# Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, February 15, 2018


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## UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

**2017-18 Event Dates:**

- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 22, 2018
- Mad Science: Program runs from Feb 7 to April 3, 1:30 – 2:10
- Teacher Appreciation: April 11, 2018
- Council Meetings (Third Thursday of each month):
    - Thu March 22, 2018
    - Thu Apr 19, 2018
    - Thu May 17, 2018
    - Thu Jun 14, 2017

## ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

| Initiative/Project | Action Item | Person(s) Responsible |
|---|---|---|
| Budget | Laminator request – consultation with teachers | Cathy |
| | Council WEFI donation link - test | Cathy |
| Principle's Report | Communication – create a council subcommittee | Council |
| | Parent info night with school social worker on student axiety and coping skills. | Cathy |
| Fundraising | Maple Syrup Grant – submit request for playground enhancements | Fiona |
| Playground | Consult with St. Jacobs regarding Gaga Ball pit | Jenny |
| | Order Gaga Ball pit brackets following feedback from St. Jacobs | Cathy |
| | Subcommittee recruiting and initial meeting | Gena |
| | Compile information in playground collected last year by Mr. Beney | Marsha |
| Kindergarten Welcome Night | Provide info package for new parents | Jenny |

# 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 14 | Oct 19 | Nov 9 | Dec 14 | Jan 18 | Feb 15 | March 22 | Apr 19 | May 17 | June 14 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Co-Chair | **Jenny Benham** | P | P | Cancelled due to weather. | P | P | P | | | | |
| Co-Chair | **Rebecca Hallman** | P | P | | P | P | P | | | | |
| Treasurer | **Karen Hofbauer** | P | P | | P | P | P | | | | |
| Communications | **Deb Jones** | P | P | | P | N | N | | | | |
| Secretary | **Gena Braun** | P | P | | P | P | P | | | | |
| Principal | **Cathy Baer** | P | P | | A | P | P | | | | |
| Teacher Reps | Carolee Fox | P | Karen Larke | | Carolee Fox | Sherry Morland | Angela Bauman | Elisa Muise and Dougall Newport | Rachel Quickfall | Shannon Brown | Nancy Wagler |
| Community | **Susan Wagler** | N | N | | N | N | N | | | | |
| WRAPSC | **Fiona von Kannen** | P | P | | P | P | P | | | | |
| Parent Members & Volunteers | Marsha Ferguson | N | N | | N | N | P | | | | |
| | Stephanie Forte | N | P | | P | N | N | | | | |
| | **Agnes Lehtonen** | P | N | | N | P | P | | | | |
| | **Chris Sabean** | P | P | | P | P | N | | | | |
| | Katherine Sunday | N | N | | N | N | N | | | | |
| | Aimee Leveck | N | N | | N | N | N | | | | |
| | **Shawna Gingrich** | P | P | | P | P | P | | | | |
| | Carolyn Rouse | N | N | | N | N | N | | | | |
| | **Karen Forsyth** | P | N | | P | P | N | | | | |
| | **Erin Schmidt** | P | P | | P | N | P | | | | |
| | **Mel Thompson** | N | N | | N | N | N | | | | |
| | Maritza Roger | P | N | | N | N | N | | | | |
| | **Laura Bredahl** | P | P | | P | P | N | | | | |

- COMMUNICATIONS – MAKE SURE you subscribe to CONESTOGO website for updates

## Agenda – Review & Approval

**Adjustments to agenda:**

- Add PRO Grant discussion (if Laura is in attendance)

**Agenda approval with changes motioned by:**
**1st:** Rebecca
**2nd**: Gena

## Minutes, January – Review & Approval

**Adjustments to minutes:**

- None

**Minutes approval with changes motioned by:**
**1st:** Fiona
**2nd:** Agnes

# PRESENTATIONS

## Teacher's Report – Angela Bauman

- Non-fiction unit and writing w/ research
- Learning to research with different sources is a new skill in grade two. Mrs. Bauman explained the Reading and Analyzing Non Fiction (RAN) method:
    - Choose a book of interest and use a folder and post-its to organize learning.
    - Step 1: student determines what they already know about the topic.
    - Step 2: use post-its in the book/folder with new learning and questions (aka "wonderings")
    - Step 3: Sort/move the post-its as they answer their own questions (sort inside the folder) and develop headings.
    - Final step: Use this outline to make a poster report
- Teaches them to report information in their own words rather than just copy from the book.
- She also mentioned on online tool called PebbleGo: https://www.pebblego.com/

## Principal's Report – Cathy Baer

1. Land Acknowledgement

    *We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the land traditionally used by Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and Neutral People. We also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today.*

    - Ties into SCIS – will share at the meeting (Friday, Feb 16, 2018)
    - Mrs. Baer passed around a handout showing the Haldeman Proclamation map (Labeled Grand River Territory).

