Conestogo Public School Council Minutes: Thursday, December 11, 2014

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Next Council Meeting:**
    - Thu Jan 8, 2015
    - Snacks: ?
- **WRAPSC Meetings**:
    - Jan 13
    - Feb 3
    - Apr 7
    - May 5
- **Staff Appreciation Treats:** Fri Mar 28 (2014 date), 2015 date TBD.
- **Fitness Event**: February TBD
- **Math Event**: Monday, April 20, 2015
- **Parent Survey**: Jan 2015
- **Teacher Survey**: February 2015

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Nominations for Community Council Rep

- Post the opening on the school sign after Christmas. (School Council Community Rep opportunity – contact us) – Principal

Treasurer's Reports

- FunFair – Horseback Adventures invoice still outstanding due to discrepancy. Jane has contacted them several times. It is not yet resolved.
  Action Item: Contact them to resolve issue – Karen
- Spoiled Cheque: need to clarify what this cheque was for.
  Action Item: Provide details – Karen
- WEFI: on the detailed report, under "Cheques Pending", there is a WEFI - parent donation, specifically donated to council. It is currently listed as an outstanding deposit.
  Action Item: add this cheque to WEFI income – Karen
- Cash donation: Clarification - in lieu of buying a poinsettia, a parent donated $20.
- Technology budget: Action Item - need to adjust percentage column – Karen

Fundraiser 2014 Wrap-up

- Thank you and wrap-up to the magazine fundraising season: write a summary to the fundraising so far this year. Poinsettias and magazine drive. Money raised. Detailed rundown of thank you's that clearly states who helped with what.
  Action Item: Deb to craft message with details from Chris, Principal to send out – Deb & Principal

ProGrant – Conestogo Counts Math Event

- Date: April 20, 2015
- Desired Speaker: Marian Small - http://www.onetwoinfinity.ca/
- Ask teachers if they are interested in participating. - Principal
- Gym Capacity: Review capacity for numbers – Principal
- Sub-Committee: Create Sub-committee? – Natalie and Chairs
- Volunteers: Pull list of volunteers from FunFair list - Deb
- Teacher interest: Communicate to teachers - Chair
- Student Involvement: Student presentation that is math-related to welcome Marion? – Council
- January Meeting Agenda: Put event on agenda for January – 20 min - Chair

Fitness Day

- Follow up with WKFA again, request formal proposal by end of month. – Natalie, Agnes, Deb

Parent Survey

- Fundraising Spend: Ask parents how they want their money spent. Include a question on the Parent Survey – Deb & Jaime
- Parent Survey Fundraiser Question: Incorporate list of fundraisers into the Parent Survey. What do you prefer as a fundraiser? List current fundraisers and ask their opinion. Give people an opinion. – Deb & Jaime
- Send out survey with 10 questions with Google Forms. Send link to SurveyMonkey. Send a PDF with all questions. – Deb and Jaime
- Put survey into Google Forms and send out to council to complete and provide feedback. Principal

Yearly Fitness Event

- Event: Waterloo Kung-Fu Academy.
  Date: February. - Natalie

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**: January 31, 2015.
- Move forward with music grant idea – complete application process. – Deb, Lisa Carere, Principal

Mabel's Labels Fundraiser

- Mabel's Labels: The company has changed the process for allocating orders to the school.
  Action Item: review the process for putting orders through in order to get money for the school. – Chris & Deb, January

Magazine Fundraiser – Contract

- Review contract timelines for future decisions. Report in January - Chris

Talk "From Totts to Teens"

- Public Health Nurse Talk: Parent Information Night presented by Public Health (Jan 29, Feb 19, or Feb 26).
  Advertise dates. - Principal

Freddy Fusion Science Magic Show

- Follow-up re pricing and scheduling. Upon receipt, review pricing and present to council for consideration - Rebecca

Mad Science Program

- Further explore Mad Science program options. – Rebecca
- Lists of club options: (mention of a robotics club). Can we get a list of clubs available? Add to agenda for January – Chair and Principal
- Also investigate UofW science program? After-school program. – Rebecca
- Investigate these types of programs but math-related for our Conestogo Counts evening - Jenny

Playground Expansion Idea

- Continue brainstorming ideas for small playground improvements, gardening project, playground greening project. Student involvement. Learning area around gardening - Chair

Google Certified Trainers – Education Opportunity

- The Board has Google-certified trainers available. Inquire with Board IT department about tutorials - Principal

