

Educational Optimization Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 8:15 AM

Remote Session

I. **Call to Order, Verification of Quorum**

II. **Superintendent report on EDSpace 2023
conference**

III. **Presentation and discussion on next level of
work**

IV. **Adjournment**

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SHARED VISION & MISSION

TEACHING & LEARNING

T

EDUCATIONAL SPACES & STUDENT CENTERED DESIGNS

NEXT LEVEL OF WORK

2023-2024



WPS is committed to working with the Town on a cohesive, integrated plan for schools and town government space.

SHARED MINDSET AROUND TEACHING & LEARNING

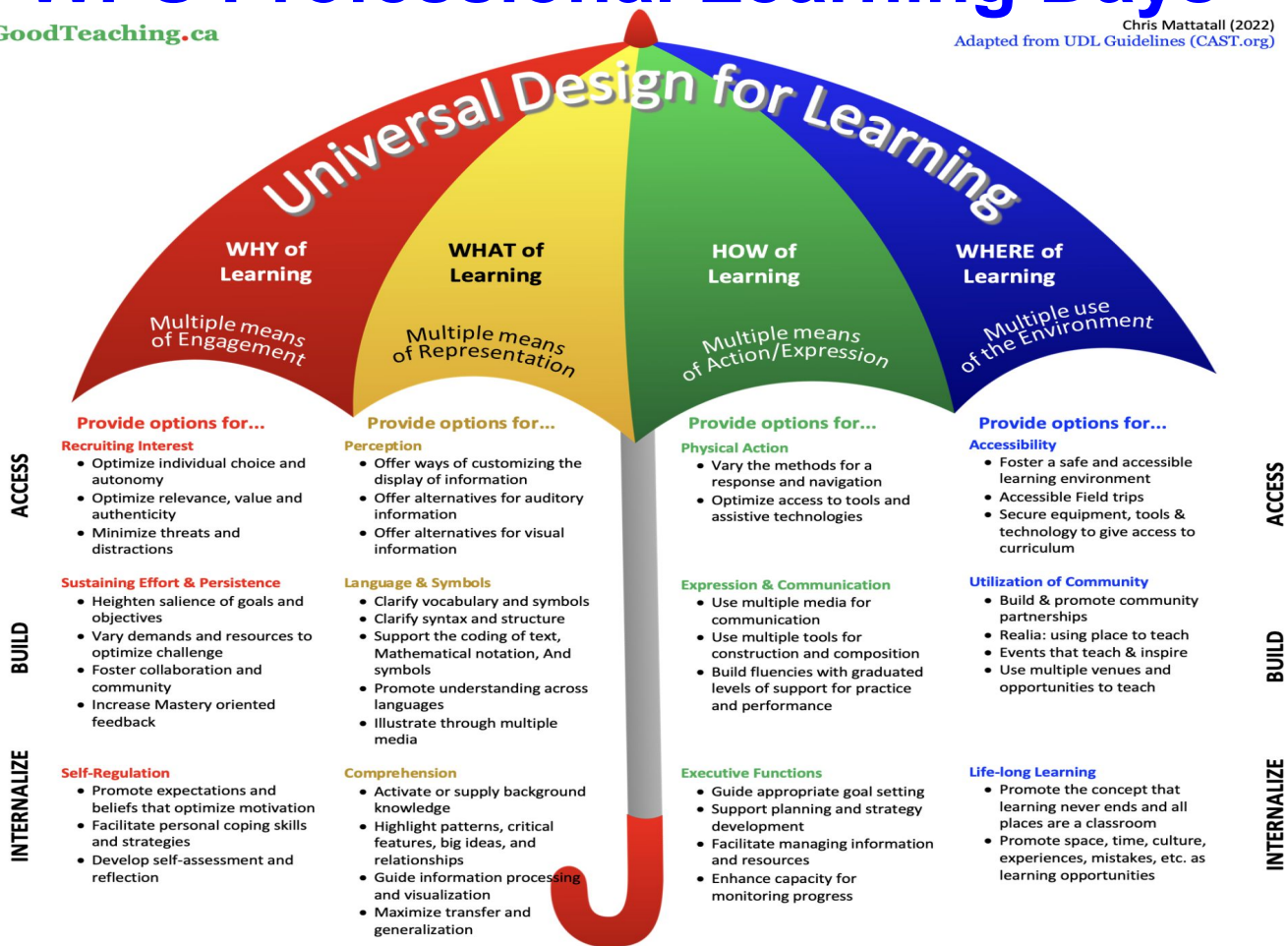
The way we teach matters. Our teaching must align with a student-centered approach

We must connect academic achievement with students' social emotional well being. Students must develop a sense of agency - that they can set achievable goals, persevere, solve problems, advocate for themselves, overcome obstacles and find success

WPS Professional Learning Days

GoodTeaching.ca

Chris Mattatall (2022)
Adapted from UDL Guidelines (CAST.org)



SHARED MINDSET FOR INTENTIONAL DESIGN OF SPACE

The space in which we teach matters. A student-centric design reflects a sense of community, safety, empowerment, choice, peer support, collaboration, stress management.

