weren't able to be used before? No, the money will still need to be used for Parent Engagement needs.</p> <p>Letter to Trustees Presentation – Angelica and Heidi</p> <p>Letter and instructions with Trustee email addresses/areas will be sent out to the WRAPSC mailing list. Please send letters out in the next weeks.</p>
8:45-8:55	Open Discussion:

	<p>Amy is asking the principal what they need from Council. The Principal asked for patience for teachers that have small children at home. These parents are trying to help their children and teach.</p> <p>Ashley, her Council made the decision not to fundraise. PRO grant meeting to get ideas for parents more involved. Idea's were game nights, paint nights, Adult nights instead of family.</p> <p>Scheduling has been a real challenge when you have children from different schools.</p> <p>Cat Coode for online safety; link provided in chat.</p> <p>Report cards will be mailed out. If a parent needs a meeting it can be requested.</p>
8:55-9:00	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parents for Education conference <p>Mandi will send a link for the summit within the minutes. . The majority of the summit is public. You can listen to their speakers.</p>
9:00	<p>Closing</p> <p>All WRAPSC reps share the meetings with your school councils.</p> <p>Please fill out the surveys coming out over the next couple months from WRDSB. Let's connect.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next meeting - Tues. April 6 7pm <p>*note no March meeting</p>