Conestogo Public School Council Minutes: Thursday, January 8, 2015

Upcoming events ***2***
Action Item Summary ***3***
Welcome & General Business ***5***
Attendance 5
Agenda – Review & Approval 6
Minutes, Dec 11 – Review & Approval 6
Presentations ***6***
Principal's & Teacher's Report – Brian Beney 6
Standing Agenda Items ***7***
Treasurer's Report – Karen Hofbauer 7
Committees & Events – Status Reports ***8***
Fitness Day – Natalie 8
"Conestogo Counts" Math Night – Natalie 8
New Business ***9***
Math-related Programs – Jenny 9
Block Parent Program Presentation – Marsha 10
Open Discussion Items ***11***
Mad Science Program – Rebecca 11
S'Cool Life Fund Grant – Deb 11
Parent Survey – Deb 12
WRAPSC 12
Adjournment ***12***

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Next Council Meeting:**
    - Thu Feb 12, 2015
    - Snacks: ?
- **WRAPSC Meetings**:
    - Jan 13 - Fiona
    - Feb 3 – Fiona will confirm
    - Apr 7
    - May 5
- **Staff Appreciation Treats:** Fri Mar 28 (2014 date), 2015 date TBD.
- **Fitness Event**: Wednesday, February 11, 2015
- **Math Event**: Monday, April 20, 2015
- **Parent Survey**: Jan 2015
- **Teacher Survey**: February 2015

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Pizza Discussion

- agenda for next month: brainstorm options for replacing the pizza. Add agenda item next month. - Council

Treasurer's Reports

- FunFair – Horseback Adventures: Contact them to confirm that we will be paying the same amount as last year. – Jane

Sports Equipment Replacements

- Sport Team Bibs: Investigate how many are required and the cost. – Susan
- Sport Knee Pads: Investigate how many are required and the cost. - Susan

Fitness Day

Date: Wed February 11, 2015

- Check with Mr. R. to ensure that date will be convenient for him. – Principal
- Information**:** Send the information to Brian to be edited and sent out. – Principal & Natalie

ProGrant – "Conestogo Counts" Math Event

Date: Mon April 20, 2015

- Investigate local chess coach. - Jenny
- Sub-committee meeting: Sub-committee to meet to further organization/planning. – Sub-committee
- Gym Capacity: Review capacity for numbers – Principal
- Teacher interest: Communicate to teachers - Chair
- Chair rentals: Investigate. – Natalie and Chairs

Math-related Programs

- Investigate Engineer in the House – Karen
- ECE employees with YMCA. Investigate with them – Jenny

Block Parent Presentation

- Contact the Block Parent representative again to schedule a presentation – Marsha

Mad Science Program

- Assembly follow-up: Request details for 2 groups of 150 each, assemblies back to back. – Rebecca
- Provide assembly date suggestions – Principal

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.
- Complete application submission process for music grant before end of month. – Deb, Lisa Carere, Principal

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
- Put survey into Google Forms and send out to council to complete and provide feedback. – Principal, Deb, Jaime

Trustee Presentation

- Invite School Trustee to speak at some point. – 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

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

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
Co-Chair	**Jenny Benham**	P	N	P	P	P					
Co-Chair	**Rebecca Hallman**	P	N	P	P	P					
Secretary	**Deb Jones**	P	P	P	P	P					
Treasurer	**Karen Hofbauer**	P	P	P	N	P					
Principal	Brian Beney	P	P	P	P	P					
Teacher		Karen Larke			Lisa Carere						
Parent Members (12)	**Barb Dowling**	P	P	P	N	P					
	Marsha Ferguson	P	P	P	P	P					
	Jane Martin	P	P	N	P	P					
	Chris Sabean	P	P	P	P	P					
	Katherine Sunday	P	N	N	N	P					
	Susan Wagler	P	P	P	N	P					
	Fiona von Kannen	N	N	P	P	P					
	Agnes Lehtonen	N	N	N	P	P					
Parent Volunteers	Natalie Edery	P	N	P	N	P					
	Tim Alles	P	N	N	N	N					
	Juli Chinnick	P	N	N	N	N					
	Carolyn Rouse	N	P	N	P	P					
	Stephanie Forte	N	N	N	N	P					
Snacks		Jane		Fiona	Marsha						

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- none

Agenda Approval (with revision noted) Motioned by:

1st: Karen

2nd: Susan

Minutes, Dec 11 – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- none

Minutes Approval (with revision noted) Motioned by:

1st: Chris

2nd: Agnes

PRESENTATIONS

Principal's & Teacher's Report – Brian Beney

Celebrating the Season

- View picture taken for the Woolwich Observer from the Concert.

Extreme Weather Guidelines

- The WRDSB / School have policies that guide the decision making process related to school closures and keeping children inside at Nutrition Breaks.

School Closure:

- -35C wind chill at 7:00 a.m. schools are closed.

Recess/Lunch Severe Weather Conditions.

- -20C wind chill conditions are monitored to ensure the safety of students.

Temperature (actual and wind chill).

- Wind speed and direction to determine if there are suitable areas blocking the wind.

