

Minutes

MEETING OF THE WATERLOO REGION ASSEMBLY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS TUESDAY JAN 10th, 2023 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Presenter/Facilitator</u>
7:00 to 7:05	Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgment - Review of Agenda Minutes from November approved. Sara reviewed the agenda.	Sara
7:05-7:35	The Healing of The Seven Generations Latasha introduced the Healing of the Seven Generations. Founded by Donna Dubie. She started the organization because her father was at a residential school. She wanted to create a place so that the next 7 generations won't have to experience the same trauma. Latasha is a youth coordinator. Partnered with Community Justice Initiatives. Learn from the youth while guiding them on their path. Speak their truth - make a change for the world. H7G offers numerous programs - Wednesday - women's circle - sing talk about what is happening in their life in a safe space. Hoping to start a men's circle on Tuesdays. Led by an elder. Addiction, mental health, healthy parenting. Walk through life experiences. Parenting program - There was a need because there were so many F&CS cases. Need somewhere to get positive parenting and guidance. A village to raise a child. Works with F&CS if required. There are incentives such as CPR/ WHIMIS training.	Latasha Wilson lwilson@healingofthesevengenerations.ca

	<p>Legal team - child protection, criminal court, Gladue report writing.</p> <p>Wednesday lunch - community lunch - open to anyone.</p> <p>Have all the services in one place to help people - can access many services.</p> <p>Backpack program - Buy shoes and backpacks and fill them for children.</p> <p>The relationship with WRDSB is a good one. Reliable and accountable. Versed in the history of indigenous people. Would like to have a relationship and know the demographic of indigenous students in school. How many are on honour roll and who is going to university? Give students the support and push them into narratives of good. I would love to do some fundraising for the backpack program.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does H7G have programs where they can go into schools? Staff fly by seats of their pants! But they will do it. Will ask what the school knows? What do they need to know? As the youth coordinator she would like to have youth involved and understand and know. - How are indigenous students working with students of other backgrounds so there isn't a divide? Would be great to have that dynamic, but would need an elder to teach the children. Many are still learning their own history. Need someone who holds the knowledge to teach both of them the right ways. A lot of indigenous kids don't even know their own history. - Will provide Latasha's contact in minutes. She can find who can help if she can't personally help. Located at 300 Frederick St. - How do parents and caregivers bring the message to the kids? What is the best age group? Age appropriate stories are always an option. But is there an age group where there can be the most impact. Gr 4 or 5 is the best age. Trying to mold them into what they want to be. Some of the more intense conversations. Can relate to residential school as that was the age kids were taken. Middle school/ high school can understand 60s scoop and some of the legal changes of status and other matters. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They have a facebook that can be followed for events. - Working on a youth conference and will share details. 	
7:35-8:00	<p>Student Trustees</p> <p>Vaishnave and Kenzy presented about their role. Vaishnave - Cameron Heights gr 12 - first term. Kenzy - Cameron Heights gr 12 - second term. Main goal to amplify student voice, advocate for those without a voice. Work with adult trustees. Elected for a one year term.</p> <p>How is WRDSB engaging students to determine their needs - biggest thing is the strategic plan. 10,000 responses - 5,000 students. Round table meetings. Got their point of view. What works, what doesn't. Main vision/ mission, celebrate gifts of each and every students. Skilled and passionate global citizens. School survey/ student census. Led to substantial changes. Many activities they attend and gather ideas.</p> <p>How do we connect with our student peers? Primary way is through student round tables. Venue for all gr 7-12 students to come together and discuss issue, bring forward other issues. Set overarching topic each month. Invite guest speakers. Encourage students to speak openly. End every meeting by writing a recommendation of what they'd like to see. Informal ways of connecting through social media - official and personal accounts. Temperature checks via polls. Can launch their own personal initiatives that connect with students. E.g. web series of videos - very successful. Students are already on social media so they don't have to go somewhere they aren't comfortable. There is a student trustee emails. Can also conduct surveys from student trustees - still going through the results of the last survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Questions: - How many students represented at roundtables - is it diverse? Not make any student feel forced to attend. Used to be student senate - limited who could come and obligated to attend. Didn't get good participation. Attendance depends on the topic. Can get 200 students sometimes less. Different faces in every meeting. - How do students hear about them? Through Social media and their student emails - With logistics how do students get there? I.e. younger students etc. Since pandemic they moved it all online - easier to access. Gr 7-12 are invited. <p>How do we ensure the student's voice is heard? Round table meetings - the main focus is to gather</p>	<p>Vaishnave Raina and Kenzy Soror kenzy_soror@wrdsb.ca</p>

