

Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils
May 3 meeting
Notes prepared by Jill Magazine

1. PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) of the school board had a very successful Parent Conference on April 16. Material from those sessions will be on the PIC website by the end of May. See: <http://www.wrdsb.ca/pic/>
2. SafeTALK training is now available for any interested parents/guardians of the WRDSB. This training has been made available through funds received by WRAPSC.

“safeTALK is a three-hour alertness workshop that prepares participants, regardless of prior experience or training, to become a suicide alert helper.”

For information see:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2016/05/12/safetalk-training-now-available-for-parents-guardians/>

3. If you are interested in applying to join PIC, joining PIC as a WRAPSC member or simply want to learn more about PIC, an information session will be held on May 24 at 5:30 pm prior to the 6:30 PIC meeting. Attendees are welcome to stay and observe the PIC meeting though they are not permitted to participate in the meeting. The meeting location is 51 Ardelt Avenue, WRDSB Education Centre in the Cambridge Room. PIC applications will soon be available on the PIC website.
4. The remainder of the meeting was an opportunity for members to share feedback on the following four questions. Great ideas came out of this discussion. Those detailed notes will be provided to School Council when the WRAPSC minutes become available.
 - A. Has your council applied for the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant? If so, what have you used it for? Were your plans successful? What other grants has your council applied for and for what project?
 - B. What community events does/has your council run (e.g., fun fairs, curriculum nights, movie nights, sports events etc.)? Which are the most popular with your school community? What are your best tips for organizing this type of event? What challenges does your council face organizing these events? Are there events you'd like to plan but need help with?

- C. How does your council communicate with the broader school community? Has CASL (Anti-spam legislation) affected your council? If so, how have you gotten around that? Does your council use social media? If so, how and is it effective?
- D. What is the purpose of school council beyond fundraising/grants and planning community events? Does your council try to reach out to marginalized parents (e.g., refugees, single parents, people in poverty, parents of children with special needs etc.)? Do you consult with the principal on the school Code of Conduct, Dress Code and Principal Profile? Do you connect with other committees within your school such as the SCIS committee or with committees outside of your school such as WRAPSC, PIC, SEAC? What other ways could councils support their parent community? What help would you need to do that?