Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, February 4, 2016

Upcoming events ***1***
Action Item Summary ***2***
Welcome & General Business ***4***
Attendance 4
Agenda – Review & Approval 5
Minutes, Jan 14 – Review & Approval 5
Presentations ***5***
Principal's Report – Brian Beney 5
Standing Agenda Items ***7***
Treasurer's Report – Karen 7
WRAPSC Report – Fiona 7
Committees & Events – Status Reports ***8***
Healthy Kids PRO Grant Event – Deb 8
Fitness Event: Limitless Performance – Update – Rebecca 9
Scientist in the School Workshop – Update 9
Kelly Lovell – Motivational Speaker 9
Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools – Jenny 10
Open Discussion Items ***10***
S'Cool Life Fund for improvements to the Art Room – Deb 10
Music Performance Fund (MPF) Grant – Fiona 10
Ontario Arts Council – Artist in Education - Update – Fiona 11
Jungle Sport – Next Year's Fitness Event – Katherine 12
Communications Committee, Council Secretary Role Succession – Executive 13
New Discussion Items ***13***
Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) – Karen Hofbauer 13
Nutrition Break Snack Volunteer Needed - Stephanie 13
9:00pm: Adjournment ***13***

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Next Council Meeting**: Thu Mar 10
- **WRAPSC meetings**:
  April 5th
  May 3rd
- **Fitness Event:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016
- **Annual PIC Event**: Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Bluevale.
  Parent Involvement Committee: http://www.wrdsb.ca/pic/
  Keynote: Monique Howat.
  Childcare available. Including children with special needs. Bagged lunch available.
- **Staff Appreciation Treats**: Thursday, April 21, 2016
- **Healthy Kids Make Good Learners**: Thursday, April 21, 2016

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Snacks:

- **Volunteer Required**: 11:00am – 12:00pm, every second Thursday. To sort and distribute bags of snacks to student classrooms. – Council, Parents

Fitness Event 2016:

- **Provider**: Limitless Performance
- **Date**: Wednesday, February 10, 2016.
- **Format**: Full day, each class participates separately as their gym period for the day.
- **Parent Volunteers**: Parent Volunteers welcome. Please contact Rebecca if you plan to attend. - Parents

"Scientist in the School" Workshop:

- Booked for Grades 7/8. Confirm dates. – Principal, Jenny

Kelly Lovell Talk:

- **Timing**: Spring event. Daytime assembly, grades 6-8.
- **Leadership Team Initiative**: Discuss proposal with teachers. Choose date, time and topic. - Lori

PRO Grant Event – Healthy Kids Make Good Learners

- **Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2016
- **Event planning:** in progress – Sub-Committee
- **We are seeking volunteers for the following. Please contact us via council.cps@gmail.com – Council and Parents**
    - Classroom assistance with supportive activities (info to follow).
    - Supply sourcing/contributions for classroom sprout growing.
    - Childcare Organization.
    - Contribute healthy lunch ideas, other website posts.
    - Refreshments - willing to make a healthy treat?
    - Day of Setup, chairs, refreshments, etc.
- Re-confirm chairs. – Deb

Staff Appreciation Treats:

- **Date:** Thursday, April 21, 2016
- **Committee Leads**: Jen Sellars, Shawna Gingrich

Music Performance Fund (MPF) Grant:

- Mr. Beney will proceed with booking an event for next school year - Principal

Ontario Arts Council – Artists in Education:

- Mr. Beney will take this information to the teachers to consider a program for next year. - Principal

Jungle Sport Fitness Event 2017:

- **Provider**: Jungle Sport http://www.junglesport.ca/
- Proceed with booking for April 10-13. – Katherine.

Communications Committee, Council Secretary Role Succession

- Consider people for these roles (Executive Secretary, Communications Committee, Community Rep). Communicate the openings. – Council, Parents

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

- Provide more details and next steps. - Karen

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

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- none

Agenda Approval Motioned by:

1st: Deb

2nd: Agnes

Minutes, Jan 14 – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- none

Minutes Approval Motioned by:

1st: Susan

2nd: Fiona

PRESENTATIONS

Principal's Report – Brian Beney

Welcome to Term Two

- Term Two officially begins Feb. 8th.
- Report cards go home Feb. 19th.

Keeping Current, Staying Informed and Communicating with Teachers

- School-Day continues to serve the needs of over 95% of our school families.
- Website (both the WRDSB and School) http://con.wrdsb.ca/
- **Questions, concerns, issues in the classroom?** Face-to-face, phone, email only to set up phone or face-to-face conversation or share basic factual information. We try to respond within 24 hours.

