Conestogo Public School Council Minutes: Thursday, November 13, 2014

Upcoming events ***2***
Action Item Summary ***2***
Welcome & General Business ***5***
Attendance 5
Agenda – Review & Approval 6
Minutes, Oct 9 – Review & Approval 6
Presentations ***6***
Principal's Report – Brian Beney 6
Teacher's Report – Sherri Morland 7
Executive Nominations ***8***
Nominations for Chair 8
Nominations for Community Rep 8
Standing Agenda Items ***8***
Treasurer's Report – Karen Hofbauer 8
Field Trip Subsidies 8
Committees & Events – Status Reports ***9***
Fundraising Update – Magazine Campaign Wrap-up – Chris Sabean 9
Fundraiser Update – Poinsettia Sales – Chris Sabean 9
Math Presentation – Natalie 9
Fitness Day – Natalie 10
School Directory – on behalf of Juli 10
Appreciation Lunch – Jen Sellars 10
FunFair 2015 Committee – Jenny 10
WRAPSC Report, Oct 7 Meeting – Fiona 10
Parent Survey – on behalf of Jaime 11
S'Cool Life Fund Grant – Playground Project – Deb 11
Adjournment ***12***

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Next Council Meeting:**
  - Thu Dec 11, 2014
  - Rotational Chair: Jenny Benham
  - Snacks: Marsha Ferguson
- **WRAPSC Meetings**:
  - Jan 13
  - Feb 3
  - Apr 7
  - May 5
- **Staff Appreciation Lunch:** Fri November 28, 2014
- **Math Event**: Proposed date: April 20, 2015 to be confirmed.
- **Parent Survey**: Dec 2014
- **Teacher Survey**: February 2015

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Staff Appreciation Lunch

- Fri Nov 28 – contact Jen Sellars with willingness to provide food or supervision day of event.

Magazine Fundraiser – Build-a-bear party prep

- Bring scrap fabric or spare craft supplies to use in party – Council

Magazine Fundraiser – Contract

- Review contract timelines for future decisions. - Chris

Poinsettia Fundraiser

- Tuesday, Dec 2nd – pickups. 4:30 – 5:30pm – extend pickup - Deb
- Options for next year: wreaths or urns instead? Future discussion - Council
- Decision: Extend Deadline & Pickup time: extend to Tuesday - send out another email. – organize another email - Deb

Council Elections

- **Chair**: Search ongoing. – Council
- **Community Rep**: Broadcast the position to the school community, particularly Conestogo business owners. – Jenny

Talk "From Totts to Teens"

- Public Health Nurse Talk: past sessions on sexuality were very valuable for parents. Now rebranded to "The Talk from Totts to Teens" **-** Move forward with booking this event. - Principal

Yearly St. Jacob's Playhouse Performance

- Going forward, request that we are informed first week of September that this event will be offered each Fall. - Principal

Parent Survey

- Fundraising Spend: Ask parents how they want their money spent. Include a question on the Parent Survey – Deb & Jaime

Yearly Fitness Event

- Event: Waterloo Kung-Fu Academy.
  Date: March 11 or 12. Investigate February instead of March. - Natalie

ProGrant – Math-Related School Event

- Proposed date: April 20, 2015
- Desired Speaker: Marian Small - http://www.onetwoinfinity.ca/
- Proceed with booking Marian Small for April 20, 2015. – Natalie
- Ask teachers if they are interested in participating. - Principal

School Transportation Concerns

- Compile and send any concerns to WRAPSC. - Council

FunFair 2015 Committee

- **Date**: TBA Sept 2015 with Meet the Teacher night.
- **Chair**: Jenny Benham
- Form committee, book inaugural meeting in January. - Jenny

Annual Parent Survey

- Scheduled to send out in November or December?
- Add question about best day of week for meeting. – Deb
- Contact Jaime Bickerton to ask if she can help create this year's survey. - Deb
- Questions to add – send to Deb if you have any. - Deb

Semi-Annual Teacher Survey

- Scheduled to send next one February 2014.

