Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, March 10, 2016

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Next Council Meeting**: Thu Apr 14
- **WRAPSC meetings**:
  April 5th
  May 3rd
- **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
  Conestogo PS, 6:30pm
  Register online: www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca

2016-17 Event Dates:

- Fun Fair: Tuesday, Sep 22, 2016
- Magazine Fundraiser Kickoff: Sep 20, 2016 at 2:15pm
- JungleSport Student Fitness Week: April 10-13, 2017

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

PRO Grant Event – Healthy Kids Make Good Learners

- **Event Date**: Thursday, April 21, 2016, Doors open at 6:00pm
  Online Registration: www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca
  Paper cards go home: Thursday, March 24, 2016
- **Event planning:** in progress – Sub-Committee
- Please attend the event. Please register online at http://www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca/ – Council & Parent Community
- http://www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca/ - Please enjoy the Happy Lunches and Healthy Treats posts on website. – Council & Parent Community
- Woolwich Observer: contact the Observer to request advertising or an article. – Marsha
- Facebook: please share on Facebook. We will email suggested Facebook post text with logo – Deb
- Please send invitations to our local fellow schools. – Mr. Beney
- Please include details and the registration in an "upcoming events" in School-Day message. – Mr. Beney
- Scheduled to go up and home in backpacks on Thursday, March 24, 2016 – Committee, Staff
- Ask Martin's to provide a banner so we can display their brand prominently. – Christina
- April 21st - Day of Setup, chairs, refreshments, etc. (Thank you, Marsha, for volunteering!) We will require help from a number of volunteers prior to the event start. Please consider helping. – Council

Staff Appreciation Treats:

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

- Staff Appreciation Treats – April 21: please consider experimenting with making a healthier treat for the teachers to enjoy.(See recipes at http://www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca/) – Council & Parent Community

Jungle Sport Fitness Event 2017:

- **Date:** April 10-13, 2017
  Provider: Jungle Sport http://www.junglesport.ca/
- **Contract and Deposit**: $500.00, due in April. . – Katherine, Karen, Mr. Beney

Communications Committee, Council Secretary Role Succession

- Consider people for these roles (Executive Secretary, Communications Committee, Community Rep). Communicate the openings. – Council
- Help wanted School-Day message: Send out a notification advertising for a new School Council Secretary. As a member of the Council Executive, duties include preparing and sending out the monthly agenda and minutes, attending all council meetings. – Mr. Beney

PRO Grant Application

- PRO Grant Application: Due May 16
- March council meeting: discuss ideas/options for next year's event.
- Apr 14 council meeting: Bring ideas to a vote.
- May 12 council meeting: Review prepared proposal.
- By May 16: submit grant proposal with budget online.
- Last years events: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/progrants_schools2015.pdf
- Digital Literacy: Kids and Technology (everything from cyber bullying, becoming more tech aware, etc). Investigate this option. – Mr. Beney

Spring Social Train Ride

- Source more details, dates, costs, etc. - Deb

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	N			
Co-Chair	**Rebecca Hallman**	P	P	N	P	P	P	P			
Treasurer	**Karen Hofbauer**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Secretary	**Deb Jones**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Principal	Brian Beney	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Teacher											
Parent Members (10)	Marsha Ferguson	P	N	P	N	N	N	P			
	Stephanie Forte	P	N	N	P	N	P	N			
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	P	N	P	P	P	P			
	Chris Sabean	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
	Katherine Sunday	P	N	N	P	N	P	N			
	Susan Wagler	N	N	N	P	P	P	N			
	Fiona von Kannen	P	P	N	P	P	P	P			
	Aimee Leveck	P	P	N	N	P	P	P			
	Shawna Gingrich	N	P	P	P	P	N	P			
	Carolyn Rouse	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Parent Volunteers	Juli Chinnick	P	P	P	N	N	N	N			
	Karen Forsyth	N	N	N	P	P	N	P			
	Lori McCrae	P	N	N	P	P	N	N			
	Jen Sellars	N	N	P	N	N	N	N			

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Teacher Representative
- Bingo
- Magazines
- WRAPSC announcement

Agenda Approval with changes Motioned by:

1st: Karen

2nd: Carolyn

Minutes, Feb 4 – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- none

Minutes Approval Motioned by:

1st: Fiona

2nd: Rebecca

PRESENTATIONS

Principal's Report – Brian Beney

Parent Engagement at Conestogo

- **https://vimeo.com/channels/otfparentengagement**
- Developing our 'Customer Service' skills as educators.
- PD focus for part of each staff meeting.