Information Updates / Upcoming Events

- Mad Science - 52 students, 3 groups - seems to be positive experience thus far.
- Need to consider a more inclusive approach in the future.

"Scientist in the School" Workshop

- Grades 7/8 classes registered for workshops in June (Environmental Science focus: Grade 7: Tropical Rainforest, Grade 8: Groundwater Studies) - Dates yet to be confirmed.

Fitness Day - Feb 10th

- Following P.E. schedule works well overall.

SchoolSkate - Grades 1 (1/2 class as well)

- Grade 1 classes to participate in the 'SchoolSkate' program being offered in partnership with the Kitchener-Waterloo Skating Club (KWSC) at RIM.
- The 'SchoolSkate' program consists of six weekly 50-minute skating lessons. The program will be based on Skate Canada's nationally accredited "CanSkate" program. Instruction will be differentiated, as skaters will be grouped according to existing abilities. As a result, both new and experienced skaters can maximally benefit from the program.

- **Helmets** are required and will be available for rental from the KWSC. Must be CSA-approved.
- **Skates**: Students must have their own skates.
- **Schedule**: March. 6 weeks.
- More details will follow shortly.
- Well subsidized.

Swim to Survive Program - Grade 3 Students Coming later in the Spring

- The LifeSaving Society defines the minimum skills needed to survive an unexpected fall into deep water. These are expressed in a skill sequence in the Canadian Swim to Survive standard: ROLL into deep water, TREAD water for one minute SWIM 50 metres
- There are 3 parts to the program:
    - 3 in-water swimming lessons teaching the 3 skills (roll, tread, and swim in a continuous sequence).
    - 3 in-classroom water safety lessons linked to the Ontario curriculum.
    - Parent information about the Swim to Survive program.
- Minimal cost for parents as Woolwich Community Centre received funding from the Life-Saving Society of Ontario and the local Lion's Club.
- More details will be communicated to our Grade 3 parents shortly.

Ski Club Trip to Beaver Valley - Grades 5 - 8

- March 10th.
- Information posted on SchoolDay today (Feb. 4).
- Most grades 5 - 8 teachers will be at school for those who do not attend the ski trip.
- Mr. R. Mr. Lambert, Ms. McMillan, parent volunteers.

PD Day - February 26th

- Both Secondary and Elementary (both school boards).
- Additional 7th PD day as a result of labour agreements.
- Focus will be on mandatory Health/Safety training and Mathematics instruction.
- See website for more details http://con.wrdsb.ca/

2016-17 School Calendar

- Committee representing all stakeholders is currently working on the calendar for submission to the Min. of Education for approval
- 7 PD days spread throughout the year (avoiding long weekends, holidays)
- Final version made public around late May 2016
- 7 PD Days spread evenly throughout school year, avoid long weekends and holidays. Some days match elementary and secondary, some do not. Attempt to work with the Catholic Board to coordinate.
- **Parent question**: Why avoid a Friday before a long weekend?
  Principal: Staff often take personal days around a long weekend or spring break. WRAPSC surveyed parents and feedback was that parents preferred them spread out throughout the year.
- **Parent question – skating**: Are the other grades going skating?
  Principal: Currently, no. We were able to leverage this opportunity, which includes instruction and the option to

rent a helmet. There are concerns around helmets, etc with the previously organized skating trips. With the skating club, we are able to rent helmets.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen

[reviewed written reports]

- Money from fundraisers.
- More planners purchased, from within the planner budget.
- Mounted projector for Room 12 Art Room purchased from the Principal's Allocable.
- Pending: Healthy Kids Speaker – 50% down payment.
- Grades 4-8 field trip subsidy paid for.
- Sports Equipment - $200: allocated for the outdoor sports rack and equipment. Yes, that will still be purchased this year.

WRAPSC Report – Fiona

- WRAPSC Meeting: Tue Feb 2nd
- **Overcrowded Kindergarten Survey**: A representative from the parent council at N A MacEachern spoke regarding the concerns at their school of overcrowding in full day kindergarten classes and the impact this has on the children.

  They asked us to speak to our own school councils and to encourage people who had the same concerns to write a letter to their MPP. They presented information on the impact of class size on the children from physical space, washroom facilities, noise levels etc.

  They also want us to let everyone know about a Full Day Kindergarten Survey they would like people to participate in around full-day kindergarten class sizes and physical space/play space/teacher availability/enough time to each lunch etc. They want to present this information to the Board to recommend some changes to the FDK. http://goo.gl/forms/9Krxu7X40t
- **PIC event** – flyers will be in schools later this week and then registration will open.

