

WRAPSC MINUTES

May 7, 2019

The meeting began at 7pm.

- I. Approval of minutes for April 2, 2019
Moved by Tammy Dahms – Bluevale Collegiate Secondary School
Seconded by Beth Robson – Sandhills Public School Motion carried
- II. Approval of agenda for May 7, 2019
Moved by Sara Heroux – Glencairn Public School
Seconded by Ashley Harasym – Smithson Public School Motion carried
- III. Sensory Pathway

Our first speaker was a teacher from Clemens Mill Public School, Kimberly Gilhespy. She gave a description of the sensory pathway that she and fellow teacher Chris Wilson put in at Clemens Mill in Cambridge. Kimberly and Chris saw the idea over the 2018 Christmas holidays and upon returning back to school in January they put a plan in place. It took 6 weeks for completion and has been a huge success with both students and staff using the pathway. They purchased the Cricut machine for 300.00 at Michaels using funds donated by the Parent Council. Vinyl for the floor tiles was purchased there as well. This machine can cut out all sorts of patterns out of vinyl and paper. The pathway has been useful for all the kids at the school to not only release energy but also includes learning aspects from start to finish. Examples would include counting, shape recognition, colours, and other educational activities. See <https://twitter.com/cwilson1224/status/1102614146850394114?s=03> for a demo, or look at a school in Manitoba that has a similar pathway: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4q8dNwsR3E> Both teachers from Clemens Mills would be happy to talk to other teachers/school councils that would be interested in a similar project at their elementary school.

- IV. Diversification in School Councils

Deepa Ahluwalia is the Equity and Inclusion Officer at the WRDSB. She came to WRAPSC to discuss the challenges that parents have that prevent them from attending or joining school councils. The starting point is to “Identify and remove barriers to parent engagement that may prevent some parents from fully participating in their children’s learning and to reflect the diversity of our students and communities”. Examples would include a need for childcare or a need for a translator. Then Deepa went on to talk about general principals School Councils need to think about before they start on a campaign to diversify their membership.

- A. Diversity celebrates an increase in numbers that reflect minoritized status in schools and incremental growth. However, should our aim really be Equity?
- B. Equity celebrates reductions in harm, revisions to abusive systems and increases in supports for people who have been discriminated against.
- C. Inclusion celebrates awards for initiatives and credits itself for having a diverse group of people. However, is seeking justice more impactful?
- D. Justice celebrates getting rid of practices and policies that were having disparate impacts on minoritized groups.