	<p>ideas and hear from students. Take it and present to the Board. Make informed decisions. They are in schools and see the day to day and bring their perspective. When there is a discussion or question at Board table they can make a decision whether they would like to present their opinion. Education Act does not allow student votes to be binding. They are recorded though. Public and trustees can see where the student trustees voted and why they voted that way. Like to go beyond just voicing their ideas, but also implementing when they can. Such as changing the student senate to roundtables. Also changed the student trustee election process. Board wide all students (secondary) can vote on who they would like as their trustee.</p> <p>What are the three top concerns we're hearing amongs students? What are the supports we're seeing students need? No point if it stops at talking. Need to implement solutions. Need to figure out action plans. Top three concerns centre around stigma of mental health, diversity, (race religion, culture sexual orientation) education that empowers for the future (financial health etc). Can address on a daily basis. Needs supports around mental health specific to your needs not general. Acknowledge the diverse cultural days. Look at students most in need in relation to the pandemic. Whether socioeconomic, physical or mental health. Right now university applications, not all students have parents who know how the school system works i.e. immigrants. Need more help with that.</p> <p>How can parents/ school councils/ trustees/ the board help meet student needs? Value student voice. How many times they have been belittled or dismissed told they are too young. Also consult with teachers and staff as well. They live in the system every day. Youth are capable of understanding what is or isn't work and what they need to thrive. One action is to incorporate students into decision making. Important to have student representation on every council. Committees at the Board level should include students - they invite one or both trustees. But few have a large number of students represented. Valuing their voice will encourage them to attend.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there examples of the topics at the Round tables? Mental health- guest speakers from Carizon. Including students in municipal election - Laura Mae Lindo spoke about her role in politics. Last year - when dress policy was being revisited most of the concerns in the survey were specific to grade 7& 8 - students could provide feedback on it. Equity and Inclusion roundtable. When strategic plan was being developed they had many meetings. Considering financial literacy. - A barrier to student voice can be the principal. Some principals can have concerns. Can they 	
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	<p>talk to the board about that barrier. Parents want student voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the demographics for the roundtables - the most minority representation was for the equity and inclusion round table. Important to see the key stakeholders at the meetings. Every meeting they are diverse. They don't collect that information. 	
8:00-8:25	<p>Best Practices-Topics and Speakers</p> <p>Sara presented the results of the best practice survey. See presentation.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did you get your council engaged in getting speakers? Putting out to the council. And that's how the ideas came about. Talk about mental health talks in the Region. Early in the year find out what people are interested in. Some councils have sub committees that are more varied. • Come councils trying to talk more about decisions being made about in their school vs updates about what is already decided - this will be the topic of a survey in 2 months. 	Sara
8:25-8:35	<p>PIC/WRAPSC Bridging Update</p> <p>Sara provided an update on these discussions. See the overview in presentation. Have asked for certain things and they are happening. Very board led at the moment, as the chair becomes more comfortable that may change. Meetings are very short. Will have a rep from PIC on WRAPSC and vice versa.</p> <p>Questions: Can we ask them to force Councils to get access to the board created emails.</p> <p>Progrant - very delayed. Subcommittee isn't established yet. Sara will provide an update when available. Councils can start thinking about what you want to submit so you are ready. The window will be very short.</p>	Sara
8:35-9:00	<p>Answers to Some Questions from last meeting and Open Discussion for more questions</p> <p>Sara went through questions and answers received from the WRAPSC email. See presentation for overview.</p>	Sara

	<p>Kelly will provide details for the minutes on bylaws. Many councils don't understand how it legally supposed to work until there is a problem.</p> <p>Questions from members?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The \$500 from school budget that is directed to councils. Need direction from Board to schools about this budget line. There are many new principals. May not be aware. - Is anyone else having issues with nutrition for learning with the breakfast program? May need to check with the teacher about what is happening. Other schools do have fresh food available before school. - Question about facebook pages for schools. Are they public or private? Who manages? Not an official board run site. How much time do you have to manage. Every school is allowed to have one. - Question for future: want to understand what the limitations of the principal are. They are being told they can't hold any events. Can put together the questions and Sara will get answers. Messages need to be given to principles. They may not listen to school council members. - Legally school fundraised dollars are owned by the Board. Board has final say on how funds are spent. 	
9:00	<p>Closing: Future meetings dates (Feb 7, Apr 4, May 2)</p> <p>Next meeting: Tues. Feb 7th, 7-9 pm</p>	Sara