  Our job is to spread the word to our parent community.
- **Syrian refugee support** – there may be an official letter coming out to schools – they are in need of 200 backpacks/school supplies/toiletries and cleaning products/baby and toddler items.
- **Volunteer Action Centre** representative spoke mostly to do with high-school volunteer hours but said they are happy to come in to schools to talk to Grade 7 and 8 "Me to We" groups about volunteering. www.volunteerkw.ca Dianne Boston-Nyp
- **Year of Code** www.yocwr.ca

  Coding is now the new literacy.

  Goal is to provide education to youth, increase diversity and inclusivity demystifying technology for everyone.

  Looking for 5 schools to participate in the first pilot of HackerGrrlz starting in late March. This is for grade 4-8 girls – looking for 10 participants per school. Second session will begin in May with 10 schools. Teachers or school admin would need to reach out to them to discuss the details and when this would take place eg. during school or end of day.

  This initiative connects girls with female mentors working in the tech sector. "By acting as role models, mentors in HackerGrrlz can make a huge difference in getting young girls excited about the possibilities of working in the science and tech sectors." "This is a terrific project that addresses a huge need in our community: women are

under-represented in STEM — science, technology, engineering and math." YoCWR needs schools and mentors for HackerGrrlz.

Those interested in participating please email hello@yocwr.ca for more details. Stephanie Rozek, Project Director.

They have other regular events posted on their website. www.yocwr.ca and can also do other learning events depending on their availability and the school would need to reach out to them.

- **Budget** – discussed high-level about the budget process. A survey will be opening up this Friday for public engagement this will be advertised on school websites, on-line, through twitter etc. to get the word out to parents. Budget meetings are open to the public so anyone can attend. WRAPSC minutes, once received, will have more detail on the budget figures and what the challenges are for the upcoming budget.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Healthy Kids PRO Grant Event – Deb

Looking for Volunteers to help with:

- Classroom assistance with supportive activities (see the intro letter to teachers, which was emailed).

- Supply sourcing/contributions for classroom spout growing.

- Childcare Organization (see below).

- Contribute healthy lunch ideas, other website posts.

- Refreshments - willing to make a healthy treat?

- Day of Setup, chairs, refreshments, etc.

Sprout Growing Activity: Katherine is doing this activity with her class. She will

Rollout:

Introduction to Teachers: Wed Feb 10 staff meeting (see attached Teacher intro letter).

Save the Date to Parents: Next Fri Feb 12 - via School-Day and school website post.

Introductory Event page: http://con.wrdsb.ca/healthy-kids-2016/

Launch Event Registration to Parents: Thursday, Feb 21, 2016 (8 weeks prior)
Event website will be: www.myhappyhealthyfamily.com (not yet live)
Paper cards go home (like Fun Fair cards)

Launch Event Registration to School Community: Thursday, Mar 21, 2016 (4 weeks prior)

Event Date: Thursday, April 21st, 2016, 6:30pm.

Open Doors: 5:45pm
Talk 1st half: 6:30pm – 7:20pm
Intermission: 7:20pm, 20 minutes
Talk 2nd half: 7:40pm - 8:30pm

Childcare:

We would like to orchestrate the same setup as used for last year's Math Night:

Group 1 – JK, SK, Grade 1:

Provided by: The Early Year's Centre

Grades: JK, SK, Grade 1

Location: In the Kindergarten Room

Capacity: 20 kids

Group 2 – Grades 2, 3, 4, 5:

Provided by: The Children's Place

Grades: 2, 3, 4, 5

Location: In the Conestogo Park building on Evening Star Lane

Capacity: 16 kids

Budget details for childcare: We paid the Children's Place: $8/child, additional $8/child that were picked up late. Total $88

Suggestion: Can we combine the childcare into one program within one classroom in our school? We did not get that many kids.