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 March 2016.

Staff Updates

- Mrs. Santos (grades 4/5) replacing Ms. Sawyer (on a medical leave until April).
- Ms. Kennedy - started as our new grade 7 teacher this week.

School Enrolment / Staffing Projections

- Near the end of March we will begin the staffing process and school organization for 2016-17.
- Currently we have 15 new JKs registered with 30 departing grade 8s.
- More details re. our organization of classes and staffing will be available at the April 2016 meeting.

Opportunities Just for Parents/Caregivers/Guardians

- Strengthening Family-School Relationships - April 16, 2015 at Bluevale Collegiate Institute wrdsb.ca/pic.
- Upcoming Safe, Caring and Inclusive School survey (next month).

Other Items of Interest

- Milk Program from Lunch Lady.

- Healthy Eating research study (grades 6/7 classes).
- Ottawa trip fundraiser: Elmira Poultry
  Consider supporting their fundraising by purchasing chicken – Council & Parents
- CLT events: May 'Cake Raffle' proceeds to 'Feed the Hungry', Food Bank drive in June.

Questions or Comments?

- Monthly upcoming events on School-Day: parents have expressed appreciation of these updates.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen

[reviewed written reports]

Expenses - Last month, paid for:

- Gym Fitness Day
- Kelly Lovell
- Healthy Kids speaker deposit
- Projector for Room 12

Income:

- ESNS program

WRAPSC Report – Fiona

- Next WRAPSC Meeting: Tue Apr 5th

Free Workshops: The Harmony Movement Series: Creating Safe and Inclusive Schools and Communities

- The WRDSB, in collaboration with the WCDSB, is bringing Harmony Movement workshops to parents and caregivers of both boards.

What is Harmony movement?

- "Harmony Movement provides interactive diversity and equity education programs that empower and inspire youth, educators and those in the social service sector to develop an equity lens, empathy, respect, and leadership skills as leaders for social change. We encourage critical thinking, courageous conversations and strategy building to address and take action against stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, racism and other forms of oppression." http://www.harmony.ca/about/
- Please see the attached flyer for information about what will be offered in the workshops and how to register. Please request of your administration that *all* parents and guardians hear about this opportunity. Ask for it to go out on School-Day or any other message system you have as well as twitter, notes in the planner, hard copy of the flyer - whatever works best to reach parents within your school. It's always good use a few systems to share information so that it reaches the whole school community, at least once. Reminders closer to the date are good too.
- If your school wants to know about the connection that our board already has with Harmony Movement, Deepa Ahluwalia, our Equity and Inclusion Officer, shared with me:
- "Harmony Movement helped facilitate workshops at our Youth Equity Leadership Camp (3-4 students from about 12 secondary schools participated and about 5 educators)
- They have also inserviced all of our Learning Services Consultants, and ran sessions for secondary and elementary educators (Admin and teachers) in 2014 and 2015. Harmony also hosted a Social Changemakers Conference last

year and our board hosted. Many of our secondary schools participated sending up to 4 students and an educator. **Every** school has also received a Harmony Movement Educators Equity Guidebook."

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Healthy Kids PRO Grant Event – Deb

Event Date: Thursday, April 21, 2016, Doors open at 6:00pm
Online Registration: www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca
Paper cards go home: Thursday, March 24, 2016

Current registrations: 26 attendees, 10 childcare.

- Please attend the event. Please register online at http://www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca/ – Council & Parent Community
- http://www.myhappyhealthyfamily.ca/ - Please enjoy the Happy Lunches and Healthy Treats posts on website. – Council & Parent Community
- Staff Appreciation Treats – April 21: please consider experimenting with making a healthier treat for the teachers to enjoy.