FunFair 2015 Committee

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

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 – VOLUNTEER REQUIRED

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	P						
Treasurer	Karen Hofbauer	P	P	P	N						
Principal	Brian Beney	P	P	P	P						
Teacher		Karen Larke			Lisa Carere						
Parent Members (11)	**Jenny Benham**	P	N	P	P						
	Barb Dowling	P	P	P	N						
	Marsha Ferguson	P	P	P	P						
	Jane Martin	P	P	N	P						
	Chris Sabean	P	P	P	P						
	Katherine Sunday	P	N	N	N						
	Susan Wagler	P	P	P	N						
	Rebecca Hallman	P	N	P	P						
	Fiona von Kannen	N	N	P	P						
	Agnes Lehtonen				P						
Parent Volunteers	Natalie Edery	P	N	P	N						
	Tim Alles	P	N	N	N						
	Juli Chinnick	P	N	N	N						
	Carolyn Rouse		P	N	P						
Snacks		Jane		Fiona	Marsha						

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- none

Agenda Approval (with revision noted) Motioned by:

1st: Chris

2nd: Marsha

Minutes, Nov 13 – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- none

Minutes Approval (with revision noted) Motioned by:

1st: Marsha

2nd: Chris

PRESENTATIONS

Principal's & Teacher's Report – Brian Beney

Tis the Season

- There is lots of excitement at school these days as students work on finishing projects, units, doing final presentations and prepare for next week's concerts.

Math Resources

We encourage parents/students to make use of these resources at home to reinforce the learning going on in the class.

- Dreambox - Grades 1 – 3: http://www.dreambox.com/
- Mathletics - Grades 4 – 6: http://www.mathletics.ca/
- Khan Academy - Grades 7 – 8: https://www.khanacademy.org/

Next Week

- EDSS Band Concert – Monday morning
- QSP Ice Cream / Sherbet Party - Monday
- Snow White - Tuesday (240 attending)
- Winter Concert - Wednesday @ 2:20pm and Thursday @ 9:40am

Upcoming Events in January - February

- Grades 7-8 Girl's Group/Visit - Ms. Sarah Gerth (CYW at EDSS)
- 'From Tots to Teens Talk' - Parent Information Night presented by Public Health (Jan 29, Feb 19, or Feb 26)
- Child Cognition Lab Research (University of Waterloo) - Feb 9&10, 2015
    - How children ages 5 - 7 explain and understand other's thoughts, feelings, and actions; children's understanding of rights and responsibilities; and children's thinking about fiction and pretend play.
    - Parental permission form will be sent home in January 2015

On behalf of the staff at Conestogo we wish everyone a safe, and happy holiday and a Merry Christmas.

Teacher's Report – Lisa Carere

- Background: Lisa Carere is CPS's Music Teacher. As part of our explorative process related to the S'Cool Life Fund Grant, we asked Ms. Carere to explore additional instruments/equipment for the CPS Music Program.

$1000 of grant money could be spent on…

- a class set of Ukuleles (approx. 32 x $30 each – can get green ukuleles!)

$2000 of grant money could be spent on…

- a class set of ukuleles

plus…

- 6 glockenspiels ($100 each)
- & a djembe drum ($350)

$5000 of grant money could be spent on…

- a class set of ukuleles ($1000)
- 6 glockenspiels (6 x $100 each)
- a djembe drum ($350)

plus…

- a class set of hand drums ($800)
- floor tom & gathering drum ($200)
- bar chimes ($100)
- 6 more glockenspiels ($1000)
- a soprano xylophone ($500)

$10,000 of grant money could be spent on…

- a class set of ukuleles ($1000)
- 12 glockenspiels (12 x $100 each)
- a djembe drum ($350) & bar chimes ($100)
- a class set of hand drums ($800)
- floor tom & gathering drum ($200)
- a soprano xylophone ($500)

plus…

- an alto xylophone ($650)
- a bass metalophone ($2000)
- a bass xylophone ($2000)

Parent Questions:

- What grade do children start using the instruments?
  All the grades would try them at some point. All kids would get a chance to use them.
- Highschool Music Programs: EDSS has a beginners band and strings program.
- Music club: We have had music clubs in the school. Recorder clubs, choirs.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion – WRAPSC Meeting Attendance

Motion: if a Council Member attends a WRAPSC meeting, that meeting counts toward council meeting attendance.

- Fiona attends monthly WRAPSC meetings on our behalf. It is difficult for her to consistently attend both WRAPSC meetings and Council meetings. We would like to allow her to keep her membership status even if she cannot attend all council meetings. The WRAPSC meetings will count toward her attendance.
- **Motion**: If you attend a WRAPSC meeting, it counts as a council meeting:
  1st: Chris, 2nd: Rebecca. All in favour.
  Decision: Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for Community Rep

- How do we reach members of the community who do not have children at the school?
- Suggestions: Advertise on the school sign? Distribute letters to the Conestogo business community.

