Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Tuesday, April 7, 2020

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2019-20 Event Dates:

- Fun Fair: Thursday, September 19
- Handmade Show: Saturday, October 26
- Lions Bingo: Thursday, January 30
- Family Skate: Saturday, March 28, 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM
- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2020
- Council Meeting dates for 2019-2020 (the third Thursday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays):
    - Thursday, Sept 12, 2019
    - Thursday, Oct 17, 2019
    - Thursday, Nov 7, 2019
    - Thursday, Dec 12, 2019
    - Thursday, Jan 16, 2020
    - Thursday, Feb 20, 2020
    - Thursday, Mar 26, 2020 (March Break: Mar 16-20, 2020)
    - Thursday, Apr 16, 2020 (Easter Fri Apr 10, Mon Apr 13)
    - Thursday, May 14, 2020 (Victoria Day, Mon May 18)
    - Thursday, Jun 11, 2020

ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Person Responsible
Communication	Send out an e-mail via School Day clarifying all methods of communication to the school community	Mr. Sendrea
Mad Science	Follow up on refunds	Mr. Sendrea
Graduation	Reach out to the parent committee	Mr. Sendrea
Support for Frontline Workers	Subcommittee to meet and determine community response	Colleen

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 12	Oct 17	Nov 7	Dec 12	Jan 16	Feb 20	April 7	Apr 16	May 14	June 11
Co-Chair	Jenny Benham	P	P	P	Meeting cancelled	P	P	P			
Co-Chair	Rebecca Hallman	N	P	N		P	N	P			
Treasurer	Karen Hofbauer	P	P	N		P	P	P			
Communications	Deb Jones	N	N	N		N	N	N			
Secretary	Gena Braun	P	P	P		P	N	P			
Principal	Michael Sendrea	P	P	P		P	P	P			
Teacher Reps	Carolee Fox	P	Lori Hillman	Kristyn Keyes		None (due to ETFO job action)	None (due to ETFO job action)	Mrs. Fox	Carolee Fox	Shannon Brown	Carolee Fox
Community	n/a	N	N	N		N	N	N			
WRAPSC	Jessica Gordon	N	P	P		P	N	P			
Parent Members & Volunteers	Stephanie Forte	P	N	P		N	P	P			
	Colleen Heinrichs	P	N	P		P	N	P			
	Gloria Ramage	N	P	P		N	P	N			
	Christine Sanchez	P	N	N		N	P	N			
	Amy Hertz	P	N	N		N	N	N			
	Sandra Clank	P	N	N		N	N	P			
	Ian Howlett	P	P	P		N	P	N			
	Kristen Kent	P	N	N		N	N	N			
	Katie Misener	P	N	N		N	N	N			
	Marsha Ferguson	P	N	P		N	N	N			
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	N	P		P	N	N			
	Katherine Sunday	N	N	N		N	N	N			
	Shawna Gingrich	N	P	P		N	P	N			
	Karen Forsyth	P	P	P		N	P	P			
	Erin Schmidt	P	P	P		P	N	P			
	Mel Thompson	N	N	N		N	N	N			
	Laura Bredahl	N	N	N		N	N	N			
	Jenn Metzloff	P	P	P		N	P	P			
	Amy McDowell	N	N	N		N	N	N			
	Julie Oitment	P	P	P		P	N	P			

Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Discuss Grand River fundraising initiative – Colleen
- Discuss future meeting and dates – Gena – next is April 16? (Discussed before meeting).

Agenda approval with changes motioned by:
1st: Karen H
2nd: Rebecca

Minutes, February – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes approval with changes motioned by:
1st: Julianna
2nd: Rebecca

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – N/A

- No teachers report this month due to COVID-19 measures.

Principal's Report – Mr. Sendrea

- School Closure Update:
  - Currently closed until further notice.
  - No access to the school by student or staff (includes playgrounds); however, teachers were able to access the school yesterday to collect supplies they need to continue distance teaching.
  - The custodian does safety checks at the school and they are keeping a close eye on the leaky roof.
- Distance Learning:
  - Preparation for distance learning begins this week (April 6)
  - WRDSB wanted to make sure students and staff were prepared before initiating distance learning (starting with phone calls to homes, reaching out to the students, and determining technology available in homes).
  - Mr. Sendrea is working on distributing school technology resources (Chromebooks) to homes that do not suitable devices on hand.
  - Next week Tuesday, full distance learning will begin. It will include:
    - Work that is assigned
    - Intermediate teachers will have "office hours" during specific times of day when they are available to provide extra support.
  - Mrs. Fox. provided some details from the teachers' perspective:
    - This is different for different grades and she has been working on setting up Google Classroom for grade 1 (this will be the primary platform for the students and teachers at CPS).
    - All of the teachers wanted to get going right away, but they needed to design a strategy to meet the needs of all students in the board.
  - Assessment and evaluation:
    - Work being done from home will obviously be different from that done under the supervision of a teacher.
    - WRDSB has indicated there will be report cards in June, however the information used to generate those marks will be based on classroom work that took place between January and March 13.
    - April 14 until the end of the year will be assessed as "formative learning".
      - Report card marks can be raised based on this period, but cannot be lowered.
    - Questions from Council:
      - Q: We have lost a lot of time this year with strikes, etc.; will the school year be extended to have time to cover this information? A: This is a possibility, but nothing concrete has been communicated by the Board or Ministry
      - Q: Can we find out how the kids were doing before the closure began? A: You are welcome to contact a teacher directly for learning updates (strengths and next steps).
  - Communication:
    - This is a challenging situation for communication and parents are encouraged to check the

