Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, May 18, 2017

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2016-17 Event Dates:

- Jump Rope for Heart: May 23 (assembly), June 9 (event)
- Track and Field day: May 19 (Grades 4-8)
- **Council Meetings** (Third Thursday of each month):
    - Thu Jun 15, 2017

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Member Responsible
PRO Grant	Confirm date of event with Laura.	Jenny
Environmental Stewardship	Meet with Ms. Bauer and group of interested students.	Gena, Erin
Budget	Consider options for increasing fundraising or decreasing spending for next year.	Council
"Pink Shirt Day"	Run "Pink Shirt" day an encourage students to wear Conestogo PS pink shirts	Mr. Beney
Magazine Fundraiser	Brainstorm ideas for "Ghost" theme parties for next year.	Council

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

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

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Add Fundraising update
- Move Treasurer's Report to after 7:30
- Add Budget Planning
- Add Fun Fair Discussion

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

Minutes, April – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes Approval with changes Motioned by:
1st: Shawna
2nd: Gena

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – Shannon Brown

- Ms. Brown provided EQAO info package with samples of what students are expected to be able to do independently. There are many examples available online as well. The type of questions may not mirror those they have encountered before in their classes. Conestogo teachers have spent extra time giving students exposure to EQAO type questions to help the students feel more comfortable with the test format (as they already know the material, but may have difficulty conveying that in these tests). It is a chance for students to practice writing tests they are not familiar with.
- Parents will get the results of their child's summary in September.
- 4 reading and writing sessions of 1 hour each, and 2 sessions of math, extra time is given if needed and some students receive extra support (i.e. use of Chromebooks). The timing format is different than in previous years.
- EQAO poses a challenge for teachers as full curriculum must be completed by the end of May (9 months instead of 10).
- The EQAO results are compared to other schools, boards, but not specifically meant to be used to compare schools (despite use by the Fraser Institute to rank schools).
    - This is contrary to the understanding of many parents, and it was our impression that it is meant to confirm schools are keeping up with other schools.
    - Results are highly impacted by class size, student demographics, and therefore not appropriate to compare schools based on results.

Mrs. Fox added:

- Regarding outdoor play equipment:
    - Outdoor play Design Guidelines may have some funding available – i.e. outdoor classroom.
    - Eric Nadaeu – person to call regarding playgrounds (Ask Mrs. Fox for details) if we want to go forward with new playground ideas…OR to replace aging equipment.
    - Outdoor classroom in Waterloo Park would be something we can model after.

- Recess rack: need to teach the children responsibility, but students do love the soccer balls, bouncy balls, etc….we NEED a system to improve accountability. MRS FOX will spearhead at a staff meeting.
    - Students that find recess difficult may enjoy this as a job – i.e. lunch rack monitors ("recess fear" is a bit of a disability for some students).
    - Labelling equipment for each room can lead to exclusivity/leaving kids out.
    - **MAIN MESSAGE: STUDENTS REALLY want more balls.**
- How is sharing the playground going? Very well as far as
- Note: Paint is coming off tarmac – needs to be repainted soon.

Principal's Report – Brian Beney

Celebrations

- Adopt a Butterfly campaign supporting KidsAbility raised $300 - surpassing our goal of $1 per student
- Willy Wonka was a great success with almost 400 people attending the 3 shows. Thanks to all of our staff, cast and crew who helped make this show a success. Cast party was held today (May 18th)

- Marathon of Hope - The Terry Fox story. Our grades 4 - 8 students had the opportunity to attend this inspiring presentation at the Dunfield Theatre. Special thanks was extended to an anonymous donor who made tickets available at no cost.

- The Extended Day and YMCA Youth Programs (before and after school programs) will be offered for the 2017-18 school year. For more details visit Before & After School Programs

Upcoming Events

- Track and Field day (Grades 4 - 8) - May 19th
- Jump Rope for Heart - May 23 (assembly), June 9 (event)

June 2 - PD Day

- Teachers will be involved in assessment and reporting activities for the day

Dress Code Revisions?

- Each year at this time, the School Council needs to review the school's dress code. The one area that seems to be problematic is the short length (currently required to be fingertip length). There were probably 30 or so students that had shorts that did not comply. Some have mentioned that longer shorts are harder to find and it becomes an issue at home to get the students to wear them.
- Further discussion / decisions need to be made at our June meeting. BB will put out a survey to gather parent input re. The dress code.

Staffing Updates

- Some new staff have been hired for September 2017 and their names will be announced sometime in June.
- A breakdown of the classes will be published in June as well.

'Pride' Flag to be flown during the month of June at all WRDSB schools.