School Directory

- Investigate process and streamline – use Google Forms next year. - Council

Student Voice initiative - grant

- http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/students/speakup/index.html?utm_source=shortlinks&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=bihi – Investigate - Barb

S'Cool Life Fund - grant

- Grants for D.R.E.A.M.S. (Drama, Recreation, Extra-Curricular, Arts, Music, or Sports)
  http://www.scoollifefund.ca/
- **Deadline**: Applications for the 2014-2015 school year from December 1st 2014 - August 31, 2015.
- Investigate application process. – Deb with Council
- Contact a couple of schools who received grant money last year to ask details. – Deb

Playground Expansion Idea

- Consult with Earthscape: ask for options in consultation: small, short-term versus long-term larger project, can it be completed in stages? - Deb
- School Site Administrator: Contact to understand site restrictions. - Principal

Next Meeting: January 13th

- Discuss gardening project, playground greening project. Student involvement. Learning area around gardening - Chair
- Put forward Motion: if you attend WRAPSC meetings, they count in lieu of council meeting and maintain your Member standing. - Chair

WELCOME & GENERAL BUSINESS

Attendance

(P present, N absent/regrets. Parent Members must attend 7/10 – 70% of meetings to maintain voting privileges.)

Role	2014-15	Sep 11	Oct 9	Nov 13	Dec 11	Jan 8	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 9	May 14	Jun 11
Chair				Jenny	Jenny						
Secretary	Deb Jones	P	P	P							
Treasurer	Karen Hofbauer	P	P	P							
Principal	Brian Beney	P	P	P							
Teacher		Karen Larke									
Parent Members (11)	**Jenny Benham**	P	N	P							
	Barb Dowling	P	P	P							
	Marsha Ferguson	P	P	P							
	Jane Martin	P	P	N							
	Chris Sabean	P	P	P							
	Katherine Sunday	P	N	N							
	Susan Wagler	P	P	P							
	Rebecca Hallman	P	N	P							
	Fiona von Kannen	N	N	P							
Parent Volunteers	Natalie Edery	P	N	P							
	Tim Alles	P	N	N							
	Juli Chinnick	P	N	N							
	Carolyn Rouse		P	N							
Snacks		Jane		Fiona	Marsha						

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Fitness Event – added.

Agenda Approval (with revision noted) Motioned by:

1st: Susan

2nd: Rebecca

Minutes, Oct 9 – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- none

Minutes Approval (with revision noted) Motioned by:

1st: Karen

2nd: Barb

PRESENTATIONS

Principal's Report – Brian Beney

Fixed Mindset vs. a Growth Mindset

- http://bit.ly/1tBm1GX
- Praise the effort and strategies, not the intelligence or ability.
- Help our kids develop their brains - learning from taking risks, making mistakes and not demanding perfection.
- Having our classes be 'safe places' to learn.

Safe Schools Survey - Summary and Action Items

- Survey results from last Spring 2014 were reviewed over the past few weeks
    - Overall there was a sharp reduction in the number of parents who completed the survey (32 responded compared to 115 the year before). Generally the perception is that improvements have been made over the year and that the environment is more welcoming and positive. Although bullying incidents are still being reported, the number is down. The main area that bullying is being identified is outside where some students don't feel safe. This needs to be looked at closer.

Action Items:

1. Improving physical safety in certain areas of the school where bullying is known or likely to occur (i.e. outside areas during recess, lunch rooms during nutrition break, buses, washrooms etc.).
2. Improving supervision, vigilance and action - look at the level of supervision during recess, nutrition breaks, bus monitors etc. - is level adequate and is the effort consistent across all staff members to watch for incidents of bullying and to intervene.
3. Encouraging the bystander to speak up and be a friend - "Together We Graduate" campaign: being responsible, and sticking up for one another.

