Conestogo Public School Council Minutes: Thursday, March 12, 2015

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Next Council Meetings:**
  - Thu, Apr 9, 2015
  - Snacks: ?
- **WRAPSC Meetings**:
  - Apr 7
  - May 5
- **Mad Science**: Friday, March 13, 2015, 9:00am – 12:00pm, 2 assemblies.
- **Staff Appreciation Treats:** Friday Mar 27, 2015
- **Math Event**: Monday, April 20, 2015, presentation 6:30pm – 8:00pm
- **Teacher Survey**: 2015
- **Building Skills to Navigate the School Years**: April 18, 2015, Bluevale Collegiate Institute http://bit.ly/19fiiXm

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Before-and-After School Programs:

- Deadline to Pre-register: April 30, 2015 – CPS Families
- Pre-registration determines if the program will run. Please register! www.wrdsb.ca/beforeafter

Block Parent Program:

- **Consider becoming a Block Parent**. – CPS Families
  Contact Tara Mondou:
  www.blockparents.ca
  contact@blockparents.ca
  519-745-8410
  Brochures available from the school office.
- **Student Assembly**: Consider having Tara present to the students. - Principal
- **FunFair Booth**: Invite Tara to have a booth at our next FunFair – FunFair Chair

WRAPSC Feb Meeting - Breakout Groups Information Gathered:

- Post on school website with summary. – Brian, Fiona, Deb
  http://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/get-involved/wrapsc/

ProGrant – "Conestogo Counts" Math Event

Date: Mon April 20, 2015

- **Page on CPS Website**: Create a sub-page of council page for the event – Deb
- **Parking map on website:** Add a parking map. – Deb & Principal
- **Registration form - Open Doors:** Need to officially open the doors at 6pm, not 6:15pm. Change on registration – Rebecca
- **Advertise to Woolwich schools** – before April 7 – WRAPSC and Waterloo schools. – Principal
- **Advertise at WRAPS Meeting** – April 7th – we will advertise the event at this meeting. – Fiona & Chair

- **Grade 7 & 8s** – advertise to this group.
- **Set-up** – Commitment to arrive 5:30pm to organize the event. - Council
- **Committee update**: get an update to Natalie yet this week – Jenny
- **Advertisements:** Will be distributed tomorrow. - Rebecca
- **Banners:** Should we have banners out front? (Banner last year was $68 total.) Ask Celeste to create the banner for us and have it printed to use the same stand. – Deb & Celeste
- **Council Banner:** ensure the Council Banner is up somewhere prominent! – Deb
- **School Sign:** Post event – Principal
- **Handouts**: Confirm who is going to supply the handouts for the event – Chair
- **Pencils**: Do we want to get pencils printed with Conestogo Counts? – Barb

GRA Grant:

- Thank you card, make a donation on Chris and her husband's behalf - Jenny

Pizza Alternatives:

- Soup with Flow Catering: Continue exploring this option. Logistics from front door to child's desk. Ordering logistics. - Deb

Milk Program:

- Pricing: investigate sources and pricing for milk – Rebecca
- Delivery options: see what other schools are doing - Marsha

PRO Grant Applications:

- **Deadline**: Tuesday, May 19, 2015
- Pull out the list from last year for reference – Deb
- Send message out now to council stating that we need to bring ideas to the next council meeting to be voted on. – Deb

Parent Survey

- Complete the survey, encourage others in the community to do so. - Council
- Send out email reminder with goals. – Deb

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

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Additional time on Conestogo Counts.
- No FunFair update.

Agenda Approval (with revision noted) Motioned by:

1st: Rebecca

2nd: Susan

Minutes, Feb 12 – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- none

Minutes Approval Motioned by:

1st: Marsha

2nd: Susan

PRESENTATIONS

Block Parent Presentation - Tara Mondou

Block Parent Association:

- Started in the late 1960's in London, Ontario.
- Today, there are programs in almost every province in Canada.

Block Parent Sign logistics:

- Block Parent sign (showed).
- To be a block parent, you need a window that faces the road in which you can place your block parent sign.
- Rural program: We do have a rural program – you can put a sticker on your mailbox to indicative to kids where to go.
- Sign: The sign indicates that you are home and available.

Responsibilities:

- If 911 is required, you can call on the child's behalf. If not, you can assist as needed by calling parents, etc.
- Door knocks: we don't measure success by the number of door knocks. The sign indicates that you are a welcoming, caring neighbourhood and it deters crime.
- The program is for youth, adults and seniors, not just for children.

Prerequisites:

- Police Vulnerable Sector Check: need a police check in order to become a block parent. If you don't have one, the program will pay for having one completed every two years. Any child over 12 years in the home must also get a PVSC. You will receive a request form from the association in order to get your check completed. You will have to pick up the completed PVSC.

Questions:

- Houses that are too far from the road: many of us have houses set back from the street but no mailbox on which to put a sticker so how do we accommodate that?