Advertising

- Woolwich Observer: contact the Observer to request advertising or an article. – Marsha
- Facebook: please share on Facebook. We will email suggested Facebook post text with logo – Deb
- Please send invitations to our local fellow schools. – Mr. Beney
- Please include details and the registration in an "upcoming events" in School-Day message. – Mr. Beney

Printed Take-Homes and Flyers:

- Request budget for printed flyers. $45
- Take-Home Flyers: Suggest printing black and white on brightly coloured paper. The school has allocated funds for Council printing costs.
- 8 ½ x 11 flyers: We will investigate options to have them printed for free.
- Scheduled to go up and home in backpacks on Thursday, March 24, 2016 – Committee, Staff

Refreshments:

- Martin's Apple Farm has kindly offered to donate apples, apple chips and cider. Thank you!
- Ask Martin's to provide a banner so we can display their brand prominently. - Christina
- Foodland: We will still request water, napkins, etc from Foodland.

Supporting Student Activities:

- Mr. Beney: Teachers have received the sheets with suggestions. But, they do not fit into the curriculum schedule—healthy eating was completed in the Fall. Mr. Lambert will complete a project with his Grade 7's. The classes will complete the sprout lesson (13 classes). The Grade 6-7 health survey will draw attention to the event.

Childcare:

Ages: Grades JK - 5:

Provided by: The Children's Place

Location: In the Conestogo Park building on Evening Star Lane

Capacity: 16 kids

- Childcare Arranged: Jenny has spoken with the owner of the Children's Place and confirmed these arrangements.
- Cost: Still to be confirmed. Assume 3 hours @ $20.00/hr = $60.00. This item is over budget. We will address the budget issue at a later date.

Chairs:

- Marsha has confirmed with our head custodian that the chairs have been reserved for the night.

Looking for Volunteers to help with:

- Contribute "Happy Lunch" and "Healthy Treat" ideas to post on the website.
- April 21st - Day of Setup, chairs, refreshments, etc. (Thank you, Marsha, for volunteering!) We will require help from a number of volunteers prior to the event start. Please consider helping. - Council

Fitness Event: Limitless Performance – Follow-up – Rebecca

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016.

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

Scientist in the School Workshop – Update – Brian

- http://www.scientistsinschool.ca/
- Status: events booked.

4 free events:

- Grade 5-6 class: Forensic Science
- Topics - Environmental Science focus:
  Grade 7: Tropical Rainforest
  Grade 8: Groundwater Studies

Kelly Lovell, Motivational Speaker – Update – Lori

- www.Kellylovell.com
- Complete.
- Successful. Very motivational. Kids responded positively.
- Marketing to the elementary audience? No, likely better for an older audience.

Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools –Update – Mr. Beney

- We are going to re-introduce our team meetings later this month. I have been in touch with parents who were formerly involved. We are seeking another parent from school council to participate.
- We will likely have 2 more meetings this year. Committee to meet min 4x/year.
- Will focus on how the school can be more inclusive.
- We do not have a serious bullying problem here are CPS but we do have a lot of cliques that harbour exclusivity.
- There are lots of things we can do as a school to become a lot more accepting and inclusive.
- Agnes has volunteered to be a member of the committee. **Motion to have Agnes join the committee**: 1st: Karen, 2nd: Marsha. Motion passed. Thank you, Agnes!

