

WRAPSC Minutes – October 1st, 2019

Motion to approve June 2nd, 2019 Minutes.

Motioned by Sara Heroux , seconded by Heidi Holmes. Approved.

Motion to approve October 1st 2019 agenda

Motioned by Christine Rose, seconded by Anne Plouffe. Approved,

Attendance: 38 members, representing 34 Schools. 4 Guest.;

I. Welcome

- Angelica Allen welcomed the members of WRAPS
- Introduction to May Court Club, with Guest speakers Margarete Howell, Arlene Mackintosh

II. May Court Club – by Margarete Howell and Arlene Mackintosh

- May Court Club is comprised of volunteers, who help provide services to women and children, schools and other organizations.
- They are a registered charity, that not only provide financial and emotional support, but also educational services.
- This group provides assistance to many different organizations including the lunch box program at schools. For a full list of organizations, visit <http://maycourtclubofkw.org/who-we-support/>.
- There are 3 annual fundraisers that the May Court Club put on yearly.
This is their 30th year doing the Christmas Dreams Raffle during the holiday season.
In spring they hold flower sales and in Fall and spring they have music nights, with one coming up on October 30th.
- To date this group has given over \$2.5 million to the Kitchener-Waterloo region.
- The May Court Club is asking schools to help get their name out there, whether it is a gathering at their location in Kitchener, or just a few minutes with each school council.

III. What Should we talk about at school council meetings? How do we keep track of decisions? What requires a vote and what does not? By Cathy Volmer-Ashley, KCI principal and Heidi Holmes, Westvale parent & WRAPSC Steering Committee member. Include some of the following:

- Make Territorial acknowledgements
- Childcare provided – grade 6 students can help.
- Collaborative agenda, parents/guardians and principal together decide.
- Meet 5-8 meetings a year – depending on parent input.
- Timelines – keep track
- Sub committees that can be held outside of council meetings
- Presentation on school activities should be included, especially in High school.

How to choose topics and run School Council meetings smoothly – Round Table Discussions.

- i. Agendas
 - Stick to your timed agenda (discuss in advance to avoid hurting feelings)
 - Send out the agenda early
 - Ask Principal to speak at a specific time about one topic per month.
 - Send out minutes promptly
- ii. Committees
 - Use subcommittees so that time is not wasted on small details – especially for fundraising
 - Write bylaws – use the School Council Handbook as a base.
- iii. Principal & other staff
 - Work on having a good relationship with the principal
 - Rotate teacher representation
 - Ask Questions, lots of questions
 - Ex. How our cuts from the Province affecting our school, does the school have health & safety concerns that we need to know about, ask what a typical day is like.
 - Bring in food for teachers on a PD day as a thank-you potluck
- iv. Creative ideas
 - Summarize meeting and post on You-tube
 - Have a support list of people who can't come on meeting nights but want to help
 - Organize a turkey feast for students before Christmas Break
 - Have a clothing/book swap or mitten drive
 - Have guest speakers – topics such as web safety
 - Invite other schools to describe successful projects
 - Add activities that will draw more people, such as a yoga night.
 - Invite student Reps to find out what is happening
 - Have school tours (especially in High School)
 - Invite community members for presentations, such as Nutrition for Learning, Police, etc
- v. Fundraising
 - Use fundraising money asap, so that it is not used long after your kid graduates. When it is a long-term project, make that clear.
- vi. Questions
 - a. who is responsible for Garden maintenance? – next meeting
 - b. How do you decide how to spend money and who makes the decision?

Day to day operation rests ultimately with the Principal at each of the WRDSB schools. The School Council works in partnership and to collaborate with the principal, staff and community. This is done to ensure priorities are met and to enhance learning, through various activities supported by the school and or school council initiatives for the benefit of our children/students. All fundraising activities must follow MOE and WRDSB policies and

procedures. All funds being spent needs to be approved by school council, the executive committee and Principal. If a parent has ideas on how to spend school council money, they would need to speak to an executive member on council so they can bring idea forward at a meeting to be discussed. Everyone has a different opinion and although it would be discussed at school council and voted on by the voting members, the administration at each school will make final decision of spending. At our next meeting we will ask the Director of Education “what happens if a council votes, and then the spending plan gets overturned with a new principal”? All money raised through School Council becomes property of WRDSB regardless of who did the fundraising.

c. Who gets to vote at School Council?

The WRDSB School Council handbook states that elementary schools should aim for 9-15 voting members and at secondary schools aim for 11-15 members. This can be changed with your own school by law hand book as long as it complies with Ontario regulation 612/00. At the beginning of the school year a letter, school day, or other means to reach the school community is sent out asking if there are parents/caregivers that are interested in participating at school council. During the first meeting the administration (or Chair) asks if anyone is interested in becoming a voting member or executive member at school council. If there are between 9-15 at elementary level and 11-15 at secondary level they all will be acclaimed and those are the new members for that school year that can vote on various items. Voting is usually restricted to those with regular attendance, otherwise you get single issue voters who never show up again. This is far more important at the elementary level.

answers courtesy of Melissa Jenkins

IV. Board Updates.

- EQAO results are in with the same or lower rating then last year. Graduation rates however, increased to 85%. See page 35 of Board Package for details: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019-09-30-Board-Package-WEBSITE.pdf>

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Full EQAO report can be found on the EQAO website

<http://www.eqao.com/en/Pages/school-search.aspx?#k=Waterloo%20Region%20DSB>

<http://compareschoolrankings.org/> Fraser Institute

CHALLENGE: ASK ABOUT EQAO AT YOUR NEXT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING. ASK WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE RESULTS AT YOUR SCHOOL, AND ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP.

Note: the small sample size in most elementary schools is not necessarily a valid indicator of results. If your school is small, concentrate on board results. Come back with 1 suggestion per council, but avoid teacher criticism. Remember that teachers are the profession that make all other professions possible.

V. Closing – Mandi Bond

- Any questions for Director of Education John Bryant, need to be submitted by October 11th, 2019.
- French-Immersion steering committee starts next week
- PIC has started sub-committees, information to follow.

- PRO Grant Event – Video has come back for toolkit. There is no news on grants for school year 2019/2020. Do not plan for assistance this year.

-Challenge to feeder school councils. Try to reach out to the schools that your students feed into when they graduate, and invite them to come to a WRAPSC meeting.

- Steering Committee meets after meeting tonight. New members will be announced at the next meeting.

Next Meeting is on November 5th, 2019 at 7pm, Forest Heights Collegiate Library

AP/9 Oct 2019