Conestogo Public School Council Minutes: Thursday, November 5, 2015

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Upcoming events

- **Holiday Arrangement Fundraiser:** Orders due by Friday, Nov 13th.
- **Cartoon Party - Magazine Fundraiser**: Nov 25, 2nd nutrition break 1:30pm.
- **Icecream Party - Magazine Fundraiser**: Beginning of December.
- **Director's Town Hall:**
  For Council Chairs.
  Nov 12 - Eastwood
  Nov 19 - Bluevale
  Nov 26 – Galt
  6:30pm to 9:00pm
- **Council Celebration & Fun Fair Wrap-up:** December 3, 2015
  7:00pm - Fun Fair wrap-up
  7:30pm – Celebration
- **Next Council Meeting**: Thu Dec 10
- **Presentation: New Health & Phys.Ed Curriculum**
  Thu Dec 10, 6:30pm
  Conestogo PS Library
  by Principal Beney

- **WRAPSC meetings**:
  Jan 12th
  Feb 2nd
  April 5th
  May 3rd
- **Staff Appreciation Treats**: Thursday, April 21, 2016

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Holiday Arrangement Fundraiser:

- School-Day reminder going out tomorrow, and two days before end of campaign. – Brian & Deb
- Gift Cards: Include plug for gift cards in last reminder. Good gifts for hard to buy for people and spring flower shopping. - Deb

Staff Appreciation Lunch – Thu Nov 12:

- **School-Day notification**: send out a reminder on Monday. – Deb & Brian
- **Committee Lead**: We need a volunteer to succeed Jen Sellars in running these appreciation events. Advertise this volunteer position to the parent community – Council

Director's Town Hall:

- Nov 12 - Eastwood
  Nov 19 - Bluevale
  Nov 26 - Galt
- 6:30pm to 9:00pm
- Designate an attendee - Chairs

Magazine Fundraiser:

- **Cartoon Party - Magazine Fundraiser**: Nov 25, 2nd nutrition break 1:30pm.
  Volunteers needed – Parent Community
- **Icecream Party - Magazine Fundraiser**: Beginning of December.
  Volunteers needed – Parent Community
- **Donate a Chicken**: Next year, remind parents to council their children to choose to donate a chicken rather than buying a toy. – Council & CPS Parents

Presentation - New Health and Phys. Ed. Curriculum

- Thursday, December 10th at 6:30 (30 minutes).
- Parents are invited to attend and/or send their questions to either brian_beney@wrdsb.on.ca or council.cps@gmail.com
- Send out invitations to parents via School-Day and website in advance, noting special presentation at earlier meeting time. – Brian, Deb

Safe Caring & Inclusive Schools

- We need to organize this team.
- Add the SCIS item to the agenda for December. – Council Executive

Fun Fair Closing Tasks:

- **Closing Committee Meeting**: schedule a closing meeting. Proposed: December 3, 2015, 7:00pm - Jenny
- **Fun Fair Storage**: Check under the stage for space. – Principal
- **Scheduling**: Consider separating the Fun Fair from the Meet the Teacher event next year. – Council

ESNS Lunch Program:

- **December orders**: send out the same communication at the end of November. – Brian and Deb
- **Follow-up**: Add item to December's agenda. Follow-up in council, follow-up with parents. – Council Executive
- **Revenue**: Confirm that we are still making a percentage with the partial program. Confirm expected revenue calculation. - Marsha
- **Pizza Receipts**: Volunteers doing Pizza on Wednesdays may leave the pizza receipt with the Principal. – ESNS Volunteers

In-House Field Trip Alternatives:

- **University of Waterloo Science Department School Workshops**: Follow up with the representative again. – Jenny
- **KW Little Theatre**: Follow-up with them to explore options for in-house plays. – Karen

Grants:

- **Music Performance Grant**: We need a volunteer to research this grant and report back to council. – Parent Community
- **S'Cool Life Fund**: Grants accepted Dec 1 - Jan 31. Apply for this grant again. - Deb

Fitness Event:

- Limitless Performance and Crossfit: Provide more details with regard to Instructor training and experience with children, costs, and liability insurance coverage. – Rebecca
- Yoga with Susan Bricks: contact Susan to discuss her participation. – Council Member

PROGrant Event – Healthy Kids Make Good Learners

- **Motion to Pass the Date Proposed**: We did not have enough members present to vote on the date. Motion to finalise the date next meeting – Council Executive
- **Chairs**: order the same number through the custodian as ordered for Conestogo Counts. – Marsha
- **Other similar events**: Linwood held a healthy eating night on September 26th. Look at their information - Deb

Folding Tables

- **Source**: Investigate tables available at nearby school. – Marsha
- **Storage**: Investigate storage space under the stage - Principal

Park Bench Plaques:

- Install plaques – Volunteer needed.

