

WRAPSC meeting minutes
Nov 4, 2014 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Forest Heights Collegiate Library



Waterloo Region Assembly
of Public School Councils

Attendance: ## School Council Representatives
6 Guests
8 Members of the 2014-15 WRAPSC Steering Committee

- **Minutes from October 2nd and tonight's agenda approved**
- **PIC update**
 - o Planning on updates for materials
 - o Plan to reach out to schools that are not involved with PIC/WRAPSC
 - o Translation of documents; \$3000 of PIC budget earmarked for this
 - o Learning services with parent involvement on math initiatives
 - o Tips on policies and procedures for parents – 1 page being developed
 - o “Building Healthy Relationships” book from CODE is available – PIC is interested in finding out how it's working and how it's being implemented.
 - o What are the barriers for new Canadians and developing relationships between those parents and the school(s)
 - o April 18th workshop on mind body and spirit of the child – looking for volunteers and members of an organizing subcommittee. Location: Bluevale. Keynote speaker: Leslie Andrew – overcoming obstacles.
 - o Safe caring school team – Jill Magazine
- **Community Environmental Fund**
 - o Christopher Gosselin, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.,
 - o Manager of Environmental Planning, Planning, Housing, and Community Services Department, Regional Municipality of Waterloo
 - o Contact via phone: 519-575-4501 or email: CGosselin@regionofwaterloo.ca
 - o www.regionofwaterloo.ca/sustainability
 - o Provides \$ for stewardship projects since 2010
 - o Applications must fall into:
 - Enhancement or restoration of natural areas
 - Naturalization of landscapes
 - Public education and awareness of of naturalization
 - o Objectives
 - Uses drought tolerant native species
 - Attracts pollinators
 - Matches in kind funds
 - o No funding for curriculum development
 - o Funding for Environmental stewardship
 - o Funding is based on two other sources of input
 - In kind contributions
 - School communities
 - o Max allowable:
 - Large caliper trees (50-70mm diameter) \$400 each
 - Armour-stone rock (2'x2'x3') \$150 each
 - Mulch and soil \$48/yd3 or 57.41/m3
 - Components costs above the above must be justified

- o Max funding of \$3000
 - o Multiyear requests max of 2 requests
 - o Shade audit - cancer prevention promotion through shade - Region's shade audit kit:
<http://chd.region.waterloo.on.ca/en/healthyLivingHealthProtection/resources/ShadeAuditGuideTool.pdf>
 - o Deadline for 2015: Dec 19, 2014
 - Regional council for final approval
 - Feb-March final approval/funding
 - o See pages 5-16 for details "Region of Waterloo Community Environmental Fund"
- **A school/parental perspective of greening**
 - o Karen Madsen –Kindergarten teacher @ WT Townshend (Karen_madsen@wrdsb.on.ca)
 - o WT Townshend playground design
 - o <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DM-Bkbp7wso>
 - o Temp closer to tarmac is higher for children, than at adult height
 - o Features of the playscape
 - Outdoor classroom
 - Log jam climber
 - Stage
 - Sandbox
 - Climbing turtle burm
 - o All elements are board approved
 - o 90k budget, over a 2 year plan \$50k first year, \$40k 2nd. Breaking ground June 2015
 - o Fundraising through sales of chocolate bars, Norcard, nitwit hats, move-a-thon donations
 - o Parent council lead.
 - o Designed by Earthscape in Elmira
 - **Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds Program –**
 - o Glynis Logue - Evergreen - School Ground Design Consultant
 - o Contact by phone: (416) 596-1443 or <mailto:waterloo.region@evergreen.ca>
 - o Evergreen and Earthscape work together
 - o Board supports evergreen workshop series for development in plans of green spaces
 - o Greening goals:
 - Well-being
 - Health
 - Child development
 - Ecological diversity
 - Educational use
 - Enthusiasm for learning
 - o Safe places to learn with places to:
 - Build
 - Explore
 - Relax
 - Socialize
 - Test
 - Dream
 - o Incremental challenges with natural materials
 - o Places for quiet refuge for health and wellness
 - o Greening impacts:
 - More cooperation
 - Less boredom
 - More exercise
 - o Steps:
 - Establish a team
 - Identify your goals
 - Assess your site
 - Create a wish list
 - Design your plan
 - Fundraise
 - Build
 - Evaluate
 - o Greening team has to have depth in both parent and faculty involvement