Tara: I'll get back to you with a solution to that problem. It is possible to have a list of block parents at the school for reference.
Chair: Next year, we could identify those houses in the community.

What does a block parent do?

- You do not have to invite the person into your house—you can do whatever you are comfortable with. You can ask them to wait outside.
- It is not for visiting.
- Only put your sign up when you are home, available, and comfortable receiving people who need help.
- You don't leave your house to be a block parent. (For instance, if you see something down the road, it is not your responsibility to address it because you are a block parent.)
- The more block parents we have, the more effective the program is.
- The more block parents we have, the more comfortable parents will feel allowing our kids to experience some freedom going out in the world.

It's easy to become a block parent:

- Block Parent Application.
- Police Check (PVSC).
- Short interview at your house.
- Receive your sign and information.

More information:

- www.blockparents.ca
- contact@blockparents.ca
- 519-745-8410

Note: Tara has left brochures, business cards, applications and request forms at the school.

Student Presentation: Tara is available to come back to present to the school's students in an assembly about block parents.

Action Item: Contact Tara to provide an information booth at the FunFair – FunFair Chair

Principal's Report – Brian Beney

Thank you CPS Community for Your Generosity

- CPS 'School of the Day' for the WRDSB in February (http://bit.ly/1BZDPiv).
- Space Dance-a-thon organized by Ms. Howey and the Colts4Change group helped raise $935 today for *Free the Children* initiatives.

Balanced Day and Nutrition Break Routines

- 3 longer learning blocks.
- 2 – 40-minute nutrition breaks (spreading the eating over 2 times in the day).
- In mid-February we reverted back to Grades 1 - 8 going outside first and then eating inside to accommodate FDK students eating earlier (11:20 rather than 11:40), reducing the amount of lost instructional time due to transition coming inside after the break and to assist in keeping our halls cleaner as the floors are now cleaned while students are eating.

- Students should still have a minimum of 15 minutes eating time before their next instructional time.

Before and After School Program Registration

- Registration opened in February for these program opportunities at Conestogo for September. School-based childcare programs offer access to high quality programs in a convenient location, with no waiting lists.
- Programs are offered from 7:00 am - 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, PD Days, and at a reduced number of sites during March Break and the non-statutory week at Christmas.
- Please visit www.wrdsb.ca/beforeafter for online registration and more information.
- Pre-registration to determine viability closes the end of April 2015. Updates re. the program will be presented at the May 2015 Council meeting.
- **Action Item**: Please register before April 30, 2015! - Parents

School Enrolment / Staffing Projections

- Near the end of March we will begin the staffing process and school organization for 2015-16.
- Currently we have 15 JK pre-registrations for September and 35 graduating grade 8 students. More details re. our organization of classes and staffing will be available at the April 2015 meeting.

Opportunities Just for Parents/Caregivers/Guardians

- Building Skills to Navigate the School Years - April 18, 2015 at Bluevale Collegiate Institute (http://bit.ly/19fiiXm).
- Conestogo Counts - April 20, 2015.
- Surveys and Resources for Parents: http://con.wrdsb.ca/

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen Hofbauer

[see written reports]

- No money coming in this month.
- Lots of expenses: Fitness Day, Conestogo Counts Speaker ($502), etc.
- FunFair pony rides: we will submit payment for the same amount as last year.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

"Conestogo Counts" Math Night – Natalie & Jane

Details:

- "Conestogo Counts"
- Confirmed date: Monday, April 20, 2015
- Speaker: Marian Small
  http://www.onetwoinfinity.ca/
- Grant: $1000, speaker: $502

Main Speaker:

- Confirmed

- Marian Small is officially booked for April 20th, confirmed for 6:30 - 8:00pm.

U of W CMEC Workshop for Grade 7 and 8:

- Confirmed.
- Hosted by Michael Miniou from 6:30 – 8:00pm.
- Up to 45 students.
- Rm 2 – Grade 8 classroom holds 35 students.

Angie from Children's Place:

- Confirmed.
- At the park on Eveningstar Lane.
- Angie has capacity for 16 kids at the park building.

"Family Math" with the Early Learning Centre:

- *Not proceeding with this event.*
- They host a family event, which will remove parents from the main speaker in the gym. So, we have chosen not to proceed with that.
- We can host this event separately.

Notes & Discussion:

- **Registration form Capacity**: 300 registrants.
- **Principal**: Preference to advertise to other Woolwich community schools before rest of Waterloo Region.
- **Beverages, refreshments**: Katherine Sunday contacted Rumbletum with a quote for providing for the meeting. She could also contact Sittlers for cookies.
- **Parking**: Church – the church has a council meeting that night but will attempt to park in driveways to leave the church parking lot for us.
- **Open Doors:** Need to officially open the doors at 6pm, not 6:15pm.
- **Chairs:** Katherine has arranged the chairs.
- **Caribou Math Challenge**: Yes, we can still engage with this group.
- **Chess Coach**: Yes, we can still do this program, if we have time.
- **Video Recording**: Do we want to record Marion's presentation?
- **Door prizes**: Ballots to win a math-related game or book?
- **Set Group Limit Expectations**: In advertising, we need to clarify that group numbers are limited so register now.
- **General Registration Form for Parents**: is functioning.
- **Questions before the event**: Do we want to create a Google form for parents to ask questions in advance for Marian to answer?