Precipitation

- Principal/staff monitor conditions and students outside.

Bus Cancellation Days

- Typically 20% of our students are present.
- Combined classes often with a different teacher.
- New material not introduced.
- Review, reinforcement, reading, math related activities, additional P.E. activities, etc.
- Non-curricular related activities are discouraged.

Upcoming Activities and Important Dates

- Vision Testing (University of Waterloo partnership) - January 22nd.

- PD Day - Assessment and Reporting - January 30th.
- Report Cards sent home - February 20th.
- 'From Tots to Teens Talk' - Parent Information Night presented by Public Health (Feb. 19 or 26).
- Intramurals (Basketball), Reading club, Lego club, Games club, various leadership clubs, more clubs/winter activities being discussed at our January 14th staff meeting.

New Teacher Announcement

- Mrs. K. Howey, new teacher for Grade 7 & 8's, replacing Mrs. Donald. Very favourable response to our new teacher.
- Parent comment: additional leadership activities for the Grade 7 & 8's would be good.

Pizza Discussion

- Parent comment: can we get pizza back every week?
  Principal response: From a nutritional perspective, we need to model healthy eating. Every other week is more balanced.
- Parent: can we offer alternatives? My child will not eat most options.
- Parent: is our kitchen sanctioned to cook in? No.
- Suggestion: We could bring in a speaker to talk about healthy and creative lunch choices.
- Pizza orders: is there an easier way to complete the online orders?
  Principal response: There has been some confusion. There are only two options for orders. We have tried both and each has it's challenges.
- **Action item**: agenda for next month: brainstorm options for replacing the pizza. Add agenda item next month. - Council

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen Hofbauer

[see written reports]

- **Summary**: No activity over the last month.
- **Magazines**: additional $5000 expected.
- **WEFI cheque**: 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.
  Explanation: WEFI is a separate account, which cannot be reallocated to council. The money can only be designated to the school as a whole.
  Decision: Move the WEFI line item to the bottom so it remains separate.
- **Cash donation**: Clarification - in lieu of buying a poinsettia, a parent donated $20.
  Explanation: This has been allocated.
- **Spoiled Cheque**: need to clarify what this cheque was for.
  Explanation: This cheque was written twice as a school council reimbursement. It was reimbursed very early in the school year and then accidentally resubmitted. It has been reversed.
- **FunFair – Horseback Adventures**: invoice still outstanding due to discrepancy.
  Discussion: Jane has contacted them several times and received no response.
  Action Item: Contact them to confirm that we will be paying the same amount as last year. – Jane

- **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, February
- **Sport Team Bibs**: Parent comment: The current sets are very old. Can we replace them?
  Action Item: Investigate how many are required and the cost. – Susan
  12 Pinnies for $37 – example pricing from Internet.
- **Sport Knee Pads**: Parent comment: There were not enough knee pads this year. Can we purchase additional?
  Action Item: Investigate how many are required and the cost. - Susan

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

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), potentially do the lion dance at the end (if feasible for WKFA).
- **Proposed Date**: Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Update:

- We have a quote from WKFA. It is very reasonable.
- Quote includes the entire day of gym classes for the kids.
- There will be at least 2 people in attendance to instruct.
- Do we need additional parental volunteers for this event?
  Response: Any additional help would be appreciated. Agnes will help with the event on the day of.
- **Leadership opportunity**: Would it be a good opportunity for kids who go to WKFA to wear their uniforms and help out? No, we do not want to give precedence to students from this club versus other martial arts clubs. Advertise: Request that kids wear comfortable or gym clothing. If they would like to wear their martial arts uniforms, they may but we will not advertise it. We need to ensure that we do not openly favour one discipline over another.
- **Advertising and Brochures**: Brochures are not appropriate. The club is being paid to provide this service; therefore, it is not an advertising opportunity.
- **Motion to proceed with WKFA proposal on February 11**: Barb, 2nd: Agnes. Motion passed.

Action Items:

- Check with Mr. R. to ensure that date will be convenient for him. – Principal
- Information**:** Send the information to Brian to be edited and sent out. – Principal & Natalie

"Conestogo Counts" Math Night – Natalie

Details:

- "Conestogo Counts"
- Confirmed date: Monday, April 20, 2015
- Speaker: Marian Small – available April 20th
  http://www.onetwoinfinity.ca/
- **Update**: Marian is officially booked for April 20th.
- **Structure of evening**: Length of presentation: We believe that she has committed to a 1-hour presentation. We could then offer breakouts before or after. We want to ensure that we adequately highlight her expertise.

- **Time**: The time is still flexible. (Speaker will be coming from Stratford, arriving around dinnertime.) A 7:00pm start would be reasonable.

Activities for kids:

- Would be good if parents could bring their children and have them supervised by the Grade 7 & 8's in another area.

Registration: We require a registration process in advance. We can use Google Forms. Indicate that we intend to offer math-related activities and ask parents to indicate if they intend to bring their children.

Marketing Spin: Phrase the advertising to indicate that the event is beneficial for children.

Capacity: We believe our capacity is around 350 people in the gym.

Grant: $1000 grant. $500 for speaker. We still have funds for kids' activities.