2. Staffing Updates:
    a. Please welcome Catherine Bradbury who will be at Conestogo PS on Day 4, teaching Grade 4/5 Math, Science, Social Studies, and Art to 8B until the end of June.
    b. Please welcome back Jillian Moore to Room 7 until March 8.
    c. Welcome Laura Minster and Angela Baer who will be helping with Strong Start.

3. Conestogo Public School Cares
    a. Gift-filled shoe boxes were donated by Mrs. Carere's class to Indigenous children and teens who live along the James Bay Coast.
    b. 7B had a very successful Candygram Fundraiser raising $1370.60 for Sick Kids Hospital

4. Shared Expectations for Effective Parent-Teacher Communication:
    a. Our goal is to work together to help our children be successful academically, socially, emotionally, etc.
    b. It takes a village to raise a child.
    c. If parents and the school are on the same page, your child will soar.
    d. If you have concerns, please consider these options:
        i. Leave a note in the planner, send an email or leave a voicemail message. Please note that some responses can wait a few days but others need to be much quicker responses.

ii. Make an appointment and meet in person. Please provide the reason for the meeting request when setting up a mutual time to meet.
iii. All conversations/discussions need to be in the best interest of the student. Open dialogue, flexibility, and compromise will be exercised in setting the student up for success.
iv. Establish a way to communicate regularly.

e. Our relationship may be up to 10 years or longer in some cases, and we want that to be a very respectful and productive relationship.
f. The WRDSB has created "Standards of Behaviour for the School Community". These standards are intended to ensure that all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect.
**g. Suggested action item by Council: Create a Communication subcommittee from School Council.**

5. Presentation on Anxiety by our Social Worker, Barb Shannon.
   a. She would also be willing to present to parents (would like a minimum of 3-4 families). Based on feedback from the PRO grant event, parents are interested in more information on coping mechanisms for children. **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: follow up to determine if an information evening could be held for parents in April.** (Jenny/Rebecca can provide e-mail addresses from PRO grant respondents).

6. An Evening of Wellness, hosted by MacGregor SPS on Thursday February 22, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. They had many sponsors for this fair-type event.

7. Principal-Student Council has started.

8. Before and After School Programs for 2018-2019: Families with children currently in Grade 2 who are transitioning to Grade 3 next year and will require childcare are encouraged to register online at www.wrdsb.ca/beforeafter by selecting the Youth Development Program, operated by the YMCA on behalf of the WRDSB. Confirmation of viability will be communicated to families in May.

9. Suspension Day (re. vaccinations) – March 28, 2018
   a. Feb. 19 - Public Health mails orders directly to parents.
   b. Mar. 19 - Our school receives the suspension orders for students with outstanding records.
   c. Mar. 27 – Our school receives the final suspension list.
   d. Please note that schools are not to be collecting immunization information from parents. Records should be submitted directly to Public Health at:
      i. https://e-immunization.regionofwaterloo.ca
      ii. Phone: 519-575-4400 ex. 5001 or Fax: 519-885-7260

10. Innovation Website: You are invited to visit the WRDSB Innovation Website to see where we imagine our students in the future. They have included program information and helpful Parent Tips because they know that families partner with us in every student's learning journey. Throughout the school year, they will be adding more features to highlight our great programs that help students realize their potential.

https://innovate.wrdsb.ca/?utm_source=staff-email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=wrdsbinnovate&utm_content=wrdsbinnovate-landing-page

11. Mrs. Goodwin has made a request to have any pictures that parents may have taken from our volleyball or basketball season. Also, she would love pictures from our Holiday Concerts as well. She is putting together a year-end slideshow, pictures for the yearbook and pictures to display on the TV in the front hall.

12. Author visit in the spring – Bill Slavin for Grades 2 – 5 ($300 plus half of the transportation and accommodation costs as we are sharing this with Floradale).