- The month of June is pride month. Many of our students, parents/guardians and community members identify as members of the Rainbow (or LGBTQ+) community. Flying the Pride flag not only signals that our schools are safe spaces for everyone, it also aligns with our Operational Goal of student and staff well-being and our new Strategic Priority that staff are supported in their wellness and students experience a sense of belonging in a caring learning environment that addresses their well-being.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

WRAPSC Report – Fiona

- Full minutes available on the WRAPC website: https://www.wrdsb.ca/our-schools/get-involved/wrapsc/minutes/#.WSeDlevyvIV). Items discussed include:
- PRO GRANT deadline extended to June 15 (Laura has been working on this and is aware of the deadline extension).
- PIC committees and WRAPC steering committee will have some openings.
- Mental Health:
    - Barb Ward is the mental health lead at the school board and she discussed prevention strategies, SAFETalk training, Friends for Life Program, Mindfulness training for staff and website gives links for parents.
    - Piloting "Everyday Practices" at Bridgeport School (mindfulness, gratitude, etc.).
    - "Congnito" program training for addressing students with concerns.
- French Immersion program and Core French program differences also discussed.
    - Program used at Conestogo PS is "AIM."

Fundraising Update - Chris

- Met with Beth and Magazine contract signed.
- Kickoff date (September 22) already set.
    - Theme is Ghosts (like those in Snapchat).
    - **ACTION ITEM for all: Start brainstorming ideas for ghost parties.**
- Doing "pick a prize" instead of prize store (at the end, done in school).
- HELP will be requested in the fall to stuff envelopes, etc.
- NOTE: NO COOKIE DOUGH available with this fundraiser because it is frozen and can't be shipped to the school and then stored.
    - Note: percentage on magazines vs other products are the same, but magazines are a higher price and therefore generate more funds for the school.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Pro Grant – Laura

- Report submission is in progress and Deb is helping.
- Proposal deadline changed to June 15.
- Tuesday, November 14, tentatively booked for Ann Douglas. **ACTION ITEM - Jenny: Confirm date with Laura.**
- Marsha contacted Mr. Beney to order the chairs and they have been ordered.

Environmental Stewardship – Gena

- Try to set up a meeting in June – or something with Mrs. Bauer as there are students that are very interested.
- Mr. Beney looked into fixing the "mud hill" – the school council can't fund that, and must be paid for by the Board and they are aware of it and some plans have been made.
- **ACTION ITEM: GENA, ERIN, Mrs. Bauer to discuss having a meeting in June with interested students.**

ADDED: Lunch program

- Contract for next year was signed by Jenny and a copy requested from Mr. Beney.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Planning – Karen

- Projector and Chromebooks have been purchased as decided at meeting in April.
- Fun Fair supplies including cellophane to wrap prizes and raffle items.
- ESNS funds received.
- Money designed for hill reconstruction will be added to playground fund as this project must be carried out by the Board (and they are aware of the issue).
- Projected balance with playground fund taken into account will be approx. $5000.
- General discussion of items for budgeting 2017/2018:
    - Jungle Sport:
        - Do we book again for next year? Will the structure be the same?
        - Scheduling was challenging for gym classes.
        - Teacher feedback: it took extra time away from the classroom, rather than just a PE period. Some teachers found this challenging regarding curriculum planning, but timing around long weekend and Easter was ideal.
        - Kids seemed to really enjoy it.
        - **DECISION REGARDING JUNGLE SPORT:** Consider other options at lower costs that do not interrupt classes so much. May be better to do this event every other year or so as it is both expensive and takes quite a bit out of class time.
    - Recess Rack: budget $500.
    - Dreambox: budget $1000 to expend program up to grade 5 (as suggested by Mr. Beney) – same as last year.
    - Literacy Support (bags, author visit, magazines): $1000 - same as last year.
        - Order the same amount of bags for next year and that gives us a year to determine how long the older bags last.
        - Author visits: can we share an author with St. Jacobs or Elmira?
    - Mad Science/Art Shine: $500 – same as last year.
    - Water Bottle Station: Set to 0
        - Do we need another one? Not needed.
    - Safe Care and Inclusive Schools: $100 (decreased from $500 from last year, was unspent).
    - Grade 8 Grad: $500
    - Colt Dash: no funds, but keep line item.
    - Magazine, Fun Fair, Special Presentations, Gardens and Planters, Anti-bullying shirts, holiday flowers - all the same.

        - WILL DISCUSS further in next budget.
    - Anti-Bullying Shirts – **ACTION ITEM: MR. Beney to run one more "pink shirt" day this year.**
    - Fitness event – Jungle Sport, adjusted from $4000 to $4500.
    - Talent show/music event - $1000 – same.
- Estimated revenue for next year, taking into account construction impacts on Fun Fair, reduced student population,
- Playground fund line added to budget, so we save every year, and savings line added as separate.
- **SHORTFALL of approx. $4000. ACTION ITEM: BRAINSTORM ideas to increase revenue or decrease spending (i.e. $5 for some extracurricular activities, decrease spending on planners, etc.).**

Fun Fair – Jenny

- Need a committee to organize the fair…
- Add a new game?
- Susan can mentor new community rep.
- Deb paid fee for online services for Fun Fair.
- Before the end of June, we need to inventory items in storage (prizes, games parts).
- Barb Dowling – radio station contact (recommended by Agnes). – Cool FM also an option.
- Meeting in June – DISCUSS FUN FAIR in detail.
- Keep construction in mind (may want to contact Jim Ellerman for scheduling and traffic).

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Noted: Annual Report for Council due by June 10.

- WRAPC mentioned that you can send photographs to add to your report.

- Budgeting process started in June, but not approved until September.

- College of Teachers talk may be an option.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:
1st: Agnes
2nd: Karen