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

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2016-17 Event Dates:

- **Council Meetings** (Third Thursday of each month):
  - Thu May 18, 2017
  - Thu Jun 15, 2017

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Member Responsible
Library Bags	The "Bag Committee" will discuss re-use with Ms. Goodwin and follow up with Council	Agnes, Shawna
Author Visit	Council will consider adjusting the line item for the library author visits for next year	Council
PRO Grant	Investigate possible speakers for PRO event for 2017-2018.	Laura
Environmental Stewardship	Consider budget item for organic bin bags	Council
	Follow up with teachers and custodian regarding composting and EcoSchool Certification	Mr. Beney
Budget	Obtain quote for landscaping options for muddy hill behind the gym.	Karen H.
Jungle Sport	Confirm age groups that can participate.	Deb and Karen H
Willy Wonka Fundraiser	Send out phone message to school community to promote event.	Mr. Beney
Principles Report	Google form for feedback from Council.	Jenny and Rebecca
Staff Appreciation	SchoolDay message requesting that parents contact Shawna if they would like to participate.	Mr. Beney
	Send details to Mr. Beney for SchoolDay message.	Shawna

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	P		
Co-Chair	**Rebecca Hallman**	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		
Treasurer	**Karen Hofbauer**	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		
Secretary	**Gena Braun**	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		
Principal	**Brian Beney**	P	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	P		
WRAPSC	**Fiona von Kannen**	P	P	P		P	P	N	P		
Parent Members & Volunteers	**Marsha Ferguson**	P	N	P		P	P	P	P		
	Stephanie Forte	P	N	P		P	N	N	P		
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	P	N		N	P	P	P		
	Chris Sabean	P	P	N		P	P	N	P		
	Katherine Sunday	N	N	N		N	N	N	N		
	Aimee Leveck	N	N	N		N	N	N	N		
	Shawna Gingrich	P	N	P		N	P	P	P		
	Carolyn Rouse	N	N	P		N	N	N	N		
	Juli Chinnick	P	N	N		N	N	N	N		
	Karen Forsyth	P	P	P		P	N	N	P		
	Deb Jones	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		
	Erin Schmidt	P	P	P		P	P	P	P		
	Mel Thompson	P	N	N		P	N	P	P		

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

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Change "Fundraiser" to "Promotion" with regards to Willy Wonka Chocolate Bars
- Moved Environmental Stewardship discussion forward to accommodate presentation by Frederick H
- Added Library discussion under Presentations

Agenda Approval with changes Motioned by:
1st: Agnes
2nd: Karen

Minutes, March – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes Approval with changes Motioned by:
1st: Rebecca
2nd: Agnes

PRESENTATIONS

Library Bags and 2017-2018 Author Visit – Robin Goodwin, Agnes

- Library bags:
  - Library bags cost roughly $1 each.
  - Bags will come in next week and Ms. Goodwin will determine if they are re-usable – then can store over the summer, but need to clean so we don't have insect problem.
  - Brief discussion regarding challenges of reusing bags (how to replace broken ones later in the year, using unlabeled bags, etc.).
  - Maybe wise to wait until the end of the year and see how many are reusable, then decide (only need a week to order them).
  - **Motion: ACTION ITEM: leave this to the "Bag Committee" to decide** (more based on environmental concerns no cost).
    - Second: Karen
- Author visit:
  - Sigmund Brower this year: 2 sessions, $750.
  - Requesting funding for this for next year for primary grades (can't do every grade every year as it can be $700-$900 per session). In comparison, other events typically $400-$500/hour.
  - Visit includes a variety of activities (music, discussion of different ways author might get ideas, things to get kids excited about writing/reading, from a different perspective than a teacher…etc.).
  - Authors can be coming from a long distance (i.e. NWT).
  - We will plan to put this in the budget for next year → hoping for two sessions, one for primary and one for junior intermediate.
    - Does school budget cover any of this and can Council subsidize? It is a possibility, but not guaranteed.
  - **ACTION ITEM: Council will consider for the budget and follow up with Ms. Goodwin.**

Teacher's Report – Melanie Morgan

- Ms. Morgan teaches grade 1, and 4-6 art.
- Growth mindset video presentation ("Mojo" monster that loves school and math). See YouTube Growth Mindset for students. Teachers can use ClassDoJo with this to assign points and use as a motivator.
- This approach encourage students to rethink "I Can't" to "I need help, I'm frustrated, etc." and suggests promoting similar strategy at home.

