

WRAPSC Meeting Minutes - January 12, 2021

I. Welcome

- Heidi welcomes members to the meeting
- Territorial land acknowledgment
- Review of the minutes from November 3rd, 2020
- Motion to approve minutes by Lindsay Glass, Seconded by :Anna Jauque. Motioned approved.

II. Break-out Rooms

- Below are the notes from our 2 groups, from our breakout sessions. Thank you to everyone for their ideas and suggestions, and to our note takers for drafting these minutes.

WRAPSC Breakout rooms

Google Meets

- Councils have successfully been using Google Meets for meetings. The principals have set the meetings and send out the links. This has been consistent through the whole group.
- Some councils have been using Google Forms to get ideas and consensus from their council.
- Most councils have been using their meetings as a chance for parents to connect because there isn't a lot of business to discuss.
- Some councils moved online back in the spring to wrap up their year and have just continued online seamlessly this year.
- Councils are finding the turnout the same this year as in previous years and are finding the meetings more efficient because there is no side chatting, this is also a downfall as it reduces the connection between members.

PROGrant

- Deadline is February 5 and the amount is \$250-500 this year.
- Most councils have no idea what they would do for PROGrant this year, but are open to ideas.
- Ideas floated were:
 - Trivia Night/ Jeopardy, Family Feud
 - Lion Hunt (people put up pictures in their windows for kids to find)
 - Online Bingo
 - Mural- Each family makes a piece and then pieces are put together into one big picture when able to be together again.
 - Music night
 - virtual school tours
 - Highschool career night-online career fair
 - Multicultural night
- Most people are feeling tapped out with being online all day. They want a break.
- Only half of the councils in the group were planning to apply for PRO Grant funding.
- A thought of asking the school staff/admin if there are any resources that are needed and PRO Grant money could be used for the purchases of those resources.

Online Learning

- Parents are worried about the amount of screen time that kids are getting.
- Parents are wanting their kids to do more synchronous learning.
- Biggest complaint was having to upgrade family Internet packages, otherwise the whole family wouldn't be able to do their own work.
- Parents were expecting more engagement and online lessons, not as many worksheets.
- High school kids who were using D2L Brightspace have been having a good experience so far.
- Parents are having a problem with inconsistencies in the amount of synchronous learning/timing. Many elementary and middle school kids aren't getting what is outlined as synchronous learning.
- Does making a post saying "I'm here in the Meets link if you need help" count as synchronous learning?
- Some families who have been doing online distance learning since September have just now started getting into a good rhythm of what is working, and asked those who are normally in person learners to be patient as staff, admin, and families are finding what works best during this time.
- WRDSB is being flexible on what works for being online and the amount of time online. Teachers are required to be available for contact by parents and students through chat or email during the school day. If that isn't happening then it's time to reach out to the admin.

Notes from Breakout Group #3 - WRAPSC Jan 12, 2021 ~9 participants

Using Google Meet for Council Meetings; Best Practices are you meeting? are you using Google Meet?

Tips & Tricks? What do you need help with?

- All participants have had a school council meeting, but half have had only 1 so far this school year, and one still hasn't had elections
- All are using Google Meet for their meetings
- One challenge with school admin setting up the Google Meet is that they're then managing letting people in etc - assign someone else to that task so the admin can be present
- There was an issue with screen sharing and Bel was able to give advice around using a second google account but I didn't get the details
- One has a principal who seems reluctant to have council meetings - suggestion to approach them with compassion as they may be pretty overwhelmed and to set clear expectations, and have questions submitted in advance so they know what's coming
- Council meetings have included a check-in on how staff are doing, how to use funds, supporting students in need, and Q&As

PRO Grants; Ideas and Applications - online activity to engage parents

- Deadline is Feb 5th
- 2 of our parents were aware of their council applying
- We took a quick look at the application form - ***where can we find the statements to choose from and the provincial priorities required on the 2nd page?***
- One school had planned to do a wellness fair last year with a Guest Speaker - "help I've got anxiety" keynote and then other wellness speakers in break-out rooms - hoping to move it to online this year - had a couple names: Laurel Crossley - \$1000 do to separate in person presentations for students, staff & parents; Sara Westbrook - personal wellness
- Create paint/craft kits to deliver to families for an art night - guided or free form, then share what you've done & socialize
- 2 of our parents had attended the following webinars through the board and found them useful:
- WRDSB parenting essentials webinar
- Anxiety webinar with [PCMH](#): parents for children's mental health - they have a Waterloo Chapter and will send you resources. WRDSB has a whole psychology section on their website for teens.
- People are pretty tapped out with online meetings - suggestion of emailed pkgs for parents - so not at a specific time and you can take the time on your own to go through the pkg

Online learning discussion; technology access what mode are you using? how's it going?