13. Author visit in the fall – Vicky Grant for Grades 6 – 8 ($300).

14. Field Trips and Special Events:
    Feb. 7 – Apr. 4 during Second Break on Wednesdays – Mad Science
    Feb. 14 and 15 – Caribou Math Contest
    Feb. 16 – SCIS Committee meets
    Feb. 16 – Funtastic Friday – "Eat your heart out"
    Feb. 16 – Report Cards go home
    Feb. 20 – Girls' Basketball Quarter-Finals, Conestogo vs. Groh
    Feb. 21 – Boys' Basketball Quarter-Finals, Conestogo at Groh
    Feb. 22 – Carnavale (weather-permitting)
    Feb. 23 – Spirit Day - Favourite Food Day
    Feb. 28 – Pink Shirt Day 2018
    Feb. 28 – Immunizations for Grade 7s
    Feb. 28 – Constable Paul visits classrooms
    Feb. 28 – Kodaly Choir to Area Rehearsal
    Mar. 9 – Ski Trip to Blue Mountain
    Mar. 20 – Artist Bill Slavin visits Grades 2 – 5
    Mar. 22 – School Council
    Mar. 23 – Spirit Day – Rainbow Bright Day
    Mar. 28 – Elementary Suspension Day
    April 6, 20, 27 – Grade 7s participate in "Swim to Survive"
    Apr. 12 – Kodaly Choir at Area Rehearsal
    Apr. 19 – School Council
    Apr. 27 – Spirit Day – Dress as your Favourite Animal Day
    May 2 and 3 – Caribou Math Contest
    May 9 – Kodaly Choir Dress rehearsal in the morning, performance at the Centre in the Square at night
    May 17 – School Council
    May 18 – Track and Field Day
    May 22 – June 4 – Grades 3 and 6 EQAO
    May 28 – Welcome to Kindergarten Night
    June 10 – Jump Rope for Heart
    June 14 – School Council
    June 25 - Grade 8 Grad
    June 28 – Trip to the Movies
    June 26 – June 28 - Intermediate Trip to Montreal

# STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

## Treasurer's Report – Karen

- DISCUSS: LAMINATOR – NO LONGER AVAILABLE on KIJIJI – TOO BIG anyway.
  - Note – need a good quality one with thick films that can be re-used longer.
  - Marsha suggested option of laminating sheets.
  - Continues to be investigated – with ongoing consultation with teachers (Cathy waiting for feedback from teachers).
  - **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Put on agenda for next meeting to follow up.**
- WEFI CHEQUE – Cathy asked for WEFI account – CPS Council – and that is in the process of being set up (and will be linked to council webpage). We already have one for the school on the main page and the Council link can be added to the CPS Council webpage.
  - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Test the Council WEFI donation link.**
- Budget update:
  - School Day fees – Sept, Oct, Nov (when we used School Day) - $180 total – around 2%. There was some discussion regarding when the fees should be coming out of the account and Karen will monitor to determine if additional fees are charged at the end of the year.

# COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

## WRAPC Report – Fiona

News on what other Parent Councils are doing in our region:

- Speaker coming in for volunteer groups and conflict resolution (for April meeting).
- Matthew Gerard – lots of growth within the school board, especially in primary grades.
- School Day discussion:
  - He mentioned the school day merchant fee was 2.9% but when asked about the prior meeting where the speaker had provided a lower # he said he would need to find out and get back to us and this would be in the minutes to the WRAPSC meeting.
  - One school has silent auction and they add 2.9% fee to auction bid to cover the cost of the service.
- Fundraising – if Ministry could fund it, AP 4989, you can't fundraise for it (issues like the "mud hill). https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/AP4989.pdf
  - AP document coming out regarding playground equipment.
- Always check with the principle to confirm eligibility of project under Board regulations before fundraising.
- Long term accommodation plan draft is available – schools and capacity
  - LINK: www.wrdsb.ca/planning.itap
- Parent Posts – PIC page of board website – need to subscribe. A blog for parents by parents. Topics include literacy, mental health, etc. They are looking for parents that would be willing to contribute.

## Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Schools Team – Agnes

- Meeting tomorrow
- Note: stickers and pens for pink shirt day (sponsored by Rangers etc.)

## OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

## Author Visit Options – Fiona, Laura

- See above – Principle's report.

## Maple Syrup Grant – Fiona

- Maple Syrup grant due to March 1. Questions:
  - Do we help at MSF? Members in the school community do participate and we can offer extra help.
  - Has to be for supplemental items (not books that the ministry would fund). Alternatives would be technology.
  - MOTION: Karen - Provide funds from Maple Syrup Grant for literacy books purchased by the school and announcement sent to school community.
    - Agnes – 2nd.
  - **MOTION: Jenny – Fiona to submit application for $750 for playground enhancements.**
    - **2nd: Rebecca**
- Other – Honda Canada Foundation: www.hondacanadafoundation.ca
  - Fiona e-mailed them – School has BIN number that you could use.
    - We can apply – they fund education, environment, engineering – possibly playground equipment
    - FOLLOW UP at next meeting with additional ideas.
    - **ACTION ITEM, Fiona: send link to Deb for her feedback regarding grant applications.**
    - Agnes willing to assist.
    - Find out how much we can apply for, etc.