Family Event: In the PROGrant application, we indicated that this would be a family event, with math activities for kids. For kids from CPS only. We need to be very clear that the event includes students only. Note the grant is for "Parents Reaching Out" so spending needs to focus on Parent-related activities.

Brainstorming activities for children:

- Chess tables to teach kids to play chess. Bring in a chess coach.
  Action item: Investigate local chess coach. - Jenny
- Mathletics demonstration.
- Magic show.
- Games
- Math competition.

Sub-Committee:

- We require a sub-committee.
- **Motion to have a sub-committee for this event**: Barb, 2nd: Deb. Motion passed.
- **Co-Chairs**: Jane, Natalie
- **Committee**: Barb, Catherine, Marsha
- We could pre-sell tickets to Conestogo parents first and then open up additional to community.

Timelines:

- End of February – have a registration system to confirm interest.
- End of March – advertising to others.

Action Items:

- Sub-committee meeting: Sub-committee to meet to further organization/planning. – Sub-committee
- Gym Capacity: Review capacity for numbers – Principal
- Teacher interest: Communicate to teachers - Chair
- Chair rentals: We will require rented chairs. – Natalie and Chairs

NEW BUSINESS

Math-related Programs – Jenny

Jenny is reviewing 2 math-related programs:

1. UofW Math Circle – for older students.
2. ESSO Family Math – for younger students.

Background – UofW Math Circle:

The Faculty of Mathematics and CEMC visit Ontario schools to meet with students and teachers of mathematics and computer science. There is normally no charge for these visits. Visits to schools outside of Ontario are also possible.

Purpose of Our Visits: Our goal is to have fun with mathematics and/or computer science. Specifically, we solve engaging problems together:

- to share our enthusiasm and enjoyment of the subject(s),
- to highlight the importance of mathematics and computer science, and
- to encourage students to work both inside and outside the curriculum to develop their own problem solving skills.

Who We Typically Speak To: We normally visit Grades 7 through 12. Our visits are aimed at interested and able students. Sometimes we meet with selected students. Other times, we work with entire classes.

What We Usually Do: A Faculty member works with students to solve interesting problems in mathematics and/or computer science. The sessions involve students working on problems individually or in groups. We are flexible but in our experience, workshops of 20 to 40 students and 70 to 90 minutes are best.

Background – Esso Family Math:

Esso Family Math uses everyday materials and math games to help children understand math ideas. Concepts used in the real world such as measurement, estimation and mental math are sometimes difficult for children to grasp during structured classes. Esso Family Math provides a means for parents to reinforce everyday schooling while encouraging their children to have fun as they learn. Parents gain confidence and feel they are better able to help their children enjoy and understand math in a positive environment.

Discussion:

- Can we incorporate these into the Conestogo Counts evening?
- Universities also typically have Engineer in the House programs.
  Action Item: Investigate Engineer in the House – Karen
- **Action item**: ECE employees with YMCA. Investigate with them – Jenny

Block Parent Program Presentation – Marsha

Background:

- Marsha recently became a block parent. The representative mentioned that she used to come into schools to do talks with kids and raise awareness about the block parent program.
- Since Marsha lives beside the school, she sometimes unofficially helps kids who are on school property after-hours, etc. She can now officially offer that help as a Block Parent.
- Would we like to invite this representative to come into to present to Council?
- In future, we may decide to have her come into the school to complete talks.
- **Motion to invite the speaker**: Susan, 2nd Karen. Motion passed.
- Parent question: can businesses become block parents?
  Response: Uncertain. Likely only if every employee present has a police check completed.
- **Action Item**: Contact the Block Parent representative again to schedule a presentation – Marsha

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

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.
   Spring: winter program is full. Would be for spring.
   $68 cost to parents for each child.
   - We would then get the assembly for free.
2. **40-minute assembly** for $195.
   Split into 2 assemblies per age to cater to the younger and older kids separately.
   (40 minutes to 1 hour.)

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:

- Could build up to a science fair in the spring.
- Assembly would be divided into 2 sessions.
- Budget: line item in budget for $500 for a "school event".
- Science Fair: parent comment: could we end the year with a school science fair in the gym? Other schools have them.
- **Motion to have a Mad Science assembly this year**: Barb, 2nd: Susan. Motion passed.
- **Dates**: March – would be great leading up to March Break.

Action Item:

- Assembly follow-up: Request details for 2 groups of 150 each, assemblies back to back. – Rebecca
- Provide assembly date suggestions – 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/

- **Update**: Principal, Mrs. Carere and Deb are working together to complete the application before the deadline.

Parent Survey – Deb

- **Proposed Date**: Postponed to January.
- **Format**: Deb completed some research—it looks like recommendations point to Google Forms as the best choice. We will proceed with it.

Action Items:

- Put survey into Google Forms and send out to council to complete and provide feedback. – Principal, Deb, Jaime

WRAPSC

- Fiona will continue to attend for us.
- Bus issue feedback: They are requesting any bus issue feedback.

Action Item: Invite School Trustee to speak at some point. – Principal

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by: 1st: Marsha 2nd: Susan