Board and school websites for up to date information
    - School Day now has 100% subscription for CPS parents
        - Feel free to provide feedback to Mr. Sendrea on the volume and content of e-mails from School Day (enough or too much information?)
        - **Send out a School Day Message to list all of the methods of communication. (ACTION ITEM: Mr. Sendrea)**
    - You can also check Twitter for updates, but it is not the primary method of communication.
- Montreal Trip: Officially cancelled
    - Parent's will receive all funds back (including insurance refund)
- Grade Eight Graduation:
    - It is unknown what will be happening in June, and we will receive some guidance from the Board.
    - Mr. Sendrea recommends postponing the conversation for a few weeks
    - Council suggested considering planning for September because this event usually takes several months to plan.
- IEPs:
    - Special Ed and the Board will provide guidance on IEP timelines.
    - The school-based team will continue to meet remotely to make sure special education support continues; the details are yet to be determined.
- Staffing:
    - Planning for next year has begun, and current school enrollment has been submitted to the Board. Current enrollment is slightly lower than last year.
    - The Board determines the class distribution and Mr. Sendrea then plans for staffing.
- INTERNET ACCESS issues raised by Council:
    - Internet access can be a challenge in the rural neighborhoods.
    - Bell and Rogers are not the distributors in some of our rural neighborhoods: We need to reach out to smaller internet companies to request improved service and support. For example, the broadband width is not sufficient in Breslau, MaryHill, for example, for students to use Zoom effectively, especially during core hours.
    - The Board has decided NOT to do video conferencing with students for these reasons, and the teachers can reach out to students via other means if needed (printed material, dropping off a data key, etc.).
- Consistency and routine with schoolwork may help with mental health.
- Mad Science Refunds, follow-up:
    - **ACTION ITEM, Mr. Sendrea: He will follow up with Mad Science and provide an update.**
    - This program was cancelled because school rentals were cancelled during labour negotiations.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

WRAPSC Report – Jessica

- WRAPSC not meeting due to COVID.

Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Note: Skating refund to come to the school (information from Rebecca)
- Skating cancelled, and the arena offered a refund ($125)
- How to deposit cheques currently? Contact Mrs. Bauer to arrange (copy CPS e-mail account).
- No other significant changes on the account since February.

Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools Committee – Steph

- The committee is not meeting due to COVID.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Grade Eight Graduation - Jenny

- Sweatshirts are being delivered this week.
- Students want to plan a dinner for when school resumes (even if that is not until August)
- Maybe we should reach out to that committee to suggest planning for September - ACTION ITEM. Mrs. Sendrea – reach out to the committee and
    - Question: Would insurance be an issue if it occurs outside the school year? Waiting to hear from the Board, but September would be better for this

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Outreach Phone Calls - Jenny

- Suggestions were given for keeping the community connected.
- Calls from students to students? Like a telephone game to stay connected?
    - Reading buddies, bus friends – i.e. each bus group could do a telephone tree?
    - Bus patrols could do this as a leadership activity – ACTION ITEM, Mr., Sendrea send to Jenny.
- Could still do reading buddies on google hangouts or reading a story over the phone?
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Include on the agenda for the next meeting.**

Window Banner - Jenny

- Print off at home – to keep the community connected
- "Colts Stay Home, We've Got This"
    - Ask people to place in their front window, or mailbox, etc.
    - For solidarity – kids can see the posters or count them, etc.
- **To be discussed by sub-committee**

Grand River Fundraising - Colleen

- Grand River Hospital has lawn/window sign campaign to raise funds for personal protective equipment, minimum $10
    - Signs are delivered.(2-3 week wait)
    - A big group order could deliver to one person (might be faster), or deliver individually
    - We can also just make one donation from the school, and put a sign on the school property
        - We have not spend $500 on clubs this year, or the $750 generated with FLIPGIVE.
- Other actions to support front line staff:
    - Hang Christmas lights….etc.
- It is important to remember other front line workers as well – i.e. care givers workers working with seniors, hydro workers, garbage collection, volunteer firefighters, etc.
    - The hospital needs the funds, but we still want to support ALL frontline workers are far as signs go.
- **To be discussed further by sub-committee**

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:
1st: Rebecca
2nd: Agnes