

WRAPSC Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2021, 7-9 pm

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgements

- Encouraged to consider what it means and reflect on what is being said
- May want to engage with information on Treaties Recognition Week
 - <https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties-recognition-week>

Agenda and Minutes Approval

- Agenda shared
 - Motion Ashley V, 2nd Melissa H – Agenda approved
- Minutes from October presented and updates shared for future agenda items arising from October meeting
 - Motion Ashley A, 2nd Melissa H – Minutes approved

PRO Grants (see slides from Coordinating Superintendent Matt Gerard for more information)

- PRO Grant meant to help parents be more engaged with student's education
- Desired Outcomes – in order of importance
 - Addressing social inclusion and racism
 - Creating a safe and welcoming environment
 - Including parents as partners in education
 - Increase communication with teachers
 - Help parents understand curriculum and resources
- Activities will
- Performance Measures
 - Should increase parent engagement
 - Equity and inclusion
- Last year not all of the money was spent even though all the money was allocated
- Guiding Principles
 - Still have regional event – has the most impact
 - Focus on schools that have the most need (socio-economic factors)
 - Helpful if partnerships of nearby schools/feeder schools
- Timelines (subject to change)
 - November 15, 2021 – plans released to schools
 - December 17, 2021 – applications due
 - January 14, 2022 – successful schools contacted
 - Suggested that event is done by May 31, 2022 to allow time to write report
 - June 15, 2022 – report to Board
- If you had an application last year and didn't spend the money, why?
 - Challenging to get physical hard copy that is required to administration when buildings are closed
 - Communication may have been an issue – some schools didn't know they had funding until they were asked for a report

- Hard to get speakers for the amount that was offered by the program, especially if asking them to give multiple sessions for different ages
 - Perhaps this is an area where schools can come together and pool their money.
- How does it resonate if the most needy schools are offered the money and other schools do not receive any funds?
 - Concern with taking it away from all schools as there are parents in need at all schools, perhaps we can allocate more money for needy schools, but still offer some for all – important with equity and inclusion in mind
- Member question – Are there people in Equity and Inclusion that could provide a list of speakers that would be inclusive and interested in speaking?
 - Matt will follow-up
- Member question – How will PRO grant information be communicated?
 - Will be driven through the administrators of the schools, but will look into adding to Board or School websites
- Member question – This timeline is super quick, especially since collaboration is requested. Can we have clarity on what the exact deadlines will be?
 - Deadlines will be out in the next couple of weeks, but still fluid
- Member question – PRO Grants are parent led, but how is it decided? It's not clear why and how the dollars are distributed.
 - The committee decides how the funds are allocated. There are parents on the committee. Though this is parent led, it is up to the Board to facilitate. The Board does not keep any excess money, it has to be returned (as was done last year), but it is still the responsibility of the Board to oversee the process.

Fundraising

- In cautious/staged approach to re-opening, things are changing quickly
- Actions guided by Public Health and many other ministries
- Volunteers are returning to school, they must be vaccinated
 - Focus is on Nutrition for Learning and Strong Start currently
- Fundraising must be virtual, community use of schools isn't open yet
- Guidance from the Board on COVID protocols should be followed even if held outside of Board facilities
- Individual principals will always have the final say on what can/can't work, Board will not override these decisions as they don't know the specifics of each schools community considerations
- When considering what to fundraise for see AP 4690
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/4690-School-Generated-Funds.pdf>
- Board has made changes to how schools are funded, technology is to be provided by the Board and bought on the Board licenses, allows this device to be maintained and the technology remains consistent across schools, also volume discounts due to the amount purchased

- Some exceptions to this technology rule (ie technology that is stationary), work with your principal to decide if what you are looking for is allowed
- Member question – What can be done for fundraising?
 - Needs to be driven through the principal, this may be very specific to the school community, ask your principals the “why” behind the decision if an idea is not supported by the principal
 - The Board will NOT override specific school decisions

Carizon – Lauren, Family Resource Coordinator Lead (see Lauren’s slides for more information)

- Whose Land App can help determine information needed for territorial acknowledgements and provide information about treaties across Canada
 - <https://www.whose.land/en/about>
- Contact for Carizon – wellnessoutreach@carizon.ca
- Help support the health and wellbeing of families so they can be part of their community
 - Family is defined by the people looking for support
 - Carizon offers programs directly or helps connect families with outside resources
 - Strives to make the process seamless as possible and break down barriers
- Community Services Programs can be found at
 - [https://padlet.com/eyoung106/Carizon Community Services Programs](https://padlet.com/eyoung106/Carizon_Community_Services_Programs)
- Survive and Thrive – Community Resource Program Weekly Bulletins
 - <https://padlet.com/crpgroups/i22tnro6nu77z940>
- Community Services are free of charge
- Some of the counseling services do have a fee, but they can be covered by benefits or OW, etc, and work on a sliding scale – try not to say no
- Front Door – partnership with Lutherwood to provide counseling for children and youth
- Take the information back to admins at your school and feel free to connect through wellnessoutreach@carizon.ca if you have additional questions or direct administrators back to ask questions
- Member question – Have you partnered with schools and can you tell us what that looks like?
 - There are workers in some specific schools that have office hours
 - If there isn’t a worker at a school, families can be referred
 - Families can connect through Front Door or through the general email above if they aren’t comfortable going through administration at their school
 - Newcomer Mental Health Program does lots of outreach for people new to Canada and what their kids might experience in school
- Member question – How can families connect with Carizon? Does it need to be through administration at the school?
 - Can reach out to admins, Special Education Resource Teacher, CYW at school
 - Intake must be signed by principal/vice principal and school social worker/school psychologist if coming from the school
 - Self-referral goes through wellnessoutreach@carizon.ca

- Member question – Are programs such as CAPC still going during COVID?
 - Yes, programs are run still and are being offered virtually, depending on what people are comfortable with
- Member question – Are you publicly funded or not-for-profit?
 - Not-for-profit through community partnerships, donations, grants, etc
- Member question – Are there volunteering opportunities for youth in the region?
 - Yes, there are some opportunities, connect through wellnessoutreach@carzion.ca to be discuss options
- Member question – The Board has an interest in developing partnerships between school councils and community organizations. How would school councils connect with Carizon and how would these programs be developed? Where would the school councils start in developing programs that are relevant to the school?
 - Reach out to admins/SERT/CYW at your school to determine what is needed. Feel free to reach out directly if you would like to continue the conversation with Carizon.

Equity and Inclusion Small Group Discussion

- 4 representatives from the Board will come to January 11, 2022 meeting to discuss Equity and Inclusion – will be a majority of the meeting and will be time for questions
- Member question – Can the board help councils with translation services to help our info get to a more diverse range of families (principals can suggest what are the main first languages at school)?
 - Information on School Day is translated
 - People for Education – tip sheets are translated in 14-20 languages, includes information about school councils
 - Principal has access to translated forms, Board does have translation services for their documents/website/etc
 - Could also offer volunteer hours for high school students to act as translator
 - Board has used live translation and should be able to share the technical piece of this through principals
- Member question – Can other members from school councils come to WRAPSC meetings?
 - Yes, the meetings are open. Link can be shared by WRAPSC representative or the person can reach out directly to wrapsc@gmail.com for the link

Closing

- Watch your email for information about PRO Grants coming in the next couple weeks
- The next meeting will be on January 11, 2022 from 7-9 pm and will focus on Equity and Inclusion
 - Watch your emails for requests for questions, but will be time for questions at the meeting as well
 - Connection details will be sent prior to the meeting
- The meeting ended at 8:57 pm