

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) update

May 23, 2017 PIC meeting

Prepared by Jill Magazine, PIC parent member

DrumFit Demonstration

The School Board has DrumFit kits available for schools to borrow and use with their students (and some schools have kits themselves). This is a great activity for promoting physical activity through something fun and non-competitive. There are many benefits including building brain connections and improving fine motor and gross motor skills. Drumfit instructors can come to the school to participate in evening family sessions.

<https://www.drum.fit/>

Update on WRDSB operational goal of improving graduation rates

The school board is looking at many factors to improve graduation rates and using a variety of strategies. Thinking about this (by families or schools) should not begin in high school. Not all students are suited to attend college or university (55% of students in our board do not apply for college or university) and those students need to hear all along that there are other pathways to success so that they don't feel that if they cannot go to college or university that they will not be successful. Students need to see that finishing high schools is important for many other paths as well by exposing them sooner to a variety of career options.

Data is showing that developing meaningful relationships, with staff and with other students, is critical to keeping students engaged with school. Data is also helping the board to identify particular high school courses or requirements that may be serving as barriers to graduation. Data has also shown that students who do not complete their full credits in grade 9 and 10 will be less likely to graduate within 5 years. Staff are looking at how to address what they are learning from the data they have been collecting and analyzing.

Some tips on how schools and School Councils can engage families facing barriers to engagement (from Prueter PS)

- Focus on building relationships
- Be passionate about caring
- Recognize that some parents and caregivers did not have positive experiences with school themselves and may be fearful of the school
- Connect families with the community resources that they need
- Show families that you are there to help with whatever needs arise for the family (for example, by raising funds for food for families in need in the school)

- Provide information and learning for the families related to your academic goals for the students (for example about literacy or math); for math start with the basics in a parent seminar so that everyone is speaking the same language and using the same terms

Healthy Beginnings

This is an evidence-based health and nutrition program available to WRDSB schools. Funding is already available through Langs who hire the staff and provide the resources for the program. Satisfaction is very high among schools that have received the program. For more information about the program please contact Kerry-Lynn Wilkie, Health Link Director, at 519-653-1470 ext 234 or kerrylynnw@langs.org.

Joining PIC

If you are interested in joining PIC for the 2017-2018 school year, you can join as a WRAPSC/PIC member by attending the first WRAPSC meeting of the school year on October 3, 2017. More information about WRAPSC is available here <https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/get-involved/wrapsc/#.WSxQboWcGUK>.

You can also join PIC by applying to be a member. Application information will be available soon at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/pic/>.