



Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, December 17, 2020

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2019-20 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 19, 2021
- Proposed Council Meeting dates for 2020-2021 (the third Thursday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays):
 - Thursday, Dec 17
 - Tuesday, Jan 19
 - Thursday, Feb 18
 - Tuesday, March 23 (March Break: Mar 15-19, 2021)
 - Thursday, April 15
 - Tuesday, May 18
 - Thursday, June 10



ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Person Responsible
Budget	Transfer costs for picnic tables	Karen H
	FlipGive account should be paid out	Gena
	Advertise Mabel's Labels	TBD
	Maple Syrup fundraising option	Sandra
Playground Committee	Contact Council if interested in participating	All
Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools Committee	Determine student membership requirements/eligibility	Mr. Sendrea
PRO Grant	Prepare application	Gena/Colleen



WELCOME & GENERAL BUSINESS

Attendance

(P present, N absent/regrets. Parent Members must attend 70% of meetings to maintain voting privileges.)

Role	2020-2021	Nov 19	Dec 17	Jan 19	Feb 18	March 23	April 15	May 18	June 10	
Co-Chair	Colleen Heinrichs	P	P							
Co-Chair	Rebecca Hallman	P	P							
Treasurer	Karen Hofbauer	P	P							
Communications	Jenny Benham	P	N							
Secretary	Gena Braun	P	P							
Principal	Michael Sendrea	P	P							
Teacher Reps	Carolee Fox	P	Lori Hillman							
Community	n/a	n/a	n/a							
WRAPSC	Jessica Gordon	P	P							
Parent Members & Volunteers	Stephanie Forte	P	P							
	Christine Sanchez	P	N							
	Ian Howlett	P	P							
	Katie Misener	P	N							
	Marsha Ferguson	N	N							
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	N							
	Shawna Gingrich	N	N							
	Karen Forsyth	P	P							
	Erin Schmidt	N	P							
	Jenn Metzloff	N	P							
	Julianna Oitment	P	P							
	Sandra Clark	P	P							
	Natalie Edery	P	N							



Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Add PRO Grant discussion

Agenda approval with changes motioned by:

1st: Colleen

2nd: Steph

Minutes, November – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes approval with changes motioned by:

1st: Colleen

2nd: Steph

Council Meeting Dates for 2020-2021

- Proposed Council Meeting dates for 2020-2021 (the third Tuesday or Thursday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays):
 - Thursday, Dec 17
 - Tuesday, Jan 19
 - Thursday, Feb 18
 - Tuesday, March 23 (March Break: Mar 15-19, 2021)
 - Thursday, April 15
 - Tuesday, May 18
 - Thursday, June 10
- Alternating days of the week may encourage more people to come.



PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – Mrs. Hillman

- Thank you from the teachers for the auction
- Invitation for the resource/wish list items was also appreciated
- Students are very excited for the concert tomorrow even though it is virtual (everyone gets a "front row seat"!)

Principal's Report – Mr. Sendrea

- School access remains restricted and all precautions put in place in Sept remain in place.
- Currently no plans for extended school closure following the break, but things can change so extra learning materials are being sent home as a precaution (zipped plastic pouch of materials provided by the federal government, can be kept on hand for use as needed).
 - Google classrooms remain operational and are ready to be used if needed for more online learning.
- In lieu of gifts for teachers this year the school has asked families to donate to the food bank and the community exceeded the goal that was set.
- Report cards:
 - Starting this term, there will only be one mark provided for math (to represent all six strands of math).
- Mode changing: switching from distance learning to in person or visa-versa
 - Parents should indicate their intent to the school in January.
 - If there was a significant change in the number of students and a class was lost, the school would need to reorganize the classes.
 - This will be the last opportunity for families to switch modes.
- No EQOA this year for Grades 3 and 6
- Holiday concert: Will be shown to the students in the morning, and the link will be provided to parents via Google Classroom. The school requests that this video not be shared outside the school community.
- Renovation: New furniture is arriving, but the bulk of the renovation is complete.
- Kindergarten registration is starting soon and the school asks that we encourage anyone to register that we may know of.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report and Budget Vote– Karen