- **Connect UDL principles to spaces in the school**
- **Incorporate a salutogenic design of space**
- **Create learning environments where students have agency, choice and voice in their learning**

:

SCHOOL DESIGN

Sustainability
Environmental
Stewardship
Outdoor Learning
natural Surroundings
Net Zero Waste

Beauty & Calm
Natural Light
Acoustics
Textured Materials
Color Palettes
Air Quality
Quiet Systems

Shared Ownership
of Space
Welcoming & Joyful
Sense of Community
Cohesion

Multi-use Learning Spaces
Hallways, Classrooms,
Library, Cafeteria, Gym
Community Spaces

Multifaceted
Safety Approach
Physical
Social Emotional
Health & Wellbeing
Restorative Spaces

Student Centered
Align with UDL
Flexible Learning Space
Variety of Furniture
Equitable & Interactive
Technology
Student Agency

HURLBUTT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



HES MAKERSPACE PLAN



Ownership

To be engaged and focused on my learning. To persevere, self-reflect, and recognize that mistakes and revisions are a part of learning and lead to quality work.



Communication

To share ideas clearly and constructively, consider other ideas and perspectives, and seek mutual understanding.



Collaboration

To work together constructively, reflect on different perspectives, build on the ideas of others, and take responsibility for my team and myself.



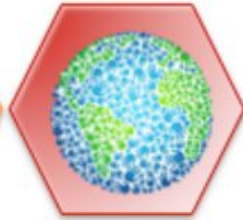
Creativity

To share ideas courageously, pursue new paths of thinking, refine prototypes, and design innovative solutions.



Critical Thinking

To be curious, motivated, self-reflective learners who ask thoughtful questions to deepen understanding, and ignite work worth doing.



Citizenship/ Stewardship

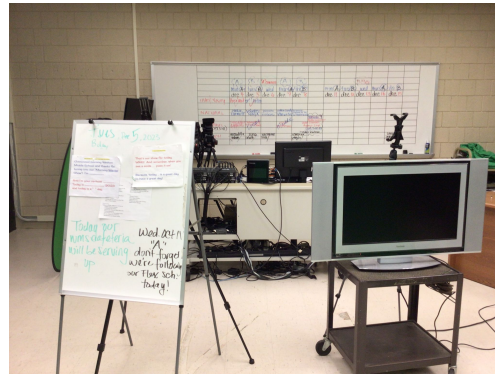
To take care of myself, other people, and the environment, so that we can make a positive impact as guardians of our school, local, and global community.



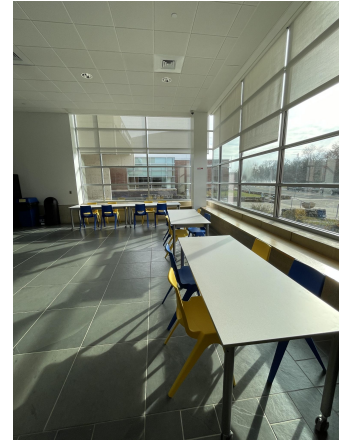
WESTON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



WESTON HIGH SCHOOL



NEXT STEPS

- Recommend same number of schools & grade configurations
- Review existing studies through lens of student centric and salutogenic designs
- Collaborate with Town to determine funding parameters
- And continue to.....
- Analyze existing spaces- School Walkthrough Teams
- Continue PD on Universal Design for Learning
- Develop a solid understanding of how to align space w/ UDL

THE SPACE A GUIDE FOR LEADERS

Hare & Dillon

Connection between educational space, teaching & learning, academic achievement

Shared vision for excellence & shared mindset for intentional design are necessary

“Inertia and tradition can make this the hardest work”

By focusing on space and student-centric design we empower teachers to craft a space that brings out their best work and allows them to feel safe to take positive risks for students

15,795 HOURS Students spend in school until they graduate