Principal's Report – Brian Beney

Jungle Sport Photos

- Seemed to be enjoyable for everyone / staff worked well with the students
- Each student (JK - 8) was able to participate 4 times during the week
- New challenges were added each day

Earth Day - April 21

- No power for an hour - unplugged and lights out (if possible)
- Yard clean up
- Quick Earth Day facts on announcements

Adopt-a-Butterfly Campaign - May 1 - 4 *(Thanks to Mrs. Bauman and Leadership Team)*

- Loonies and Toonies will buy a Butterfly to mount on our tree in the front foyer
- All funds will be donated to KidsAbility in Waterloo to support children and youth with special needs

May 5 - PD Day

- A variety of workshops planned at Bingemans for all WRDSB teachers

Annual Mud Puppy Chase - May 7th @ 9:00 a.m. (Columbia Icefield Athletic Centre)

- Join the Conestogo Colts Team - a fun event for the entire family
- **http://www.mudpuppychase.com/**
- Proceeds to support KidsAbility

Willy Wonka - May 10-11

- Online ticket sales have begun on SchoolDay ($5.00)
- Limited to 200 seats per show
- Cash only tickets will be available at the door
- Information re. detours/parking will be sent out / audio message sent out as well

Construction Update

- Barricades will be put in place at Flax Mill and Misty River due to significant amount of traffic
- 'Construction Access Permit' will be required to use this detour
- Town residents will receive a permit directly from the Township. Additional permits are available from the CPS office upon request.
- Information went out on *SchoolDay* today regarding this.
- Audio message will be sent out on Friday as well

Safe, Caring, Inclusive School Survey

- This annual survey is now available to be completed by parents, students and staff.
- The survey can be accessed from our school's website: con.wrdsb.ca
- The survey will remain **open until May 12, 2017**
- All parents are encouraged to complete the survey as we use this information to monitor our progress and plan for next year.
- SCIS Team will meet in the next couple of weeks to discuss the content and importance of the survey.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Pro Grant – Laura

- Laura sent an e-mail survey to determine topics of interest and the most popular was a mental health awareness workshop (sensitivities, general mental health, not things like suicide prevention – more proactive, signs to watch for, anxiety, stress).
- Laura will follow up to find a speaker. (Possible cost of $750 with Ann Douglas, author, CBC columnist).
    - Motion: Approve going forward with mental health promotion – Jenny/Laura
        - Passed.
    - **ACTION ITEM: Laura will follow up at the next meeting.**

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

WRAPSC Report – Fiona

- Full minutes available on the WRAPC website (https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/get-involved/wrapsc/minutes/#.WQd1tvnyvIU). Items discussed include:
    - Kids Ability and Adopt a Butterfly.
    - Nick Manning, working to improve overall communication of school board, parents, because it is currently somewhat fragmented – this is a multiyear initiative with opportunities for feedback.

Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Paid remainder of owning to Jungle Sport.
- Author visit line item fixed.
- Balance still set to be about $9000 at end of year (aiming for $5000, leaving approx. $4000 to plan for).
- See Budget Options discussion in these minutes.

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Environmental Stewardship – Frederick H, Erin, Gena

- Wonderful compositing presentation by Frederick H:
- Our School Needs Compost
    - Beavers project to get school to compost
    - He contacted the region and they will provide green bins and roll out large bins
    - $300 per year for bags
    - Region will hold an assembly and will educate students
    - Will need student helpers to collect compost bins – would need a bin in each classroom
    - 60% of school waste is typically organics
    - Would need to allocate money from the budget for organics bags or can start by compositing paper towel only in classrooms and only staff room does organics.