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jungle Sport – Next Year's Fitness Event – Katherine

- Jungle Sport: http://www.junglesport.ca/
- **Booked for April 10-13, 2017**: Tentatively booked, pending contract and deposit.
- **Contract and Deposit**: $500.00, due in April.
- **4 Days**: $4000 + $250 travel surcharge, no tax = $4250
- **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.
- **Action Item**: Process contract and deposit in April. – Katherine, Karen, Mr. Beney

Communications Committee, Council Secretary Role Succession – Executive

Splitting Communications Efforts into 2 Roles:

- **Council Executive Secretary position**: As a member of the Council Executive, duties include preparing and sending out the monthly agenda and minutes, attending all council meetings.
  Deb is resigning from this role at the end of this year. We need a replacement asap.
- **Communications Committee**: Working as a team to compose and distribute communications messages for School-Day, the school website, etc, create surveys, registration forms, etc.
  Deb, Katherine

Action Items:

- Consider people for these roles (Executive Secretary, Communications Committee, Community Rep). Communicate the openings. – Council
- Help wanted School-Day message: Send out a notification advertising for a new School Council Secretary. As a member of the Council Executive, duties include preparing and sending out the monthly agenda and minutes, attending all council meetings. – Mr. Beney

NEW DISCUSSION ITEMS

PRO Grant Application – Discussion of Ideas for Next Grant – Council

Schedule:

- PRO Grant Application: Due May 16
- March council meeting: discuss ideas/options for next year's event.
- Apr 14 council meeting: Bring ideas to a vote.
- May 12 council meeting: Review prepared proposal.
- By May 16: submit grant proposal with budget online.

Background:

- Our past grants have included Anti-Bullying Kits, Conestogo Counts Math Info Night, Healthy Kids Info Night.
- Last years events: http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/progrants_schools2015.pdf

Ideas:

- Creating an Inclusive School Community event.
- (Doesn't have to be a speaking event.)

- Digital Literacy: Kids and Technology (everything from cyber bullying, becoming more tech aware, etc). Investigate this option. – Mr. Beney
- **Action Item**: Send out email of ideas - Deb

Bingo Fundraising Opportunity – Introduction – Susan/Chris

Presented by Chris, on behalf on Susan Wagler:

- Bingo as a fundraiser.
- There is nothing in school policies saying that schools cannot fundraise through bingo nights but the Board discourages it.

Stringent Accounting Rules:

- Guidelines related to accounting and reporting of funds raised through bingo. Requires opening a separate bank account devoted just to bingo funds.
- Bingo funds cannot be mixed in with council funds—must be reported and kept completely separately. Those funds cannot go through the school.

Use of Funds Raised:

- Funds raised must have a very clear, designated purpose. The school can use the funds but they must all go to one designated goal.
- The funds can be used for items that we would use.

Discussion:

- How much profit can we expect? $500-$800/bingo night.
- Treasurer: The expected profit does not justify the work associated with recording and managing the funds.
- Many hockey teams and other sports teams are fundraising through bingo nights.
- There were schools involved in the Cambridge area but most schools have decided not to continue.
- There will be parents in our community who have issues with the school benefiting from funds raised through gambling.
- The option remains open for discussion.

Leadership Team Update – Agnes

- Agnes spoke with Ms. McMillan, the Grade 8 teacher who runs the Leadership Team. They discussed possibilities for the team and will continue to communicate.
- Cake Raffle – early May: This is an opportunity to help out.

Teacher Representative to Council – Chair

- Mrs. Fox will represent us. She will attend meetings as needed and as she is able.

Magazine Fundraiser – Update – Chris

- Kickoff: Sept 20, 2016 at 2:15pm

Fun Fair – Update – Chair

- Scheduled: Tue Sep 22, 2016

Spring Event Social & Fundraiser – Train Ride – Deb

- Opportunity with the Waterloo Central Railway.
- Hold our spring social event on the train. Would also incorporate a fundraising component.
- Would charge about $5/ticket.
- The food truck could park at the train station.
- **Motion to investigate booking the train for May or June**: 1st : Karen, 2nd : Marsha. Decision: passed.
- **Action Item**: Source more details, dates, costs, etc. - Deb

Level Ground Trading Fundraiser – Introduction – Deb

- http://www.levelground.com/
- Organic, fair trade coffee, tea, etc.
- Good fundraising return and minimum orders are very reasonable.
- Would tie in well with the Healthy Kids event take-aways.
- Something to consider for next year or the Leadership Team.
- Provide information to the Leadership Team – Deb

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by: 1st: Chris 2nd: Aimee