Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, March 22, 2018

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2017-18 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, April 19, 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 Apr 19, 2018
    - Thu May 17, 2018
    - Thu Jun 14, 2017

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Person(s) Responsible
Playground	Determine accessibility requirements set by the School Board	Gena
	Request teacher participation and set meeting for playground committee (include Gena, Agnes, Marsha, Shawna)	Cathy
Gagaball pit	Determine location and number of pits to order	Cathy, Karen H
Parent-Teacher Communication Committee	Set time for first meeting	Cathy
ESNS	Determine more suitable option for Pizza company and pitas	Shawna
School Day Fees	Clarify School Day fees for transactions	Cathy
WEFI	Determine if Council WEFI link works as expected	Cathy
PRO Grant	Put on agenda for April meeting	Gena
Outdoor play access	Revisit back field closures	Cathy
Teacher Appreciation	Send out School Day message for April 11 event	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 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	P			
Co-Chair	**Rebecca Hallman**	P	P		P	P	P	P			
Treasurer	**Karen Hofbauer**	P	P		P	P	P	P			
Communications	**Deb Jones**	P	P		P	N	N	P			
Secretary	**Gena Braun**	P	P		P	P	P	P			
Principal	**Cathy Baer**	P	P		A	P	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	N			
WRAPSC	**Fiona von Kannen**	P	P		P	P	P	P			
Parent Members & Volunteers	Marsha Ferguson	N	N		N	N	P	P			
	Stephanie Forte	N	P		P	N	N	N			
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	N		N	P	P	N			
	Chris Sabean	P	P		P	P	N	N			
	Katherine Sunday	N	N		N	N	N	N			
	Aimee Leveck	N	N		N	N	N	N			
	Shawna Gingrich	P	P		P	P	P	P			
	Carolyn Rouse	N	N		N	N	N	N			
	Karen Forsyth	P	N		P	P	N	P			
	Erin Schmidt	P	P		P	N	P	P			
	Mel Thompson	N	N		N	N	N	N			
	Maritza Roger	P	N		N	N	N	N			
	Laura Bredahl	P	P		P	P	N	P			

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

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to agenda:

- Add Teacher Appreciation discussion

Agenda approval with changes motioned by:
1st: Jenny
2nd: Shawna

Minutes, February – Review & Approval

Adjustments to minutes:

- None

Minutes approval with changes motioned by:
1st: Deb
2nd: Jenny

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report –Elisa Muise and Dougall Newport

- Art projects based on "Unlearn" posters – "What does it mean to you?"
    - Open to interpretation to encourage critical thinking and creative thinking.
    - Social justice issues underlie the themes.
    - Intro in grade 7 to lead into Grade 8 studies global issues along with geography.
    - Also discuss how this links to media, literature, critical thinking.
- Students make their own "Unlearn" poster and think about symbols and colour choices to create a powerful message.
    - Style is very simple intentionally and can lend itself to reduction print making art projects.
    - Leads to great discussions with wide variety as everyone can interpret the image differently based on experiences and background.
- Ties in with plaques posted around the school and may be tied into curriculum in the future.

Principal's Report – Cathy Baer

- Staffing Update:
    - Thank you so much to Juli Chinnick for her dedication and commitment for many years to her role as crossing guard. We will miss you! We are wishing you all the best as you transition to your new role at The Beresford Box Company. Woolwich Township has asked us to try and find someone to be our crossing guard. The hours are 8:55 – 9:25 am and 3:30 – 4:00 pm, daily.
    - Position will not be filled if there are no applicants (position to be advertised on School Day). Interview process run by Woolwich Township.
- Playground Enhancements:
    - Guy Mackie – board employee that looks after grounds and discussed with Cathy. He would attend parent information meeting if around 4 PM.
    - Cathy put together a package including feedback from teachers and Gagaball pit.
        - Earthscapes may be least expensive; however previous experience with this supplier (by Council) suggests they can be quite expensive.
        - Includes Board guidelines K-12.
    - Design features to consider:
        - Free form to allow lots of creativity.
        - One idea is a gazebo that can be used for multiple purposes.
        - Wood based structures.
        - Large troughs with sand might be an inexpensive option but can't inhibit lawn maintenance.
        - Accessible paths may add significant costs. **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Determine accessibility requirements set by the board. (AODA) Mulch or Rubber?**
    - Something to consider for this year for the spring: Outdoor pegboard to allow creative "engineering" projects. Both sides of pegboard can be accessible.
    - ADD teachers to playground committee and other parents. Variety of ages and teaching grades.
        - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Ask which teachers would like to participate and advertise on School Day to increase parent participation.**

        - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Coordinate meeting with Gena, Agnes, Marsha, Shawna, and teachers.**
    - Gagaball pit update:
        - Suggested location could be between the doors of the gym and the basketball court.
        - Also need to avoid areas where ice might build up.
        - Best to get large one or two smaller ones? **ACTION ITEM, Cathy/Karen H: May mark our area with spray paint to visualize one vs. two pits.**
    - Can we request that the Township of Woolwich contribute as it will also be a community resource? Riverside requested funding from the Township, but was denied. It may be considered in the 2019 budget *(this updated added by Gena following the meeting).*
- Presentation on "Unhelpful Thinking Patterns" by our Social Worker/Attendance Counsellor, Barb Shannon on Thursday April 5 at 7:00 pm in the Library
    - "Many of the challenges that we and our child(ren) experience are based on irrational and unhelpful thought patterns that impact both our feelings and our behaviour. These are referred to as cognitive distortions. The objective of this workshop is to highlight some to the most common cognitive distortions that can plague even the most balanced thinkers at times, to help you identify your own cognitive distortions, to help you be able to identify these within your child(ren), and to highlight the connection between cognitive distortions and anxiety. In addition, and probably most importantly, I will provide you with some simple yet effective practical strategies, that are backed by research, which you will be able to walk away with to use in your life and/or with your child(ren)."
    - Barb Shannon works at both CPS and EDSS; great resource for students transitioning to high school as she is familiar face
    - Event will be advertised on School Day and the school sign.
- New timetable for next year: 4, 4, 2 – second break will be from 2:00 – 2:40 p.m.
    - Will allow for increased cross-curricular activities, and students often not hungry by second break with current timetable.
- Intermediate Planners – We have asked our Grade 6 and 7 students if they want a school planner next year as many students want to organize themselves using a different format (e.g., store-bought calendars, cell phones, google calendar etc.). I will adjust our order accordingly.
- Coffee and Conversation with the Principle:
    - Parents and community members can drop in for informal one on one or group discussions with Cathy, approx. once per month as a trial, possibly with topics suggested (i.e. EQAO, bussing, report cards, etc.)
    - Council suggested that maybe having different times and different days (10 AM and 3 PM) available would increase availability. Start with one trial and then reassess as needed.
- Parent-Teacher Communication Committee: Request for Parent Volunteers
    - Carolee Fox, Ange Bauman, Laura McMillan and Cathy are the staff volunteers
    - Erin, Karen H, Marsha, Jenny, willing to participate.
    - First meeting (Tuesday or Friday?) at 4:00. **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Follow up to set meeting time.**
- Volunteer Recognition Board – Robin Goodwin will invite you to add your picture to a dropbox
    - Council supports the idea.

- Pizza update – new company but continuing negative feedback regarding quality and size variation in slices. Working with ESNS to resolve issues. We can source our own pizza and need to find an alternate supplier at a similar price, then provide this to ESNS. Can investigate New Orleans as an option.
    - **ACTION ITEM, Shawna: Follow up with New Orleans and ESNS.**
    - ESNS: Interest expressed in alternatives to pitas. **ACTION ITEM, Shawna: Follow up with ESNS to investigate other options and e-mail to Cathy.**
- Class Placement Considerations for the 2018-2019 school year:
    - Please submit requests in writing by April 30, 2018
    - Requests are to inform us of situations between students so that we can create the best classroom communities possible
    - Requests for split or straight classes or for specific teachers will not be considered
- PRO Grant – Due June 5, 2018
- Suspension Day – March 28, 2018
    - Mar. 27 – Our school receives the final suspension list.
    - Please note that schools are not to be collecting immunization information from parents. Records should be submitted directly to Public Health at:
    - https://e-immunization.regionofwaterloo.ca
    - Phone: 519-575-4400 ex. 5001 or Fax: 519-885-7260
- Budget requests:
    - Outdoor Sound System – approx. $2000
    - New Jerseys for Sports Teams – approx. $2000
    - Author visit in the fall – Vicky Grant for Grades 6 – 8 ($300)
    - HDMI and Projector for the Gym (could be delayed until the following year)
    - When would Council accept budget requests?
        - Vote on budget in September, but present in June as draft for planning (teachers could provide wish list in May)
- WEFI: Cathy tested through school and council accounts – no feedback yet, will follow up at next meeting.
    - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Follow up to report at next meeting.**
    - All cheques now have to be deposited through School Day – may be that 4% comes off all items deposited through this system (and deposits must go through this system now as mandated by the school board?). Does this also include field trip fees, etc.? How do schools that don't use School Day work around this? **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Follow up to determine what fees are being charged on service vs cheque deposits, etc.**
    - May mean that it makes sense to use this system for Fun Fair if we have to pay fee for all deposits anyway**.**
- Parent question: Bus Assembly:
    - Had an assembly in February. Students communicated that they were not feeling that the buses were safe or behaviour as respectful as they would like. Some students do not feel comfortable.
    - Additional assemblies to manage behaviour.
    - Ongoing issues.
    - Reporting box: Mrs. Baer has set up an anonymous reporting box into which students can report issues. A safe, confidential way for students to let the Principal know what is going on.
    - Bus Patrollers are volunteer Grade 6 and Grade 7 students.
    - Please let Mrs. Baer know if students are coming home with concerns about bus travel.

