

WRAPSC Meeting Minutes – January 14th, 2020

Attendance : 38 in attendance representing 32 schools, and 5 Guest speakers.

I. Welcome – Eian Campbell (WRAPSC Steering Committee member)

- Eian started today's meeting with our territorial land acknowledgment
- Minutes for our November 5th, 2019 - motioned by Melissa Jenkins, seconded by Anne Plouffe. Approved unanimously.
- Today's Meeting agenda - motioned by Christine Carmody, seconded by Megan Ricketts. Approved unanimously.

II. Music and Art Engagement for Students

- Rachele Garcia, the Centre in the Square's Community Engagement Contact representative, presented a new program that is free to schools. Centre In The Square is the largest performing arts centre in the Waterloo region, and owned by the City of Kitchener.
- There are three main focus points in this program. They include youth, mental health, and local artists, exploring the links between music and health. Sample programs include:
 - A. Juneyt, a musician originally from Turkey, works with grade 6 through 8. His main focus is on the mental and physical well-being of our youth, including empowerment. Instruments are available to help students create their favorite songs. More information can be found at <https://www.juneyt.com/>
 - B. Mary Catherine Pazzano, a local jazz musician, works with local high schools teaching a program called Jazz in the Schools which has run for five years. This weekly program teaches students how to create a song with instruments, which includes their voice. At the end of the program they hold a showcase, where every student can perform their song. She also runs creativity programs through the Centre in the Square connection. More information can be found at <https://www.marycatherinepazzano.com/>
- These programs run by local musicians are designed to help students develop well-being through music and creativity. They run for one 90 minute session, but can possibly be turned into multiple sessions. Instruments will be available if needed.
- The funding from this program comes from Centre in the Square.
- **ACTION:** If interested in the program, please contact Rachele at (519) 578-5660 Ext. 5100 or email her at rgarcia@centreinthesquare.com

III. Explore your future Expo - Scott Verhoeve

- This Career Fair is presented by the Business Education Partnership, a non profit organization. Parents and students from grades 7 through 12 are welcome to attend this annual Expo.
- It is a free student event with opportunities to look at co-op learning and possible future careers. There are over 75 businesses that share career stories and have

interactive experiences for students. Last year 900 people, including both parents and students attended, along with 75 local businesses.

- The fair will be held at Bingemans on April 8, 2020 from 4:30 PM to 8 PM. To aid in planning, please register in advance. Registration can be found on the following link (for parents and for companies) at www.bus-edpartnership.org/eyf The parent registration will feature the most up to date information about current breakout sessions
- A digital copy of postcard is attached; posters will be distributed to schools.
ACTION: Attendees are encouraged to share information with their school to increase the likelihood that parents will hear about it.
- FYI, there are several new events happening in Cambridge this year (registration for these events would be via specific educators in relevant schools):
 - A. March 3 “Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship Challenge” at Tapestry Hall (for SHSM students)
 - B. March 11 “Innovation, Creativity & Entrepreneurship Challenge” at CLAC Member Centre (for SHSM students)
 - C. Apr 28 “ZOOM into the Workplace” Career Day at Conestoga College (for grade 11-12 students expecting to go straight to work) – this event is technically at the Doon campus but added to existing Waterloo campus event so it would be accessible to students from Cambridge

IV. Summer Learning – Superintendent Elaine Ranney

- Since 2011, C.O.D.E. (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) has provided funding, coordination, and leadership for summer literacy and numeracy programs. Summer learning programs are intended to support primary students (grades 1 to 3) who would benefit from additional instruction, particularly in math and language skills.
- These programs were initiated to help reduce or eliminate summer learning loss. There is one program in Cambridge and two in Kitchener. The location is determined by a demonstrated need in the community, a cluster of schools close together, and the availability of an air-conditioned school location.
- This is a three week program, with six inquiry topics. Sample topics include wonderful wind, moving things, creepy crawlers, and world of water. Literacy is integrated by including reading, writing, oral language, science & technology, and community building. Early numeracy activities are also an integral component. (Dream Box, Lawson Continuum, coding) Students receive a T-shirt, a bag, a water bottle, and at the end of the program given activities to continue their learning.
- This program is offered to students identified by teachers and could include a few students for multiple years. While French immersion students are included in the program, there is no French immersion component.
- In 2011 this program started with two schools and only 60 students. As of 2019 there are now 12 schools participating, and more than 300 students. Breakfast (NFL) and lunch (The Lunch Lady) are provided to each student, along with transportation.

- The Waterloo Region District School Board develops the curriculum. Teachers who are teaching the summer program come in on a Saturday for training. Funds for this program are limited so not all schools are able to participate. As funding grows the program will hopefully grow too.
- **ACTION**: WRAPSC Members were impressed by the program and supported an expansion, if funding allows. School Councils are encouraged to contact their trustee to encourage an expansion of the Summer Learning Program, because it is targeted and effective, a made in Ontario solution to summer learning loss.

V. WRDSB Structure – Associate Director Lila Reid

- A. Director: the chief executive officer, the only employee of trustees. The Director is to uphold and carry the policies and procedures of the Board. This person is also the primary Ministry of Education contact.
- B. The Supervisory Superintendents:
 - Academic supervisory superintendents: oversee student achievement and well-being. They support family of schools, along with supervising the principals and schools.
 - Senior Business official and Treasurer of the Board: oversees business functions and ensures responsible, ethical fiscal management.
 - Senior Human Resource officer: oversees human resource functions.
 - Associate Director: oversees student achievement and well-being along with corporate services. Supervises eight superintendents and senior researchers. Leads the development, implication and monitoring of the strategic plan. The intent of this new role is to provide a greater coordination and help support the director.
 - A quote from the Waterloo regional district school board in support of the strategic plan: “Together we will nurture supportive relationships in an inclusive safe and caring environment, practice culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy and assessment, and create equitable conditions for learning and optimal outcomes for each and every student.”

VI. Closing

- **ACTION**: Attached is a handout (originally sent out with January agenda) provided by Barbara Ward, who will be attending the February meeting. Input is needed on the three topics attached. It is requested that WRAPSC attendees bring this to their school councils, ask for their input, and report back at the next meeting.
- Next month’s meeting will include several teacher union representatives and Michael Weinert (Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resource Services), who will be talking about the labour action.
- Adjourned at 8:55pm.