WELCOME & GENERAL BUSINESS

Attendance

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

Role	2015-16	Sep 10	Oct 8	Nov 5	Dec 10	Jan 14	Feb 11	Mar 10	Apr 14	May 12	Jun 9
Co-Chair	**Jenny Benham**	P	P	P							
Co-Chair	**Rebecca Hallman**	P	P	N							
Treasurer	**Karen Hofbauer**	P	P	P							
Secretary	**Deb Jones**	P	P	P							
Principal	Brian Beney	P	P	P							
Teacher											
Parent Members (14)	**Marsha Ferguson**	P	N	P							
	Stephanie Forte	P	N	N							
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	P	N							
	Chris Sabean	P	P	P							
	Katherine Sunday	P	N	N							
	Susan Wagler		N	N							
	Fiona von Kannen	P	P	N							
	Aimee Leveck	P	P	N							
	Shawna Gingrich		P	P							
	Carolyn Rouse	P	P	P							
Parent Volunteers	Juli Chinnick	P	P	P							
	Natalie Edery	N	N	N							
	Vanessa Harrow	N	N	N							
	Lori McCrae	P	N	N							
	Jen Sellars	N	N	P							
Snacks											

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- WRAPSC – Jenny will present on behalf of Fiona.

Agenda Approval Motioned by:

1st: Chris

2nd: Susan

Minutes, Oct 8 – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- none

Minutes Approval Motioned by:

1st: Karen

2nd: Susan

PRESENTATIONS

Principal's Report – Brian Beney

Labour Updates

Tentative Deal Reached Between Province & ETFO

- Extra-curricular programs, field trips, parent/teacher interviews being planned.
- Progress Report timelines will be published at a future date.
- OSSTF representing the Custodians and Secretaries are currently on job action. Schools continue to be cleaned and maintained - minimal coverage is provided if a custodian is absent. Head Secretaries continue to not perform any 'teacher' duties - door access is now controlled only by the Principal. Extra administrative duties are being covered by the Principal as needed.
- OSSTF, Province and School Boards continue to negotiate.

New Health and Phys. Ed. Curriculum

- Introductory Video (5 min)
- Principal's presentation on the new Health and P.E. curriculum on Thursday, December 10th at 6:30 (30 minutes).
- Parents are invited to attend and/or send their questions to either brian_beney@wrdsb.on.ca or council.cps@gmail.com
- **Action Item**: Send out invitations to parents via School-Day and website in advance, noting special presentation at earlier meeting time. – Brian, Deb

Dates to Remember

- Remembrance Day Assembly - Nov 11 @ 10:30
- PD Day - Nov. 13
    - AM - School Improvement Planning
    - PM - Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews

- Will take place Thursday, November 12 in the evening (with some teachers), and Friday, November 13 during the day.
- Progress reports will not be sent out in advance. They will be provided at a later date.

Senior Student Protests

- Last week, a core group of grade 7 & 8 students organized into a peaceful protest and removed themselves from classes. Not all participated.
- A few chose to join simply to avoid class. These students were steered back to classes.
- By Friday, everything was back to normal.
- Settlement was reached on Tuesday, so the kids felt they had an impact.
- Parent Comment: You did a great job at balancing letting the kids have a voice but keeping them focused on the need to have a plan.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen

[reviewed written reports]

- FunFair Money: all in.
- Magazine Money: received our first instalment.
- Pizza receipt: When the pizza delivery person came, he gave Agnes a receipt. It needs to go to ESNS.
  Action Item: Volunteers doing Pizza on Wednesdays may leave the pizza receipt with the Principal. – ESNS Volunteers
- St. Jacobs Play Subsidy: We are sending 165 students, grades 4-8 to the play. There were a limited number of tickets. Subsidizing $10/student. $1650. The subsidy will continue to be $10/student. The subsidy will be divided evenly between all students.

Staff Appreciation Day – Jen Sellars

Upcoming Staff Appreciation Dates:

- **Date**: Thursday, November 12, 2015 (Friday is a PD Day)
- **Time**: food must arrive by 11:20am
- **Volunteers**: the response has been poor so far.
- **Action Item**: School-Day notification: send out a reminder on Monday. – Deb & Brian

Committee Lead: We need a volunteer to succeed Jen Sellars in running these appreciation events.
Action Item: Advertise this volunteer position to the parent community – Council

WRAPSC Report – Jenny

Next WRAPSC meeting: January 12th, 2016

School Bus Safety – Safe Handoff Procedures for the Youngest Riders

Presentation by Benoit Bourgeault, General Manager, STSWR:

- Several ideas were brought to light with regard to student safety for our youngest students.
- Taking safety measures very seriously.