30 Days of THINK initiative

- From the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council.
- Our school is participating in this initiative.
- THINK promotes respectful and responsible digital citizenship through positive use of social media.

- Ask yourself 5 key questions before you text, tweet, or post to social media sites. Is what you are sending:
  True?
  Helpful?
  Inspiring?
  Necessary?
  Kind?

Helping Our Children Develop Healthy Relationships

- Importance of empathy and caring for one another http://bit.ly/1d7dG0H
- Building Healthy Relationships - Parent Tool Kit - distribute and briefly discuss http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/parent_engagement.html
- Region of Waterloo Public Health has a number of resources available either through their website http://chd.region.waterloo.on.ca/ or delivered in the school (both for parents and students).
- Specific support available for grade 8 girls (both through our Guidance counsellor and CYW at EDSS.
- Parent Comment: Feel there is a need for Vanessa to come into the grade to support the Grade 8 girls.
- Public Health Nurse: past sessions on sexuality were very valuable for parents. Now rebranded to "The Talk from Totts to Teens"
  Action Item: Move forward with booking this event. - Principal

Safe Welcome

- Delays in a number of WRDSB schools including Conestogo. Notification re. when we will go 'live' will be sent out to School Council and then the general school population.

Snow White at St. Jacob's Country Playhouse

- December 16th at 10:30 for grades 1 - 7. $20 includes the ticket and bus.
- Payment due by November 21.
- Parent Comment: Going forward, request that we are informed first week of September that this event will be offered each Fall. - Principal

Teacher's Report – Sherri Morland

[Sherri invited the council to her classroom for a tour and discussion.]

Room Setup

- Natural.
- Less distraction.
- Less is more: fewer toys, but more interaction with them, greater creative play.

Schedule

During the day, children are involved in many different kinds of activities designed to help young learners explore, discover and grow.

- Outside.
- Learning Centres: 1 ½ hours
- Small group interaction.
- Quiet Time.

- Large groups: minimum time, maximum message.

Self-Regulation

- Helps set the stage for learning in the older grades.

Inquiry-based Learning & Intentional Play

Children will have opportunities to initiate learning and play as well as taking part in intentional play-based learning. We launch our learning from the students' interests but also set out provocations to promote inquiry and deeper higher level creative thinking skills.

With two educators, small group instruction and differentiation can be met more often than the older original program. One educator works with a small group on instruction while other educator engages in play and inquiry with other students. [Discussion and demonstration of the "Don't Bug Me" hat.]

Example:

- **Magnets**: We set out magnet boards at the science centre with a variety of natural materials from outdoors. Students explored the materials. Some students noticed items around the room that were magnetic (name cards) and items of their own (barrettes). This lead teachers to include magnets as an interest—we set ou ta new magnetic building toy as a provocation to see what would happen…the students started building structures that included 3D figures. These 3D figures led to learning names of 3D and 2D figures.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for Chair

- Still unfilled.
- Action Item: broadcast the position to the school community. – Deb, Barb, Brian

Nominations for Community Rep

- Still unfilled.
- Action Item: broadcast the position to the school community, particularly Conestogo business owners. – Jenny

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen Hofbauer

[see written reports]

- Mathletics: extra licences: We have to commit numbers in the spring and then make adjustments.

Field Trip Subsidies

Discussion:

- Previously we had a line item for a "Grade 8 Field Trip Subsidy".
- We changed the line item to an even percentage for all students.
- With current budget, we can subsidize 6.4% of all student field trips.
- Approved budget: includes a field trip subsidy.
- How do we allocate the costs? 5% to everyone else, 9% to the Grade 8s ($60).