- Field trips:
  - Feb. 7 – Apr. 4 during Second Break on Wednesdays – Mad Science
  - Mar. 23 – Funtastic Friday: Name That Tune
  - Mar. 23 – Spirit Day: Rainbow Bright Day
  - Mar. 23 – Bus Assemblies
  - Mar. 28 – Elementary Suspension Day
  - Mar. 30 – Good Friday
  - Apr. 2 – Easter Monday
  - Apr. 4 – visit by Constable Paul
  - Apr. 4 and 5 – Caribou Math
  - Apr. 5 – Barb Shannon's presentation in the Library at 7:00 pm
  - Apr. 6, 20, 27 – Grade 7s participate in "Swim to Survive"
  - Apr. 9, 16, 23 - Grade 3s participate in "Swim to Survive"
  - Apr. 10 – Primary students to Jack Grunsky Concert
  - Apr. 12 – Kodaly Choir at Area Rehearsal
  - April 13 – PD Day
  - Apr. 17 – Multicultural Fair from 2:10 – 3:40 pm: Safe Caring & Inclusive Schools Committee:
    - Opportunities to share your heritage with the school community by having a booth at the fair.
    - Want to share more about who we are as individuals in a community.
  - Apr. 19 – School Council
  - Apr. 27 – Spirit Day: Dress as your Favourite Animal Day
  - May 2 and 3 – Caribou Math Contest
  - May 2 – Kindies to Waterloo Region Museum in am
  - May 4 – PD Day
  - May 9 – Kodaly Choir Dress rehearsal in the morning, performance at the Centre in the Square at night
  - May 11 – Grade 7s at CAER Emergency Preparedness Day in Elmira
  - May 16 – Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff Assembly
  - May 17 – Immunizations for Grade 7s
  - May 17 – School Council
  - May 18 – Track and Field Day
  - May 22 – June 4 – Grades 3 and 6 EQAO
  - May 25 – Spirit Day: Crazy Sock and Decorate your Shoes Day
  - May 28 – Welcome to Kindergarten Night
  - June 1 – PD Day
  - June 5 – Jump Rope for Heart
  - June 7 – Provincial Election – Conestogo PS is a Polling Station
  - June 14 – School Council
  - June 25 - Grade 8 Grad
  - June 28 – Trip to the Movies in pm
  - June 26 – June 28 - Intermediate Trip to Montreal

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Report now up to date, no surprises.
- Confirmation from Chris Bauer that the carryover from last year is correct.
- In the last month, we voted to cover home reading books.
- Had some money come in from ESNS.
- School-Day fees. (Confusion regarding School-Day fees. Need to clarify fees being paid.)
- Question regarding ESNS lunch contributions: Has the income decreased due to issues with pizza quality?
- Follow up from last meeting:
    - Laminator: No follow-up currently.

WRAPC Report – Fiona

Next meeting is in April.

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

No update this month.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Fundraising Update – Karen F

- QSP Fundraiser Kickoff: Tue Sep 18 2:30pm

Fun Fair – Rebecca

- Will likely be Thursday, September 20th, 2018. (Friday will likely be a PD Day)

PRO Grant – Deb and Laura

- Math topic: in the survey, parents did express interest in a math night.
    - Jump to Math night: They have a math PRO Grant day and evening program. Day program for kids, evening program for parents. You jump on mats to play math games. We can also purchase sets of mats that can be loaned out to parents.
    - Math Game Night: Family math games, fun and learning together.
- Idea: Coding evening.
- Chair: We discussed investing in technology in the past to provide kids with tools to learn coding, etc.
- The PRO Grant does not have to be an event. We can purchase kits, etc. We could purchase the math mats with the PRO Grant.
- Bullying Kits:
    - Can be signed out by kids for use with their family—play games that open up a dialogue about bullying.
    - Track them down and send out a school-day message to parents indicating that the kids are available.
- Timing of an event: November was very busy with too many events.
    - An event that takes place during the school day?
    - Event at the end of the year to support families to create a great, active summer for their kids without screen time. Parents and kids together to play outside. Year closing event that includes the kids with the parents. Let's brainstorm this idea. Bring together the picnic and outdoor event with a speaker or facilitator
- Incentive for people to come: Provide a door prize gift.
- PIC Conference timing and opportunity.
- Could we get PRO Grant funding for educational games for a family educational games night?
- Teachers may choose to be involved with the night.
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Put back on the agenda for April.**

Playground/Gagaball update – Cathy, Gena

- See Playground Enhancements discussion in Principles Report Section.

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Outdoor Play Access – Deb

- Parts of the back field have been restricted.
- Kids may play soccer and other organised games in the back field.
- Can these sections be reopened?
- Concerns with being close to Northfield.
- Concerns about kids climbing trees. Going down the hill behind the cemetery.
- **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Will revisit the back field closures.**

Teacher Appreciation – Shawna

- Wednesday, April 11.
- Sweet treats, anything but a main course.
- **ACTION ITEM, Deb: Send out a School-Day message to parents? – Deb**

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:
1st: Fiona
2nd: Karen