Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, March 23, 2017

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2016-17 Event Dates:

- **Mad Science:** Feb 8 – April 5, 2017
- **Art Shine:** Feb 9 – April 6, 2017
- **JungleSport Student Fitness Week**: April 10-13, 2017
- **Council Meetings** (Third Thursday of each month):
    - Thu Apr 20, 2017
    - Thu May 18, 2017
    - Thu Jun 15, 2017

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Member Responsible
PRO Grant	Send costs and receipts to Deb.	Karen H
	Brainstorm ideas for next grant application – send ideas via e-mail to members so that a decision can be made at the next meeting.	ALL
	Information on another possible grant to be provided.	Rebecca
Budget	Ask Mrs. Goodwin regarding library bag re-use options.	Agnes and Shawna
	Invoice to be paid for Sigmund Brower visit.	Mr. Beney
Jungle Sport	Confirm age groups that can participate.	Deb and Karen H
Willy Wonka Fundraiser	Confirm how the teachers would like support/involvement from Council with chocolate bar initiative.	Sandra and Deb
Playground Improvements	Send photo of St. Clements playground.	Karen H
	Consider allowing older grades to have scheduled access to the playground during the day.	Mr. Beney
	Determine if/how budget can be allotted for multi-year playground improvements.	Executive
Crossing Guard	Post position on school day and school sign.	Mr. Beney
Fun Fair	Order tables (approx. 30)	Marsha

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 15	Oct 20	Nov 10	Dec 15	Jan 19	Feb 16	Mar 23	Apr 20	May 18	Jun 15
Co-Chair	**Jenny Benham**	P	P	P	**Meeting canceled due to weather**	N	P	P			
Co-Chair	**Rebecca Hallman**	P	P	P		P	P	P			
Treasurer	**Karen Hofbauer**	P	P	P		P	P	P			
Secretary	**Gena Braun**	P	P	P		P	P	P			
Principal	**Brian Beney**	P	P	P		P	P	P			
Teacher Reps	Carolee Fox	Kendra Platt	Lisa Carere, Laura McMillan	Angela Bauman – P		Thea Kennedy	Karen Larke	Carolee Fox	Melanie Morgan	Shannon Brown	Carolee Fox
Community	Susan Wagler	P	P	P		N	N	N			
WRAPSC	**Fiona von Kannen**	P	P	P		P	P	P			
Parent Members & Volunteers	**Marsha Ferguson**	P	N	P		P	P	P			
	Stephanie Forte	P	N	P		P	N	N			
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	P	N		N	P	P			
	Chris Sabean	P	P	N		P	P	N			
	Katherine Sunday	N	N	N		N	N	N			
	Aimee Leveck	N	N	N		N	N	N			
	Shawna Gingrich	P	N	P		N	P	P			
	Carolyn Rouse	N	N	P		N	N	N			
	Juli Chinnick	P	N	N		N	N	N			
	Karen Forsyth	P	P	P		P	N	N			
	Deb Jones	P	P	P		P	P	P			
	Erin Schmidt	P	P	P		P	P	P			
	Mel Thompson	P	N	N		P	N	P			

	Maritza Roger	P	N	N		N	N	N			
	Laura Bredahl	N	N	N		P	P	N			

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- None

Agenda Approval with changes Motioned by:
1st: Rebecca
2nd: Shawna

Minutes, February – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- Adjust title of this section to February (not January)

Minutes Approval with changes Motioned by:
1st: Jenny
2nd: Erin

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – Carolee Fox

- Mud Puppy Race: Ms. Fox provided information on the Mudpuppy race, to be held May 7. She welcomes help from anyone that is interested (Erin S offered to help).
- Jump Rope for Heart: Kick off on May 8 (date of event to be determined based on track and field).
- Autism Awareness Day, Sunday, April 2: She has an autistic student in her class and would like promote awareness in the school and community by celebrating on April 3.
    - Adopt a Butterfly will follow from this into the first week of May (see Principal's Report).

Principal's Report – Brian Beney

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 31, 2017.