- Parent Survey: We need to ask parents how they want their money spent.
  Action Item: Include a question on the Parent Survey – Deb & Jaime
- **Motion to provide 5% to everyone else, 9% to the Grade 8s**: 1st: Susan, 2nd: Catherine
  Vote: 7 majority. Passed.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Fundraising Update – Magazine Campaign Wrap-up – Chris Sabean

- **Totals:** 800 subscriptions, profit $9,200.
- **Sales down:** Possible reasons? More online subscriptions, cost of magazines went up, no more price-matching.
- **Future:** Consider that sales may well continue to fall.
- **Contracts:** We sign two-year contracts with the magazine company. We need to decide in advance if we are going to drop this fundraiser.
  Action Item: Review contract timelines for future decisions. - Chris
- **Magazine Arrivals:** magazines do not typically arrive until February.
- **Icecream Party:** in progress.
- **Build-a-bear party**: December 3rd. Any classes with over 50% participation – 7 classes out of 14.
- **Action Item**: bring scrap fabric or spare craft supplies, hearts, etc, to use in party – Council

Fundraiser Update – Poinsettia Sales – Chris Sabean

- Need 100 for free shipping. Only at 57.
- Tuesday, Dec 2nd – pickups. 4:30 – 5:30pm – extend pickup - Deb
- Options for next year: wreaths or urns instead?
- Decision: Extend Deadline & Pickup time: extend to Tuesday - send out another email. – organize another email - Deb

Math Presentation – Natalie

- "Conestogo Counts"
- Proposed date: TBD
- Speaker: Marian Small – available April 20th
  http://www.onetwoinfinity.ca/
- Another Speaker Option: Kathy Kubota Zarivnij would be interested. Another uber-qualified presenter on K-12 math curriculum and teaching philosophy, I don't have any links to videos however see this summary on her from U of T: www.fields.utoronto.ca/honours/sinclairaward/Kubota-Zarivnij.html and attached CV she's forwarded. Kathy mentioned Nov. 17 for the presentation but that's really short notice, I'd ask for dates in early Dec or later in Jan. She is requesting 600 + mileage, a bit steep I think.
- Date needs to be deferred due to issues finalising the speaker.
- Discussion: Marian is very accomplished. Would be good to get Marian and open the event to other schools.
- April could work well for timing.
- Grade 8s could be involved from a leadership perspective.

- **Motion to Proceed booking Marian for April 20th**: 1st: Karen 2nd: Marsha
  Vote: 7 majority – passed.
  Decision: Proceed with booking Marian in April. – Natalie & Jane

Fitness Day – Natalie

- Waterloo Kung-Fu Academy: $100/hour. Split up groups into poses for the 5 traditional Kung-Fu animals (tiger, leopard, snake, crane, dragon), do the lion dance at the end.
- Date: March 11 or 12. Investigate February instead of March. - Natalie

School Directory – on behalf of Juli

- Inappropriate use of directory: A family has used the school list for solicitation. They have been contacted and asked to remove the list.

Action Item: Investigate process and streamline – use Google Forms next year. - Council

Appreciation Lunch – Jen Sellars

Dates:

- Fri Nov 28 – Lunch
- Fri Mar 28 (2014 date) – Treats, 2015 date to be determined.

FunFair 2015 Committee – Jenny

- **Date**: TBA Sept 2014
- **Chair**: Jenny Benham
- **Committee**: We will have a separate committee this year.
- **Tables from Church**: ask the church for tables in advance because they need to vote on it in their council meeting. (They may not have council meetings over the summer.) (May need to still rent additional tables.)
- Thursday in September – with Meet the Teacher night.

Action Item: Form committee, book inaugural meeting in January. - Jenny

WRAPSC Report, Oct 7 Meeting – Fiona

[written report from Fiona]

PIC (Parent involvement Committee)

- Will be focusing on initiatives around communication, supporting parents with math, developing tip sheet for parents on board policies on things like bullying, religious accommodations to make it easier for parents to find the information.