- o Steps:
 - Site evaluation
 - Map out a plan
 - Make a wish list
 - Prepare your design
- o Three streams of service available
- o Concept through to construction service available
- o Landscape Ontario helped funding one school/year – supported Stanley Park school.
- o There is a watershed grant stream as well
- www.evergreen.ca
- www.schoolgrounds.ca
 - o Website contains a list of funding sources in Ontario and native plant database
- **Region of Waterloo Public Health –**
 - o Lesley Rintche (519) 575-4400 ext 5351
 - o Chris Harold (519) 883-2006 ext 5322
 - o Alyshia Cook (519) 575-4400 ext 5255
 - o Reviewing services relating to sexual health
 - Relationships
 - Respect
 - Valuing wellness
 - o “Sexual Youth Strategy” has 3 main parts:
 - Access
 - Education - Improving/assisting educators with teaching
 - Parental involvement
 - o How to better support parents to speak to their children about sexual health
 - o What are parents doing in regards to these conversations?
 - o Looking to launch a survey with parents to figure out a plan going forward.
 - o What is the best way to reach the parental knowledge base?
 - Could be an article available for school website transmittal
 - Possible send home post card.
 - Labels for planners
 - Link through school day or similar programs to the survey
 - QR codes on a poster linking to survey
 - Teacher twitter accounts
 - Possibility of attending events at schools where parents will be present
 - o What is age appropriate?
 - o How to reach parents of high school students? – possible handout with Phys. Ed. Sex ed curriculum or report cards
 - o Aiming for Jan-Feb time of survey launch
 - o Looking for 350-400 surveys for statistical significance
 - o Parent teacher interview nights could be a good time to connect with parents

- o Looking for people to pilot the survey as well

High School Pilot Program

- o Teen pregnancy rates in Waterloo Region are high
- o Currently, each high school has a ½ day a week, where a Public Health nurse is available for counseling, questions etc. Nurses can give prescriptions for contraceptives but can't actually dispense them.
- o If a student wants to get birth control, they then have to pick up the contraceptive from one of 2 regional offices in our area. Over 60% of the students who received counseling do not make it to pick up the contraceptive.
- o Pilot teen pregnancy prevention project is going at Eastwood and Galt C.I. with hope to roll the program out Sept 2015 in all schools.
- o Includes preventative contraceptives and availability of plan B contraceptive medicines.
- o Parents are the primary teachers of the expectations and sexual relations knowledge
- o Parent Q&A document on the secondary school pilot project - http://chd.region.waterloo.on.ca/en/healthyLivingHealthProtection/resources/SexualHealthServices_ParentsQandA.pdf
- **Open session -**
- Skating programs are being cancelled due to no access to proper helmet protection CSA requirements.
 - o Helmets can no longer be provided by the school due to liability because school staff are not trained to fit helmets properly, but yet are helmets are still required.
 - o Feedback will be sent forward to the board
- Queensmount had an immigrant information session relating to the report cards to understand the report card fields and terminology. See pages 17-18 for details.
- Contact Angelica Allen in regards to concerns with the bussing issues
- Looking for anyone interested in helping develop a parent council guideline of what and how a parent council should operate.

Next meeting is Jan 13, 2015 (second Tuesday) topic will be “communication”.

Meeting adjourned.

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Any further thoughts, email [WRAPSC@gmail.com](mailto:WRAPSC@gmail.com)

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# *The Region of Waterloo Community Environmental Fund*

**PRESENTATION TO THE WATERLOO REGION ASSEMBLY  
OF PUBLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS**

PRESENTED BY: CHRIS GOSSELIN,  
MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING,  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

NOV. 4, 2014





*The Applications must fall into at least one category and fulfill at least two criteria:*

- 
- **Enhancement and restoration of natural areas**
  - **Naturalization of landscapes**
  - **Acquisition of ecologically significant natural areas**
  - **Public education and awareness initiatives on some aspect of environmental stewardship**
  - **Environmental stewardship–related research**