- All of the participants in this room were doing in-person (currently remote) - 2 had children in high-school, the rest were in elementary
- Everyone seemed to express that in-person had gone better than they'd expected and that they were looking forward to when they could return. (one did share frustration of the amount of change in their child's class with a teacher leaving and then the restructuring and collapsing of classes - now 27 students in the classroom)
- synchronous learning makes it much more challenging - different expectations, less flexible schedule
- synchronous actually working better, students couldn't organize themselves.

- high-school quad mestering - getting more challenging in the new year, students not staying on top of things as well, need their friends, pace of material in quadmester is so fast, hard to absorb, students like having the day broken up with more subjects
- The kindergarten teacher sent home a package of materials at the break for their students, meaning they all have the same materials to work with, also able to decide how much they participate in.
- Ipads don't have the same capabilities as ChromeBooks, so glad to have the Chrome book from the school.
- one parent found their high-school student's chrome book was glitchy, switched to a laptop.
- download google chrome if you are on a laptop so you can create a profile for each child that saves their info

III. **Presenter Vikki Weir from WRDSB, secretarial support on Use of School Day**

- Vikki's portfolio includes Managing school day for all the schools
- What is School Day? School day is the board's online communication system, used for online payments, products and permission slips. Another use is for scheduling parent-teacher interviews, and school day "blasts" to parents to update them on their child's day/week or school functions.
- The Boards overall adoption rate for school day is approximately 90%, which consists of both elementary and secondary schools. Elementary's adoption rate is 93%, with secondary's adoption rate at 85%.
- In a non-Covid world, approximately 2 years ago, approximately \$5.5 million dollars was collected online, showing it is a very useful tool.
- The benefits of School day is it eliminates the lengthy process of students bringing cash/cheque to school to give to teachers, who in return send it to the office, which has to be counted and sent to the bank. It saves the parents time and energy needed to find change last minute for the last notes arriving home.
- saves on paper for permission slips and announcements
- The quick communication feature, once published and notified is clicked, it is sent out instantaneously.

- There is a tracker, on the teachers or admins site for off campus trips, or products that the teacher or admin puts on the site, that allows the teacher or admin to quickly check, and shows all the information.
- The parents site shows a calendar, off campus trips, etc. It shows all children registered in one location.
- Why School Day? It is an ECNO approved product. It provides the communication opportunity between the teacher, parents and office staff. It minimizes the handling of cash between the student, teacher and office staff. It reduces the paper consumption. It has streamlined a lot of office inefficiencies.
- There is a cost to using School Day to the school which is a yearly cost per student, but not the parents. The only cost to parents is for the product or events for their child.
- All products and events cost the same, whether you pay online or with cash or cheque. Should there be any residual funds after all the fees are paid for (processing fee, etc), it says at the school level to be used for supporting future purchasing or activities that support students.
- There are two ways to sign into School Day. One was through School-day.com on a desktop device, and the second way is school-day.app which can be used on mobile devices, where you can see the same information as the desktop version.
- Announcement is a one way communication from the school to parents, which usually comes out at 9 or 10pm. If the parent enabled their notification on the site, they will receive an email about the announcement.
- Events - used for permission slips and payments, including the information about the upcoming events. The back to school package was uploaded to this at the beginning of the year, with positive feedback from parents.
- Products - Items that can be purchased at the school. This can include hot lunches, spirit ware, and resources that maybe be available (ie. lab fees).
- Services - used by school to collect money without a specific product, ie. a fundraiser for the school.
- Student Fees - items that require payment to a specific student and on a specific item, such as library fee for an overdue book. Multiple fees can be added to this. Partial payments are permitted on larger amounts, such as a chromebook fee.
- Cart - paying for your cart is similar to any online ordering platform.

- School day uses debit and credit. Interact online is being eliminated.
- Parent-teacher conferences - hopefully is it more simple than calling in to the school for each student. You can now sign up for them online, and be able to select an open time slot.
- Support page is located in the top right corner, which looks like a question mark in a speech bubble. This will bring you directly to the school day support site.
- School Day has launched a feature with e-transfers, which is not available at this time. It may be available in the future, but it is unclear at this time.
- Graphics are limited when using School Day, as it is coming out to emails. There is a PDF option that can be used.
- School councils are advised to work closely with their office staff to help broadcast announcements on behalf of School councils.
- There is a translate option built right into school day, on the top right hand corner next to your cart. It will translate everything on the screen to your preferred language via Google translate.

IV. Closing

- If you attended the Parents for education conference in November 2020, could you contact Mandi to help contribute to our February Meeting.
- Ideas for possible agenda items can be forwarded to Heidi or Mandi at wrapsc@gmail.com
- Our next meeting will be on February 2nd, 2020 at 7pm. Steering committee will meet at 6pm.