Free Workshop - Building Skills to Navigate School Years

- Workshop being held April 18th – all day – child care will be available – at Bluevale starting at 8:30 a.m. and last session will be at 3:00 – topic – building skills to navigate school years – free – working on getting keynote speakers.

School Greening Projects

- A lot of the meeting was spent on school greening projects.

- Grant: There is a **Community Environmental Fund** through the Region of Waterloo that schools can apply for but only once per school. Up to $3000 for the first year/project and up to $2000 for second year/project. Application process and deadline for 2015 is December 19th and you would find out by March if you were successful. You would actually have to put together a plan including what the budget was and it would need to meet specific criteria. (Not funding for curriculum development or delivery.)
- Example given was school wanting to plant trees in school yard – shade for skin cancer prevention and heat on tarmack can be 20 degrees hotter or trees and native plants to attract butterflies and an outdoor reading/discussion area.
- WT Townsend did a presentation on what their school is doing - $90,000 budget in 2 phases, lot of fundraising has been completed for this.
- Earthscapes in Elmira did the design but had input from kids, school staff, community etc. Kids will help with the installation of things like mulch, one example each class planted their own tree.

Region of Waterloo Public Health Survey

- Region of Waterloo Public Health Spoke about a survey they want to have parents complete about parent-child communication on human development/sexual health and were looking for feedback on how to reach out to the parent community to have them complete the survey.
- They reason for the survey is they do not know when conversations are happening, what they are including and comfort level so they are not able to develop a plan to address needs in the area.
- Ideas were to have the survey go through School Day as a link for those on School Day. Putting an information sticker in planners, parent newsletters. This will not be happening until some time in the New Year as they still need ethics approval first.

Ministry of Education on the Sex Education Curriculum Survey

- Another survey that one parent from the school was to complete was from the Ministry of Education on the Sex Education Curriculum and that was to come by November 12th?

WRAPSC Running a School Council Resource

WRAPSC is going to put together a resource on how to run a school council to include things on what grants are available and how to get them.

Next Meeting: January 13th

- **Action Item** – next meeting: Discuss gardening project, playground greening project. Student involvement. Learning area around gardening - Chair
- **Action Item** – Put forward Motion: if you attend WRAPSC meetings, they count in lieu of council meeting and maintain your Member standing. - Chair

Parent Survey – on behalf of Jaime

- Jaime Bickerton is creating the survey for us.

Action Item: Questions to add – send to Deb if you have any. - Council

S'Cool Life Fund Grant – Playground Project – Deb

Status: Awaiting opening of application process for this year.

Information from the Website - WHAT WE FUND:

- **Deadline**: Applications for the 2014-2015 school year from December 1st 2014 - August 31, 2015.

- Ideally, projects that leave a tangible legacy behind, can be used year-to-year and that reach the greatest number of students.
- Projects should be aligned with DREAMS - Drama, Recreation, Extra-Curricular, Arts, Music or Sports.
- Grants for D.R.E.A.M.S. (Drama, Recreation, Extra-Curricular, Arts, Music, or Sports).
- http://www.scoollifefund.ca/
- **Action Item**: Contact a couple of schools who received grant money last year to ask details. - Deb

Grant Idea: Playground equipment – Grades 4 and up

- Our current playground is only accessible to grades JK - 3. What about the older students? Can we consider adding an additional playground to the school for older students?
- Options that allow children to continue to play on the playground throughout the winter. Low-to-ground options.
- Resolving issues around the hill at back of school?
- A Playground Construction Company was recently featured in the KW Record: Earthscape - according to the article, they specialize in themed playgrounds using natural materials:
- http://www.earthscapeplay.ca/
- Article: http://www.therecord.com/news-story/4888700-earthscape-s-playgrounds-set-young-imaginations-free/

Action Items:

- Consult with Earthscape: ask for options in consultation: small, short-term versus long-term larger project, can it be completed in stages? - Deb
- School Site Administrator: Contact to understand site restrictions. - Principal

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by: 1st: Barb