Decisions:

- Post the opening on the school sign after Christmas. (School Council Community Rep opportunity – contact us) – Principal

Nominations for Chair

Motion: Jenny Benham & Rebecca Hallman for Co-Chairs:

- **Nominate Rebecca Hallman**: 1st: Chris, 2nd: Jane
- **Nominate Jenny Benham**: 1st: Marsha, 2nd: Deb
- **Vote**: 8 in favour, majority.
- **Decision**: Passed, Jenny Benham & Rebecca Hallman are now Co-Chairs.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen Hofbauer

[see written reports]

- FunFair – Horseback Adventures invoice still outstanding due to discrepancy. Jane has contacted them several times. It is not yet resolved.
  Action Item: Contact them to resolve issue – Karen
- Spoiled Cheque: need to clarify what this cheque was for.
  Action Item: Provide details – Karen
- Mabel's Labels: The company has changed the process for allocating orders to the school.
  Action Item: review the process for putting orders through in order to get money for the school. – Chris & Deb, January
- WEFI: on the detailed report, under "Cheques Pending", there is a WEFI - parent donation, specifically donated to council. It is currently listed as an outstanding deposit.
  Action Item: add this cheque to WEFI income – Karen

- Cash donation: Clarification - in lieu of buying a poinsettia, a parent donated $20.
- Technology budget: Action Item - need to adjust percentage column – Karen
- Magazine Revenue: We will receive another cheque so we cannot close that yet. Likely another $5000 coming.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Fundraising Update – Magazine Build-A-Bear Parties – Chris Sabean

- **Build-a-bear party**: December 3rd. Any classes with over 50% participation – 7 classes out of 14.
- Rebecca sewed over 200 bears!
- Chris Sabean, Rebecca Hallman, Sandra Clark, Amy McDowell ran these parties.
- Kids enjoyed it!
- Perception is that the party was put on by the magazine company, not Council. We want to ensure that the school community.
- **Icecream Party**: Party on Monday – the QSP rep comes in with all the icecream/sherbet to run the party. 100 kids. Eligible if you sold 8 magazines or, as a family, 14 magazines.
- **Thank you and wrap-up to the magazine fundraising season**: write a summary to the fundraising so far this year. Poinsettias and magazine drive. Money raised. Detailed rundown of thank you's that clearly states who helped with what.
  Action Item: Deb to craft message, Principal to send out – Deb & Principal

Fundraiser Update – Poinsettia Sales – Chris Sabean

- Sold 118 plants
- Profit: $512
- **Options for next year**: wreaths or urns instead? This company only does poinsettias.
- **Suggestions for next year**: put out the message a little earlier, ensure the order period is long enough, ensure the pickup window is wide enough.
- **Fundraising Schedule**: yes, we can put out a fundraising schedule. We approve the budget every year based on traditional fundraisers but sometimes we do not make our budget and need to add in an additional fundraiser.
- **Parent Survey Fundraiser Question**: Incorporate list of fundraisers into the Parent Survey. What do you prefer as a fundraiser? List current fundraisers and ask their opinion. Give people an opinion. – Deb & Jaime

Math Presentation – Natalie

- "Conestogo Counts"
- Proposed date: Monday, April 20, 2015
- Speaker: Marian Small – available April 20th
  http://www.onetwoinfinity.ca/
- **Update**: Natalie has mailed a cheque for $520 to Marian Small to reserve Apr 20. She will expense in January.
- **Open up to community**: We could pre-sell tickets to Conestogo parents first and then open up additional to community.
- **Chair Rentals**: We will need to rent chairs. This event is covered by the PROgrant but we had not budgeted for chair rentals.

Action Items:

- Gym Capacity: Review capacity for numbers – Principal
- Sub-Committee: Create Sub-committee? – Natalie and Chairs
- Volunteers: Pull list of volunteers from FunFair list - Deb
- Teacher interest: Communicate to teachers - Chair
- Student Involvement: Student presentation that is math-related to welcome Marion? – Council
- January Meeting Agenda: Put event on agenda for January – 20 min - Chair

Fitness Day – Natalie

- **Proposed Venue**: 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.
- **Proposed Date**: February
- **Update**: Natalie is waiting for Dave Moylan from Waterloo Kung-Fu Academy to send her a quote and provide a date in February.
- **Action Item**: Follow up with WKFA again, request formal proposal by end of month. – Natalie

Parent Survey – Deb

- **Proposed Date**: Postponed to January.
- **Format**: SurveyMonkey versus Google Forms. Free SurveyMonkey only allows 10 questions. So, do we pay for the paid SurveyMonkey account or do we move to Google Forms?