- We need to remember that each bus driver has a ratio of 1 driver to 72 students.

Registrar from the Ontario College of Teachers

Presentation by Gabriel Johnston and Joe Jamieson

Topic: What the OCT does and resources available for parents.

- www.OCT.ca
- All teachers with a professional designation are registered with the Ontario College of Teachers.
- What the college does, resources available, etc.
- You can look up teachers on their website to find out their standing, including any disciplinary actions.
- The other route in is to go through cases wrt who has been disciplined.
- The Ontario College of Teachers is the body that says that a teacher may legally teach only.

Safe Caring & Inclusive Schools

Update by Jill Magazine:

- Every September, we are to submit the name of our representative for the SCIS committee. There is supposed to be a team, not just one person.
- We need to find a parent rep and build a team.
- **Action Item**: add the SCIS item to the agenda for December. – Council Executive

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Fun Fair Committee Final Follow-up – Jenny

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2015

- We stepped up and created a successful event.
- We made a lot of improvements to processes.
- We still need to wrap up with lessons learned.
- Storage: We still need a storage space.

Fun Fair Totals:

- Sales before the event:
  This year: $2,400
  Last year: $1,700
  $700 more this year.
- Sales night of the event:
  This year: $1,138.50
  Last year: $1,305.00
  $166.50 less this year.
- Silent Auction:
  This year: $3,283
  Last year: $2,005
  $1,278 more this year.
- Question: Has the Fun Fair always been associated with the Meet the Teacher night?
  Yes, it has always been together.
- Parent comment: It is a very busy night. If we include the teachers, it disrupts the evening and causes stress.

- **Action Item**: Consider separating the Fun Fair from the Meet the Teacher event next year. – Council

Fun Fair Thank You Cards:

- Complete.

Parent Directory Follow-up – Deb

Status: Complete, sent out Monday, Oct 26

- **Question**: Did any families ask for paper?
  Not this year. Two families last year.
- One parent said they missed completing the form.
- **Question**: If families missed entering their information, can they still be added?
  No, we cannot add more names once the document is completed, locked and published. There are too many steps involved.
- **Conclusion**: Overall, the new process was successful and did significantly reduce work. We will repeat it next year.

ESNS Lunch Program Update – Marsha & Agnes

Status: Need volunteers to support this program.

- First month was challenging but it is now going much more smoothly.
- **Handing out**: very easy.
- **Administration for staff**: easier.
- **Complaints from students**: there are not as many choices of condiments than before. Otherwise, happy.
- **Lunch Lady sales**: not affected.
- **Communicate to students**: write their lunch orders in their planners.
- **Orders**: It would be nice if we could order more than one month in advance.
  Originally, they said we could order two months in advance.

Action Items:

- December orders – send out the same communication at the end of November. – Brian and Deb
- Add item to December's agenda. Follow-up in council, follow-up with parents. – Council Executive
- Confirm that we are still making a percentage with the partial program. Confirm expected revenue calculation. - Marsha

Magazine Fundraiser Update – Chris

- Ended: Tuesday, October 13, 2015.
- 783 magazines
- $8600 net approximately.
- **Prize store**: Complete. It was a bit chaotic but the kids had fun and they learned how to count out and spend money. 103 kids went shopping. The QPS rep brought in the prizes from her storage.
- Volunteers – thank you to: Rebecca Hallman, Sandra Clark, Melanie Thompson
- **Cartoon Party**: Nov 25, 2nd nutrition break 1:30pm.
  For classes with over 50% participation. About 160 kids. They will watch cartoons and eat popcorn.

- **Icecream Party**: beginning of December. For kids who sold 8 magazines or 4 online. Or families who sold 14 magazines. Usually about 100 kids. Date depends on the QSP Rep's availability. Wednesday, if possible.
- **Action Item**: Next year, remind parents to council their children to choose to donate a chicken rather than buying a toy. – Council & CPS Parents

Holiday Decor Fundraiser Update – Chris

- **Started**: November 1, 2015.
- **Ends**: November 13, 2015.
- **Pickups**: Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 3:30pm – 5:30pm, CPS main entrance
- Sales have been poor so far. But, we have a reminder going out tomorrow.
- School-Day will not accept late orders.
- School-Day Messages: some like one subject per message and some parents like a digest with all items.
- Minimum order: we need to sell 100 poinsettias to get free shipping. No minimum for urns and wreaths.
- Good return on the gift cards.