Action Items:

- **Page on CPS Website**: Create a sub-page of council page for the event – Deb
- **Parking map on website:** Add a parking map. – Deb & Principal
- **Registration form - Open Doors:** Need to officially open the doors at 6pm, not 6:15pm. Change on registration – Rebecca
- **Advertise to Woolwich schools** – before April 7 – WRAPSC and Waterloo schools. – Principal

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- **Council Banner:** ensure the Council Banner is up somewhere prominent! – Deb
- **School Sign:** Post event – Principal
- **Handouts**: Confirm who is going to supply the handouts for the event – Chair
- **Pencils**: Do we want to get pencils printed with Conestogo Counts? – Barb

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

GRA Grant: Greenspace Revitalization Update - Karen

Grant application deadline: February 27, 2015

Update: It has been submitted. Chris Bauer's husband completed most of the preparation for us!

Action Item: Thank you card, make a donation on Chris and her husband's behalf - Jenny

Pizza Alternatives – Chairs

Parent Survey Responses:

- 36 responses
- Parents have indicated they would like another lunch option.

Options:

Flow Catering, Elmira: Soups

- Includes environmentally friendly spoons and containers with lids.
- Delivery fee: $10 for the entire order (not per order).

Chili:

- Vegetarian chili - $5
- Meat chili (ground beef, pork or turkey) - $6

Soup:

Example soups (gluten free, nut free, dairy free):

- Coconut Carrot or Butternut Squash & Ginger
- Roasted Sweet Potato
- Roasted Red Pepper and Dill
- **Spilt Pea & Ham**
- **Turkey Vegetable with Rice**

- **Beef Vegetable with Barley**
- Curried Lentil
- Tomato Chickpea

Options that include dairy but are gluten- and nut-free:

- Cream of Mushroom
- Tomato Bisque
- **Cream of Broccoli & Cheddar**
- Cream of Cauliflower
- Potato Leek

Motion: to proceed with investigating soup with Flow 1st Barb, 2nd Rebecca.
Decision: will proceed with investigating with Flow.

Action Items: Logistics from front door to child's desk. Ordering logistics. - Deb

Zoup: investigate as an option if Flow cannot do it.

NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS

Applications for the 2015-16 Minister's Student Advisory Council – Rebecca

- Deadline: February 28th.
- Rebecca worked with Mrs. Howey. She proposed it to all the students.
- Comment: Students did not receive notice far enough in advance.
- Several kids completed their applications on time. (We don't know how many were submitted.)

Suggesting Milk Program – Rebecca

- Proposing a milk program for the school.
- 250ml milk cartons.
- CPS had a milk program in the past. There were concerns about messy spills and kids not finishing their milk.

Discussion:

- **Fridge**: Requires an industrial fridge that needs to be inspected for temperature. We would need to purchase a fridge. Several thousand-dollar investment.
- **Budget**: We may have a surplus in the budget for a fridge.
- **Delivery**: What about a delivery service?
- **Frequency**: once per week, daily?
- Parent comment: can't parents just send milk? Yes, but some parents want an option.

Options:

- Flannigan Foods: milk delivery.
- Foodland: Organic Meadows organic milk option. Can order through a form.

Decision:

- **Motion** to proceed with pricing and investigation: 1st Susan, 2nd Barb.

Action Items:

- Pricing: investigate sources and pricing for milk – Rebecca
- Fridge: investigate fridge options – see what other schools are doing - Marsha

2015-2016 PRO Grants Applications – Jenny

- **Deadline**: Tuesday, May 19, 2015
- Grant applications are open again.

Discussion:

- Music Together program: arts themed?
- Developmental Education Night.

Process:

- Process used last year: council members put forward ideas, short listed, council members voted on the choice of presentation.
- **Motion** to send notification to council: Agreed. 1st Marsha, 2nd Fiona
- **Action Items**:
- Pull out the list from last year for reference – Deb
- Send message out now to council stating that we need to bring ideas to the next council meeting to be voted on. – Deb

Health & Development Talk Update – Brian

- We can have a separate event for that in the Fall. Important to have this talk with our kids and have resources for parents.

Council Development – Jenny

- [Binders distributed.]
- Encouraging participation and preparedness.

Parent & Teacher Surveys – Deb

Parent Survey:

- Extend deadline past March Break and send a second reminder.
- 320 kids – 190 families.
- Send out a goal: we want 80% participation, we are at 20% - State how important the survey is for influencing the school council's objectives. – Deb

Action Items:

- Complete the survey, encourage others in the community to do so. - Council
- Send out email reminder with goals. – Deb

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by: 1st: Fiona 2nd: Barb