Action Items:

- Send out survey with 10 questions with Google Forms. Send link to SurveyMonkey. Send a PDF with all questions. – Deb and Jaime
- Put survey into Google Forms and send out to council to complete and provide feedback. Principal

School Technology – Education Opportunities

- The Council is struggling with educating enough volunteers to leverage the new technologies available to us.
- Google is a local company. Could we ask Google for assistance? Or formally trained Board staff through Google?
- School System is going to Google Apps for Education.
- Principal: The Board has Google-certified trainers available.
  Action Item: Inquire with Board IT department about tutorials - Principal

S'Cool Life Fund Grant – Deb

Status: Applications opened December 1st.

Information from the Website - WHAT WE FUND:

- **Deadline**: Applications for the 2014-2015 school year from December 1st 2014 - **January 31, 2015**.
- Average grant is under $3000.
- 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.
- http://www.scoollifefund.ca/

Grant Idea: Playground equipment – Grades 4 and up

- **Property options**: Site supervisor came out to the school to review the property with the Principal. We have a large property but we really have very little available space for a new playground area. We have a very large septic bed. We do not want to remove trees. The only space available is back behind the mini-soccer area.
- **Site supervisor feedback**: The winter insurance restrictions would limit the amount of time the kids will be using the playground (assuming we choose a climbing apparatus off the ground). There has been mixed feedback from schools that have gone with playgrounds from the company researched.
- **Change direction**: Instead of considering a big playground project, we need to think about smaller things that we can do to support the kids having fun outside. Perhaps we can fund moveable equipment.
- **Discussion exploring options**: Adding rocks for sitting on. Earthscape did say that they will work with donated items. We could source donated items that fulfill the criteria and hire Earthscape to install them for us based on a collaborative design.
- Snowshoes, other options.
- Ice rink: no longer an option for us to create an ice rink but could have a boarded area for ice hockey with no skates.
- Outdoor game options?

Grant Idea: Music Equipment – for entire school

[See Lisa Carere's proposal in the Teacher's Report.]

- Motion to move forward with the music proposal for the S'Cool Fund Grant:
  1st Deb 2nd: Chris, Vote: majority.
  Decision: Passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Freddy Fusion Science Magic Show – Rebecca

Background:

- http://www.freddyfusion.com/ - Freddy Fusion website
- http://www.fusiontalentgroup.com/entertainers – Fusion group
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rrr58uEe7ZY – YouTube video
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utK6jVxdB7A – YouTube video
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Okg78rgM9k – YouTube video
- Assemblies are a 45 min format. He provides everything including sound gear. Arrives approx. 1 hour prior for set-up, and needs 20 minutes after for tear-down.

Discussion:

- Age groups? He has options for all ages.
- Envisioning an assembly in the gym.
- Ensure age appropriate presentation.
- Rebecca has requested pricing from Freddy Fusion for his show.
- Action Item: Upon receipt, review pricing and present to council for consideration - Rebecca

Mad Science Program – Rebecca

Background:

http://www.madscience.org/ - Mad Science Website

http://hamilton.madscience.org/special-events.aspx - Demonstration

2 options:

1. 6-8 week program extracurricular program in the school at a nutrition break or after school.
   1 session/week.
   $68 cost to parents for each child.
2. 40-minute assembly for $195.
   Split into 2 assemblies per age to cater to the younger and older kids separately.

Details – weekly sessions:

- Mad Science encourages students to explore science. It increases science literacy and interest in science which extends into their regular classroom learning and their long term attitudes regarding the subject of science.
- Weekly sessions include hands-on activities, awesome demonstrations and a cool take home, kids have fun engaging in science.
- It is a great option for children who want to be part of a club/program but are not music or sports-minded.
- There is no cost to the school. The cost to parents is $68 per child.
- Scholarship program that allows you to fund one child to attend without cost.
- Kids do an experiment. Comment that they are better in smaller groups so kids can participate in the experiment.

Discussion/Suggestions:

- Lists of club options: (mention of a robotics club). Can we get a list of clubs available? Add to agenda for January – Chair and Principal
- Also investigate UofW science program? After-school program. – Rebecca
- Investigate these types of programs but math-related for our Conestogo Counts evening - Jenny

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by: 1st: Jane 2nd: Marsha