Staff Updates

- Ms. Tung (DECE in Kindergarten) will be going on her maternity leave March 31. Her replacement will be hired by April 3.
- Ms. Kennedy (Grade 7 teacher) - is now on her maternity leave. A replacement grade 7 teacher will be hired by April 3.
- Mrs. Morgan (Grade 1 teacher) - will be going on her maternity leave at the end of the school year.

School Enrolment / Staffing Projections

- In early April we will begin the staffing process and school organization for 2017 - 18 school year.
- Currently we have 13 new JKs registered with 29 departing grade 8 students
- More details re. our organization of classes and staffing will be available at the April meeting

Sawmill Road Construction

- Residents of Conestogo should have already received detailed information from the Township
- Bus routes will not be affected until September 2017
- It is anticipated that once construction on Sawmill Road increases, students will not be allowed to go off the school property during Nutrition breaks due to safety issues.

Opportunities Just for Parents/Caregivers/Guardians

- Empowering Students with Parent Engagement - April 8, 2017 at Bluevale Collegiate Institute http://bit.ly/2nhCKAg

Other Items of Interest

- CLT events: March 30 CPS Garage Sale proceeds to KW Food Bank
- Autism Awareness Day - April 3, 2017
- PD Day on April 7 - School Improvement Planning (Math and Student Wellbeing Focus)
- 'Adopt a Butterfly' Toonie Drive to support KidsAbility - May 1 - 4, 2017

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

S'Cool Life Find Grant - Deb

- Applied today! (Thank you, Deb)
    - Xylophones and drums, $2700 (4 instruments sourced by Ms. Carere).

Pro Grant – Laura – Presented by Deb

- Report back items are in process (Due in early June)
    - **ACTION ITEM, Karen H: Send costs and receipts to Deb (line items and quantities).**
- Application due on May 25: Parent Reaching Out, max $1000
    - **ACTION ITEM, ALL: Brainstorm ideas and SEND TO COUNCIL. We will make a decision in April (for inspiration: past successful grant applications from other schools can be found here).**
    - Only need concept for now (find speaker/kit later and determine date).
    - Another grant option (Rebecca):
        - **ACTION ITEM: Rebecca** will send out info for us to review for next meeting

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

WRAPSC Report – Fiona

- Meeting dates for the 2016-17 school year are:
    - April 4, 2017
    - May 2, 2017
- Fiona was not able to attend this week, but indicated the following:
    - For the sixth year in a row, the WRDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) is hosting their free annual family event for parents, caregivers and the community.
    - The theme for this year's parent conference is ***Empowering Students with Parent Engagement*.**
    - ***There is also a social media campaign on this event***: The conference will start with keynote speakers Royan Lee, a teacher, consultant and blogger and Yumi Lee, a student and entrepreneur. Bryan Larkin, chief of police for the Waterloo Regional Police Service will be the closing keynote speaker. **Date:** Saturday, April 8, 2017

Treasurer's Report – Karen

- **FROM LAST MEETING:**
    - **ACTION ITEM/AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING: ASK Ms. Goodwin regarding re-using bags (Agnes and Shawna).**
    - **FOR NEXT YEAR – put in line item for author visit (request by Mr. Beney)**
- Current Projected Balance: $9281.40. Full details available upon request.
- Income – bonus for resigning with QSP.
- Budget: higher than expected on magazines, but due to bonus.
- Sigmund Brower – invoice not yet sent **(ACTION ITEM: Mr. Beney).**
- Significant "nest egg" still remaining…see playground discussion later in minutes.