Action Items:

- School-Day reminder going out tomorrow, and two days before end of campaign. – Brian & Deb
- Gift Cards: Include plug for gift cards in last reminder. Good gifts for hard to buy for people and spring flower shopping. - Deb

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

PRO Grant – Healthy Kids Make Good Learners – Update – Deb

- **Grant**: We received a grant for $780.
- **Proposed Date**: Thursday, April 21, 2016:
- - Brian has confirmed that this date is open on the school calendar.
- - This date is the night before a PD Day, which could mean we lose a few potential families who choose to go away for the weekend. But, we don't foresee it as a show-stopper.
- Presentation: Presentation will focus on nutrition and lifestyle habits that support children's brain development and ability to learn.
- The presenter I'd like to bring in is coming from BC--she proposed this date as feasible for her.

Presenter:

Brenda Wollenberg BSW RHN
Registered Holistic Nutritionist

- Author of the book: *Overweight Kids in a Toothpick World*
  http://www.amazon.ca/Overweight-Toothpick-World-Step-Step/dp/0986636509
- Founder of: In Balance Weight Loss and Wellness Programs
- Website: http://www.inbalancelm.com/
- Video exemplifying her speaking style:
  http://www.inbalancelm.com/happy-healthy-holiday/

Discussion:

Dates:

- Thursday, February 4, 2016
  Thursday, April 21, 2016
- Brian has confirmed that these dates are open on the school calendar.
- February versus April. The proposed speaker has given us a choice of these two dates—February or April.

February 4, 2016 date:

- Concern with winter weather issues stranding the speaker in BC.
- Also concern with teacher job action not being complete.
- April 21, 2016 Date:
- This date is the night before a PD Day, which could mean we lose a few potential families who choose to go away for the weekend. But, we don't foresee it as a show-stopper.
- Later in the year means we delay the positive impact of the presentation.

Speaker:

- The presenter we'd like to bring in, Brenda Wollenberg, is coming from BC.

Budget:

- Speaker: $650 inclusive.
- Brenda is willing to present for $650, which is within our budget. (That's inclusive. She has family in Toronto so is able to align the event with a family visit.)

Presentation:

- Presentation will focus on nutrition and lifestyle habits that support children's brain development and ability to learn.

Reach:

- Do we plan to open the event to other schools?
  Yes, we can do the same as we did for Conestogo Counts.
- We plan to create a website for the event, which will continue to provide helpful information afterward in order to extend the value of the presentation.

Committee:

- A committee has been formed:
  Lead: Deborah Jones
  Members: Celeste Alles, Stephanie Forte, Christina Wood, Erin Schmidt.

Action Items:

- **Motion to Pass the Date Proposed**: We did not have enough members present to vote on the date. Motion to finalise the date next meeting – Council Executive
- **Chairs**: order the same number through the custodian as ordered for Conestogo Counts. – Marsha
- **Other similar events**: Linwood held a healthy eating night on September 26th. Look at their information - Deb

In House Field Trips Exploration - Jenny, Agnes, Karen, Deb

- We can now do outside field trips again!
- **University of Waterloo**: They do a yearly science day. They do in-house workshops for free. They have different workshops for junior, intermediate and senior grades.
  Action Item: Follow up with the representative again. - Jenny
- **Mad Science**: No dates confirmed yet.

- **KW Little Theatre**: Asked if they have any child-appropriate shows and could they do one here rather than at the theatre. No response yet.
  Action Item: Follow up with them – Karen
- **Music Performance Grant**: Request for a volunteer to research this grant.
  Action Item: We need a volunteer to research this grant and report back to council. – Parent Community
- **S'Cool Life Fund**: Apply for this grant again. - Deb

Fitness Event Venue Update – Jenny on behalf of Rebecca

Two choices current being presented:

1. Limitless Performance
2. Crossfit

- We need more information: Costs. Instructor training and experience with children. Insurance liability coverage.
  Action Item: Provide more details with regard to Instructor training and experience with children, costs, and liability insurance coverage. - Rebecca

Other options:

- Yoga: Susan Bricks – yoga instructor in West Montrose.
  Action Item: Contact this instructor. - ?

Council Celebration - Jenny

- December 3, 2015
- 7:00pm - Fun Fair wrap-up with lessons learned.
- 7:30pm – Celebration

Tables

- We need folding tables for Council use.
- Costco has plastic folding tables for about $50 each.
- **Use**: Needed for Fun Fair, icecream party, etc, only council supervised events.
- **Number required**: 5-6 would be fine. Aprox. $300.
- Marsha's school may have tables available.
  Investigate tables available at nearby school. - Marsha
- **Storage**: do we have storage for them?
  Principal: We can probably find storage for them under the stage.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by: 1st: Chris 2nd: Karen