Action Items:

- Confirm chairs. – Deb
- Confirm your willingness to volunteer based on the requests noted - Council

Fitness Event: Limitless Performance – Update – Rebecca

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

- http://www.limitless-performance.ca/

Action Items:

- Parent Volunteers welcome. Please contact Rebecca if you plan to attend. - Parents

Scientist in the School Workshop – Update

- http://www.scientistsinschool.ca/
- Booked: Grades 7/8 classes registered for workshops.
- Date: June. Dates yet to be confirmed.
- Topics - Environmental Science focus:
  Grade 7: Tropical Rainforest
  Grade 8: Groundwater Studies

Kelly Lovell – Motivational Speaker

- www.Kellylovell.com

Update from Lori:

- Brian has connected Lori with the appropriate teachers at CPS to discuss the opportunity to fundraise for Kelly's fees (all or in part) and host this event during school hours. Lori has sent information to Laura and BettyAnne and am awaiting their response to her request to meet and review details/next steps.
- **Fundraising**: Mr. Beney talked with teachers and leadership group and they already have a lot of good causes chosen for fundraising. They had difficulty with the idea of scheduling in an additional fundraiser.
- **Funding the Event**: The school and council will fund the event.
- Kids are excited about it.
- **Action Item**: Discuss proposal with teachers. Choose date, time and topic. - Lori
- **Timing**: Spring event. Daytime assembly, grades 6-8.

Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools – Jenny

- No change, we continue to await clarification.
- **Action Item**: Back on Agenda for February. – Council Executive

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

S'Cool Life Fund for improvements to the Art Room – Deb

Grant was submitted before the deadline.

Grant Submission:

- 1 Drying Rack: Gran Adell Drying Rack, 24 W x 25 D x 44 H in, Item#: 245307 $866.09+tax = $978.68
- 16 Art Tables: 30"x60" $128.50 = $2056.00+tax = $2323.28
- Total: $3301.95

About the Grant:

- http://www.scoollifefund.ca/
- This grant funds D.R.E.A.M.S. (Drama, Recreation, Extra-Curricular, Arts, Music, or Sports). S'Cool does not look to fund core academic subjects, but instead those areas that fall outside of the core curriculum but are no less important for a child's development.
- 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.

Music Performance Fund (MPF) Grant – Fiona

Update:

- I spoke with a contact at the CFM. Process is a bit convoluted. The funds for the grant come from New York but they handed this back to the musicians locals to assist with arranging.
- Other schools in the area have used this.
- You would not know until after the performance if you received the grant money.
- The cost is split 50/50. The school would pay 50% and the Local would assist us in applying for the other 50% to the Music Performance Grant.
- We would pick a date and time as well as the type of performance we are looking for and then send a letter to the contact information below. They would then arrange for the musicians to provide the performance. We would send a payment for our 50% depending on the type of performance.
- The performance would take place and then the Musician's Local would send the paperwork off to have the other 50% covered under the grant. They have not had any situation in the past where the grant has not paid for the 50% portion.
- They then do all the administration as far as paying the musicians with the 50% we have paid and the 50% received through the grant.
- Performance Length: The performances are 1 hour.
- Example: An example of a performance could be a quartet. The cost of a one-hour quartet performance would be $420 of which we would need to pay 50% up front.
- Saint Benedict High School in Cambridge has used the grant.

- **Interest in proceeding?** Yes. Motion to proceed with a program for next school year: Decision – proceed.
- **Action Item**: Mr. Beney will proceed with booking an event for next school year - Principal

Ontario Arts Council – Artist in Education - Update – Fiona

- This is a grant that the artist applies for not the school. The school can then access the artists that are on the roster who received the grants and pay a subsidized fee for their services.
- Artists in Education supports artists from all disciplines and cultures who want to create a hands-on arts education project for learners. Teachers use the roster to connect with artists directly to plan the implementation of a hands-on arts education project. The Roster is available on the Ontario Arts Council website.
- This roster contains a list of artists who have received funding to work in Ontario schools to deliver projects that are at minimum 25 hours in length with each school. A minimum of 5 hours must be spent with each group of learners. For every 25 hours, 5 may be used for preparation and planning.
- Artists of many disciplines are on the roster, including: • dance • literary arts • visual arts • media arts • multidisciplinary arts • music • theatre
- The Ontario Arts Council funds approximately 80% of the artist's fee. Schools are required to make a contribution of a minimum of $10 per hour. Some artists charge a higher fee. Some artists may need to charge HST; please check with the artist before confirming the booking.
- For every 25 hours spent in a school, an artist offers 20 hours of in-class delivery. The remaining 5 hours will be spent in preparation.
- Artists may require additional materials. Schools are required to cover material costs and other like expenses.
- **Who can participate?** Teachers of all subjects can access this roster. Projects may involve any educational institution registered with the Ontario Ministry of Education from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, including private schools, school authorities and education authorities. First Nations schools, registered with the Ontario Ministry of Education and/or federally-funded, may also participate.
- **Important information for teachers** Please be aware that while the Ontario Arts Council advises artists to obtain a police reference check, we do not confirm that this check has been completed. It is the school's responsibility to verify this document when inviting guests into the school. It is also the school's responsibility to review school or school board health and safety protocols with the visiting artist prior
- Ontario Arts Council Website www.arts.on.ca
- Example of local artist on the roster – they are from all over Ontario
- Granskou, Sarah Kitchener 519-578-0227 sgranskou@gmail.com http://www.sarahgranskou.c om Hands-On with Puppetry, Poetry and Performance Using our hands to express character and emotion, creating felted and upcycled hand puppets and composing lyrics for a puppetry performance. 1-6 MAYBE $1.50 per student 25 hours $250
- **Action Item**: Mr. Beney will take this information to the teachers to consider a program for next year. - Principal