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Jungle Sport – Brian

- Katherine Sunday indicated that we need to provide some details for our booking (based on e-mail from Nick Anning, nick@junglesport.ca).
- Not for grade 7-8 – it will be a health week with Mr. R.
    - We did not know about this age requirement when we booked (different equipment set up for bigger kids "different jungle for bigger animals").
    - **ACTION ITEM: Deb to contact Katherine Sunday** to confirm what the agreement was originally. – Maybe we can request a refund and we can put it toward something for bigger kids.
    - **ACTION ITEM: Karen H will look into e-mail trail.**

Willy Wonka Fundraiser and Help Wanted – Sandra and Brian

- (Note Sandra in attendance)
- Free chocolate bars with golden tickets was an idea for another teacher.
- Lamontagne provides chocolate bar fundraisers, peanut free.
- This is intended to cover costs of putting on the play, in addition to cost for ticket to come (costumes, set).
    - Money goes into school account for Willy Wonka (not Parent Council budget).
- **ACTION ITEM: Sandra** going to follow up on other possible candy/chocolate sources, or to determine if it is an additional fee for wrapping.
- **ACTION ITEM: Deb** to determine how Lisa Carere envisioned Council involvement.
    - THIS WILL need to be decided by council over e-mail due to time constraints.

Playground Improvements - Rebecca

- Rebecca met with students that are interested and they have a sketch and included pricing.
    - Ropes, slides, swing sets.
    - Once you get to grade 4 they kids are no longer allowed on the playground…
- Rebecca and Mr. Beney met with school board and the process is complicated.
    - $5000 just for drawing in the past with one specific company.
- Currently, less than $10,000 can do with single source quote, above that requires multiple quotes.
    - Swings for example: have to have HUGE space and only useful for a few students at a time.
- Wheelchair accessibility and paths required also increase cost significantly.
- Could do over multi years and keep under $10,000 every year.
- Proposal: adjust the playground rules to provide the bigger kids some time (little kids in first break, big kids on second break) and then determine after a few months how much interest remains.
    - Or have a day or two that is "community" with all grades together.
- **ACTION ITEM: Marsha** to send picture of St. Clements simple playground.
- PALS: the kids could also get involved in the PALS program (they organize games and equipment for younger kids).
    - PALS program would be very useful if little kids have a time when the playground is being used by bigger kids.
- Outdoor basket/rack: add some skipping ropes, tug of war, have a sign-out (add to cart with miniballs).
- Current suggestions/plans (to be discussed further at the next meeting):

- Add items to outdoor play accessories.
- Encourage PALS program.
- Perhaps get sourced costs for parallel bars and plan to gradually add on over several years (with accessible paths to all items in the treed area). May include items that could be used in Phys Ed in the future (look at a larger structure and prioritize certain components for a multi-year plan).
- **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Beney** to consider scheduling playground time to give them access, beginning in April.
- Have a plan to give kids credit for the work they have done.
- Note: All new schools have no playgrounds…just as perspective (attitude of gratitude).

- Playground Committee Formed:
  - Agnes, Mel, Marsha, Rebecca
- Motion (Rebecca): Determine if money from budget can be used for smaller outside play accessories.
  - Given projected nest egg, we can spend up to $500 for outdoor play items, and we can put it under Sports Equipment line if needed.

Water Bottle Filling Station Plaque – Deb

- Selected statement:

  Quench your Thirst for Learning!
  We fundraised diligently,
  You donated generously
  CPS School Council 2017

Crossing Guard Back-up - Jenny

- Julie is going to be leaving and we need to emphasize this and Mr. Beney will run this as it is a school board paid position.
  - **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Beney** will put specific post on school day and on school outdoor sign.

Environmental Stewardship – Gena and Erin

- Chris, Erin, Gena have met
- Plan to get committee of students together this year.
  - Determine date and Chris will make an announcement.
  - Hope for two meetings this year.
  - Follow up next month

Fun Fair Date – Jenny and Marsha

- Date for Fun Fair – SEPTEMBER 21.
- **ACTION ITEM: Marsha** will order tables after hearing from Mr. Beney.

Open Discussion: Teacher/Parent Communication Methods – All

- Seesaw, twitter, School Day…Ideally specific parents and teachers can work out communication methods if there are challenges.
- Mr. Beney will ask teachers to communicate with parents and make sure that it is clear and be mindful of all of the information parents are receiving.

ADD: Water Education for Teachers – Karen H

- Added to agenda by Karen H: Project "WET"
- New curriculum has been added for junior students and Karen is happy to pass along information to interested teachers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:
1st: Agnes
2nd: Karen