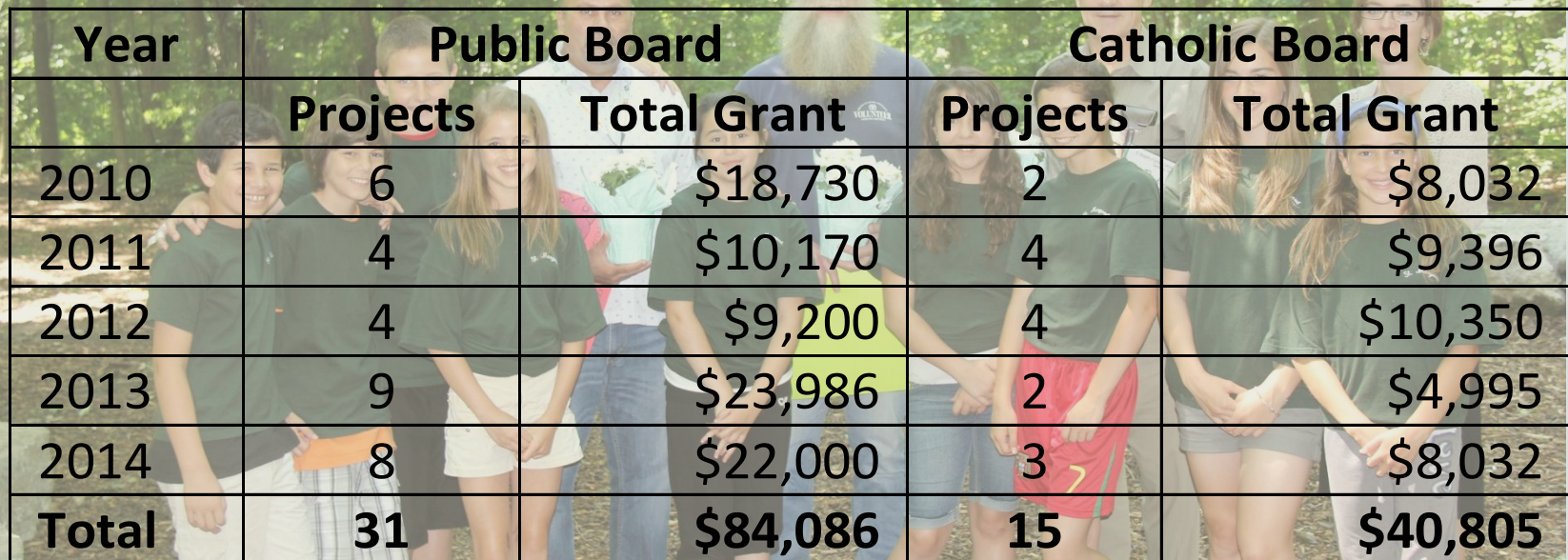
*Naturalization of roadsides, trails, the grounds of educational facilities, or Regional facilities where such projects are directly related to Regionally supported interests.*

**Objectives:** To establish low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, locally indigenous vegetation along the side of a Regional road or a public trail.

**Criteria:**

- Not part of an ongoing public infrastructure project.
- **Is in proximity to existing natural features or Major Urban Greenspaces.**
- **Uses drought-tolerant native species.**
- Is supported by the Kissing Bridge Trailway Advisory Board or an Area Municipal trail advisory committee.
- **Attracts native pollinators.**
- **Involves youth, schools, or community associations.**
- **Provides opportunity for public education about naturalisation.**
- **Attracts matching funds or in-kind contributions from individuals or other organizations**

*The Community Environmental Fund has been providing grants to school greening projects since 2010.*



| Year         | Public Board |                 | Catholic Board |                 |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
|              | Projects     | Total Grant     | Projects       | Total Grant     |
| 2010         | 6            | \$18,730        | 2              | \$8,032         |
| 2011         | 4            | \$10,170        | 4              | \$9,396         |
| 2012         | 4            | \$9,200         | 4              | \$10,350        |
| 2013         | 9            | \$23,986        | 2              | \$4,995         |
| 2014         | 8            | \$22,000        | 3              | \$8,032         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>31</b>    | <b>\$84,086</b> | <b>15</b>      | <b>\$40,805</b> |



# School ground greening projects

No funding for curriculum development  
or curriculum delivery except for:

- **environmental stewardship**
- **ecological restoration**
- **broader public education goals  
of the Community  
Environmental Fund**
- **other environmental initiatives  
supported by the Region.**

*Project funding contingent upon financial support from at least two other sources*

- **other funding organizations,**
- **school community**
- **in-kind donations from community members**



# Maximum allowable cost for common components of school ground greening projects:

- Large caliper trees (50 to 70 mm in diameter): \$400 each
- Armour-stone rock (approx. 2'x2'x3'): \$150 each
- Mulch and soil: \$48/yd<sup>3</sup> or \$57.41/m<sup>3</sup>
- Component costs higher than those specified above must be justified.

**MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF TOTAL GRANT REQUEST SCHOOL GROUND GREENING PROJECTS: \$3,000**



*Funding may be considered for larger multi-year projects subjects if:*

- **project is consistent with the criteria for eligibility**
- **project is part of a comprehensive multi-year plan with phased implementation**
- **funding is for different elements of the project, not just “more of the same”**
- **requested amount does not exceed \$2,000**

Tree planting should preferably be done  
to implement the results  
of a shade audit of the school grounds.



*Deadline for submission of applications  
for 2015:*

**Dec. 19, 2014.**

**Applications are subject to  
Regional Council approval provided the  
Community Environmental Fund is  
approved as part of the 2015 Region of  
Waterloo Budget.**





APPLY  
TO  
THE

2015

COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL

*Fund*

## **To apply:**

Please visit [www.regionofwaterloo.ca/sustainability](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/sustainability)  
to access additional details and to download the  
application package.

# Thanks!

Christopher Gosselin, M.C.I.P., R.P.P.,  
Manager of Environmental Planning,  
Planning, Housing, and Community Services  
Department,  
Regional Municipality of Waterloo,  
150 Frederick Street,  
Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4J3.  
Phone: 519-575-4501  
[CGosselin@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:CGosselin@regionofwaterloo.ca)

**Queensmount Senior Public School:  
Information Session for immigrant parents (fall 2014)**

At school council an immigrant parents suggested providing information session for immigrant parents.

As a follow up for this idea, the school principal and vice principal had a meeting with the immigrant parent in order to plan for the session.

The plan included the following:

- The session will be about understanding report cards
- The session will be in the morning at school library
- There is an invitation letter will be send home with every child, as everyone is welcome to attend
- Parents should send back the portion of the letter that confirm their attendance
- The Vice principal will contact all families with ESL students by phone to invite them.
- There will be light refreshment
- There will be interpreters for different language upon requested, this stated in the invitation letter
- The invitation letter will be translated to different languages that reflect school population by using Google translator.
- The date of the session will be just after parents receive the first report card and before parent-teacher interview.
- Determining another meeting before the session to discuss the kind of questions that we need to ask parents in order to plan for other information sessions in the future.

Second meeting for discussing what kind of questions to ask parents who will attend the information session in order to plan for future sessions.

The meeting include vice principal, immigrant parent and ESL teacher at the school.

The plan includes the following:

- There will be a multiple-choice question of what parents need to know about school related issues. Parents should choose all that apply and handed the paper before leaving.
- The choices are:
  - o School council
  - o Resources i.e. math, science, technology
  - o School people resources
  - o IEP program (Individual Education Plan)
  - o ESL program (English as a Second Language)
  - o Parent-teacher meetings
  - o Other

The information session day

- There are seven parents confirm that they will attend.
- Two parents with different languages background asked for interpreters.
- Six out of these seven attended, the two interpreters came.
- The vice principal prepared an envelop for each parent that include a copy of the material he will discuss. The materials include a copy of the power point presentation, a copy of two different report cards (the progress report card and the elementary report card), a copy of



Queensmount staff voicemail (with teachers' name, phone extension, and subject/grade), and a copy of some tips for parent-teacher interview.

- The content of the session include
  - Describing the progress report card, this includes child's name and grade; total day absent, total day late, school phone number and address, learning skills (responsibility, organization, independence, collaboration, initiative, and self regulation), Subjects taught at school, Marks (letters in progress report and actual mark in the other two reports), What (E, G, S, and N) means, what ESL and IEP means, etc.
  - Explaining the differences between progress report card and elementary report cards
  - How to contact my child teacher
  - How to help my child at home; this includes
    - Get your child into a routine
    - A quiet place to do homework
    - No distractions
    - Teachers websites
    - Homework help at [www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org](http://www.homeworkhelp.ilc.org)
  - When to worry; parent start to worry if their children came home with level 1 or 40% on any test. They should call the teacher and ask question to put a plan for improvement.
  - Some tips of parent-teacher interview
    - Ask for an interpreter if it is necessary
    - Come on time
    - Read your child report card and highlight everything that you want to ask about
    - Ask for clarification of some words or phrases that are not clear for you in your child's report card
    - Ask for information about what they are doing in Math, science, social studies, etc.
    - Ask for some of your child work
    - Ask if the teacher has any concern about your child and ask for some examples
    - Ask for the next step of your child improvement
    - Ask if your child needs extra assistance.
    - Ask if there are any other available sources for your child
    - Ask how you help your child at home
    - Ask for the outline of what the teacher plan to cover in the next term
    - Make realistic goals of your child improvement that will help your child to succeed.
    - Remember to not discuss sensitive issues in front of your child and remember to know about your child's accomplishment as well as his needs to improvement.