Jungle Sport – Next Year's Fitness Event – Katherine

- Jungle Sport: http://www.junglesport.ca/
- **Booking for 2017**: Still available weeks for February, but we should book before March to guarantee a spot
- **Junglesport quote** – for 5 days: $4500+ travel surcharge of $250. no tax. = $4750
- **Cost/student:** 300 paying students = aprox $16/student.

Input from Mr. R.:

Mr. R was enthusiastic about the option. He advised:

- Please book after basketball season ends. Any time after March Break.
- All evening rentals will need to be cancelled the week we book.
- Our gym is unusually small and has lower ceilings than most. It may be important to confirm those details with Junglesport to ensure that it does not pose issues.
- 4 or 5 days would be great. The oldest grades may have had enough of it after 4 days. Perhaps 4 days is enough.
- As a parent he would pay $15 to have his kid experience it. But, that if we were willing to subsidize, it would be optimal to keep the fee per student to $10 maximum.
- (We have requested the gym dimensions from Mr. Beney.)

Additional Information Obtained:

- **Quote – 5 days**: $4500 + $250 travel surcharge, no tax = $4750
  Unsubsidized Cost/Student: 300 paying students = aprox $16/student.
- **Quote – 4 Days**: $4000 + $250 travel surcharge, no tax = $4250
  Unsubsidized Cost/Student: 300 paying students = aprox $14.20/student.
- **Current 4-day week availability**:
  March 20-23 (directly after March break)
  April 10-13 (4 days before Easter)
  April 18-21 (4 days after Easter)
- **Gym Size**: Recommended gym size 30ft x 45ft with 15ft ceiling height (but can squeeze into a smaller space).
- **Student Limits**: Can run two classes at a time, as long as max numbers are not exceeded.
  Grades K-3 max is 45.
  Grades 4-6 max is 50-55.

Discussion:

- Concerns about being inclusive—ensuring everyone can participate, regardless of financial concerns.
- We agree that the event must be inclusive—everyone goes.
- Can we subsidize the entire program? Mr. Beney: Other schools confirmed that they do not charge the kids any fee—it all comes out of fundraising dollars.
- Where do we get the money? Pull from our field trip subsidy and the fitness day budget.
- Theatre: Is it possible to have some funds available to subsidize kids who otherwise would not be able to attend the theatre performance? Yes, we can ensure kids are not left out of that experience.
- Kindies: Do they get daily time in the gym? Yes, they do have time in the gym. They will not miss out.
- **Motion to proceed with booking for next year – 4 days, April 10-13**: 1st: Chris, 2nd: Deb.
  Decision: Passed.
- **Action Item**: Proceed with booking for April 10-13. – Katherine.

Communications Committee, Council Secretary Role Succession – Executive

- No volunteers yet. Please consider the Secretary Role or helping on the Communications Committee.
- **Action Item**: Consider people for these roles (Executive Secretary, Communications Committee, Community Rep). Communicate the openings. - Council

NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) – Karen Hofbauer

- http://www.projectwet.org/ "From our headquarters in Montana, we develop and deliver the world's best water education resources, organize special water events, manage a worldwide network of local implementing partners and advocate for the role of water education in solving the world's most pressing water issues. "
- Program for teachers to provide them with resources to teach about environmental water concerns.
- Karen is involved with this organization and would like to bring their resources to our school.
- Action Item: Provide more details and next steps. - Karen

Nutrition Break Snack Volunteer Needed - Stephanie

- Need a new volunteer to help administer snacks. Stephanie Forte is no longer able to continue.
- 11:00am – 12:00pm, every second Thursday.
- Distribute the bags, wait for the students to come with them.
- Parents helping with the reading time could stay to help with the snack distribution.
- **Action Item**: review the list of parents who indicated willingness to volunteer two years ago. - Deb

9:00PM: ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by: 1st: Katherine 2nd: Fiona