## Foodbank – Deb

- Information provided by Gena in Deb's absence:
- Deb spoke with Kelly Christie - Executive Director of Woolwich Community Services (Tina Reed is the Food Bank Coordinator).
- **Suggestions based on Conversation:**
  - Always phone them before initiating any food drive to ask for a list of most-needed items and communicate that list to the school community (so they are not overwhelmed by pasta, beans, etc.)..
  - Communicate to the school community how important it is to provide current food items (by law, they must throw expired items in the garbage).
  - Consider organizing a Foodbank drive later in the school year—at a time other than Christmas. February, March or June are good options. They always receive plenty of donations to fulfill their

Christmas Goodwill Hamper program. They receive fewer donations in the summer. Organizing a "Christmas in June" food drive would help them stock up to get through the summer months.
    - Organize a school trip for Grade 7-8 students to tour the facility, understand the program and the process required to get food to people in need. Learning Goals: being a responsible global and local citizen. (Tour would also include the thrift store and a discussion of reduce, reuse, recycle. How donating and purchasing these used items helps everyone.)
- Additional details:
    - The Food Bank is located in Elmira.
    - They appreciate both non-perishable food items and cash. Cash gets used to purchase perishable food items like milk, margarine, produce, etc. Cash donations must be used at the Food Bank specifically, not Woolwich Community Services generally.
    - Food Hamper Program: Food items collected get sorted by expiry date, and organized on shelves so people can "shop" for items they need.
    - They do receive a lot of expired food items that have to be thrown out.
    - They also collect new personal care items like toothbrushes, diapers, etc.
    - They do corporate with the Waterloo Region Food Bank to exchange items and help one another.
    - Every Monday, they also run a Lunch Crunch program to provide nutritious school lunches for kids to take to school.

## Playground – Jenny

- Suggested action plan:
    1. Purchase smaller items that can be put in place very soon and ideally used year-round and by a wide variety of ages.
    2. Develop a long term (possibly multi-year) plan to expand the outdoor play structure. This process can be started by a Council subcommittee and ideally will include significant input from the school community and involve additional parents (outside of those already participating in parent council).

1. Purchase small/inexpensive outdoor play equipment in the near future:
    - Suggestion: Gaga Ball pit (similar to what has been installed at St. Jacobs) – see https://www.gagaballpits.com/ for an example. This is both inexpensive and portable, so it can be moved to accommodate future play equipment.
    - MOTION: Agnes - If the GagaPit can be relocated and is less than $3000 (including brackets and possible wood donation from Home Hardware), following consultation with St. Jacobs regarding size, we will go ahead with the purchase. 10 ft., 30" high octagon – confirm dimensions with St. Jacobs.
        i. Jenny – 2nd.
        ii. Initial price estimate of $1500.
        iii. **ACTION ITEM, Jenny: consult with St. Jacobs to determine dimensions of their pit and if they have any recommendations.**
        iv. **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Order Gagaball pit brackets following feedback from St Jacobs.**

2. Long term playground development plan:
    - Subcommittee to determine school board requirements, septic system and portable classroom considerations, etc. **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Set up initial meeting with Shawna, Marsha, and Agnes.**
    - Subcommittee may host an open house/info night with parents to present framework and limitations for project, and for feedback and additional suggestions from parents (ideally also encourage more parents to participate on subcommittee).

- Marsha – had sent information to Mr. Beney. **ACTION ITEM, Marsha: Request information from Mr. Beney regarding playground discussions from last year.**
- Considerations:
    i. Kindergarten had suggested more natural play items.
    ii. May be helpful to have school board or company rep visit to make suggestions/participate in committee.
    iii. Need to consider septic system and leave access to move portables in and out.
    iv. Review recently developed WRDSB document on playgrounds.
- Supplier options include Earthscapes and others.
- Other playground contacts:
    i. John Mahood recently did their playground and Riverside will meet with us.
    ii. St. Clements – Martha took pictures.
    iii. Erin has document from John Mahood: EarthScape, Recreation Play systems, etc.…
    iv. Ask Riverside…
    v. Ask schools what DOES and DOES NOT work for all season play – PROS and CONS
- Create a modular multi-year plan.
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Send out e-mail for playground committee volunteers and make issue a standing item on agenda.**

## PRO Grant – Laura - POSTPONE to next meeting

This discussion will be postponed until the next meeting due to time constraints.

- Do we want to apply for the PRO Grant again?
- What do we want to fund with it?
- What have parents expressed interest in (in the after-event survey and elsewhere)?
- Who will lead the endeavour?

## Other – Kindergarten Welcome Night

- Kindergarten welcome night will take place on May 28
- **ACTION ITEM, Jenny: Provide information package for new parents describing CPS Parent Council.**

## ADJOURNMENT

**Motioned by:**
1st: Erin
2nd: Marsha