  - Where to keep the big bins?
  - Consider rolling this into EcoSchool initiative
- EcoSchool Update:
  - **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Beney to discuss EcoSchool program and composting with Staff, but note that it is difficult to run in a small school with a smaller staff.**

Budget Options – Rebecca, Jenny, Karen

- Presentation by Karen regarding "nest egg" options:
  - We have had a carry over for the last 2-3 years due to excellent fundraising.
  - Council mandate is to use the money that we raise for the children, but we can't just grow it without a plan.
  - Some has to be maintained in the account for events early in the year (approx. $5000).
  - We need to come up with a plan, but does not have to be spent immediately. Schoolboard rules indicate we can even invest it if desired.
  - Some of the options that have been discussed include playground, outdoor equipment, technology, landscaping, and donation to a local school.
- **Playground:** petition from students – this is a multi-year project, would need to be documented in budget accordingly.
  - See pictures from Strathroy, could purchase one or two pieces per year, and need to have rubber matting or mulch underneath and in a different area than current playground.
  - Long term planning and school considerations: Mr. Beney indicated it would be unlikely the school would be closed in a few years – more likely a boundary review would occur.
  - Also noted that the playground is only available for part of the year, but it is also a community investment.
  - Would then initiate special promotion to fundraise for playground.
- **Equipment for outdoor play:**
  - Balls, skipping ropes.
  - Increased PALs program.
  - Sharing current playground – this has been implemented and is working well so far.
  - Equipment rack not available in the winter and occasionally removed if equipment is abused – may be good to improve accountability with students.
    - Each class could have their own items to make it easier for teachers to follow up on items – and teachers would need to explain to students that they still need to share and be inclusive.
- **Technology:**
  - Projectors in kindergarten rooms (one in the extended day program room for Yoga, etc.).
  - Class set of chromebooks not yet available for junior and primary – we could add to this.
- **Landscaping:**
  - Board would soil and seed the hill, but would not provide more extensive landscaping (honeycomb patio stone).
  - **ACTION ITEM: Karen H to provide quote to Mr. Beney and he can bring landscaping options to Facilities.**
- **Donation:** Forest Hill School one of the neediest schools in the region (based on socio-economic rating).
  - Noted that they seem to have reasonable balance in their council account.
  - General response from council members was that we cannot donate fundraised money to another school when it was given with the intent to support children at this school.

    - Mr. Beney suggested that if we want to do this in the future, it needs to be stated upfront when fundraising initiated → He suggested that this should also be the case for other large spending (i.e. the playground) or run as a separate fundraiser.
        - Council members support the possibility of having an upfront % (i.e. 5 or 10%) that could be donated to other school in need and could be integrated into future budget.
- Another note: Our school EQA test scores are currently on a downward trend, so perhaps there is something we can use these funds for to support learning.
- Another option: fully fund Art Shine, Mad Science so each kid gets one session (if occurring during day with instructor) – outside of school hours a staff member must be present.
    - Could pay for instructors for additional sports clubs so that only one staff member needs to be available for program to be run.
- SPENDING OPTIONS PRESENTED by Karen H.
- Vote by eligible members.
    - **TIED on options A and D. – revote = DECISION made to proceed with option A. ($2000 for playground fund, $200 for outdoor equipment play rack, $1200 for projector, $900 for Chromebooks).**

Willy Wonka Chocolate Bar Promotion – Deb

- Idea brought forward at the beginning of the year to promote the musical and help sell tickets
- Current idea is paper flyers, looks like Willy Wonka chocolate bar, distribute at the end of the day at the same time with a special announcement and 5 have golden ticket which can then be redeemed at the school office with announcement for chocolate basket and mini chocolate gift basket etc.
    - Agnes will help Deb.
- External promotions would also be great.
- **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Beney suggested phone message with cast members to promote the event.**

Grade 8 Graduation - Jenny

- Mr. Beney sent e-mail to parents

Elmira Maple Syrup Grant - Fiona

- Grant due on Friday
- Planning to ask for funding for home reading for $500.
- Requesting review or proofreading by Jenny/Deb/Rebecca

Added: Principles Report

- Need to hand it in by May 12.
- **ACTION ITEM: Jenny and Rebecca will set up google form for feedback from Council.**

Added: Staff Appreciation

- May 4 requested before PD day on May 5 – just sweets, fruit trays, etc.
- **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Beney to put out School Day message and ask those that bringing things to e-mail Shawna, with food allergies etc.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Shawna to e-mail Mr. Beney with details of information needed.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:
1st: Agnes
2nd: Karen