- Proposed budget presented by Karen. Document on CPS Google drive, and highlights as follows:
 - This is a very different year than years past. We would normally be bringing in \$12K, but comparatively this year we will not
 - Numbers from last year are balanced. Fun Fair went well, lunch money was lower because there was not as much time spent in the school, flowers made as expected, craft sale went well
 - We came ahead \$8,000 but still owed \$9,000. The overall budget is not too far off of where we should have been considering the year we had



- We budgeted \$3000 for the Silent Auction in place of the normal \$5000 for Fun Fair. We met the \$3000
- FlipGive currently has \$900 in the account – to be withdrawn soon. The goal for this was around \$1000, although Amazon no longer takes part in that initiative so the amount that is coming in has slowed down
- **ACTION ITEM, Karen: Transfer costs for picnic tables.**
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: FlipGive account should be paid out.**
- **Anticipated Revenue:**
 - Silent auction to replace Fun Fair this year.
 - **ACTION ITEM, TBD: Advertise Mabel's Labels**
 - PRO Grant: We can put in an application for this.
 - Assumptions: No funding from Maple Syrup Fest or Kiwanis Grant this year, no skating event, clothing drive, craft sale, or bingo events.
 - Gift box sale idea: Craft boxes (or other themes) as a monthly box to receive in the mail. (Ali Express to buy in bulk to create these boxes, or Ian has a possible contact). There could be three boxes (primary, junior, and senior) with orders placed in advance and picked up at the school (to avoid shipping costs).
 - Other ideas:
 - Maple Syrup sale (**ACTION ITEM: Sandra**).
 - Apple picking
 - We expect roughly half the income this year compared to previous years.
- **Anticipated Expenditures:**
 - Decreased spending on gym equipment but kept this line item to support possible track and field.
 - Added a line for recess items to provide more outdoor play equipment that can be used during COVID (shovels, mini sticks, hacky-sacs).
 - No book bags or magazines are expected to be used this year.
 - Digital version of early reading materials as a consistent tool for home and school learning.
 - Graduation (as usual).
 - Expenses and thank you cards for silent auction.
 - Scientist in the classroom could be provided at no cost within our community or through our contacts.
 - PRO grant – only if we receive a grant.
 - Gardening costs to support parents that are updating and caring for school gardens.
 - Kodaly choir: there will not be a choir this year, but additional music equipment (percussion, hand-held) could be purchased (and the costs from last year were paid this September).
 - Math and Science:
 - Primary: Dreambox bill was higher this year than in the past and only being used by younger grades, but council can cover part of the cost (\$500 of the \$2500).
 - Comment from Mr. Sendrea: Dreambox is supported by the Board and considered to be a very good program for Math for primary grades, and will also be used for grade 4 and 5 this year. The opportunity to purchase did not come until later in November, but the license lasts for 18 months.
 - The remainder of the cost can be covered by the school.
 - Junior/Senior: equal funding to be provided as used as deemed best.
- MOTION by Karen H: Pass the budget as proposed.
 - Passed by raised hands.
- Note that the budget is a guide and can be adjusted by vote if needed.
- **Playground fund update:**



- Long-term plan includes items for the junior grades (climber already in place for primary grades, and tables for senior grades).
- Option of the junior group includes a parquor-style play area.
- The Optimists have indicated they are interested in supporting the school and we can include this in a "wish-list" along with a new sign for the school.
- A previous quote for this item indicates we may be able to install this soon.
- Committee:
 - Mr. Sendrea
 - Teacher representative (a junior level teacher is recommended).
 - **ACTION ITEM, all: Please e-mail council.cps@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.**
 - Steph, Karen H.

Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools Committee – Mr. Sendrea

- This committee is required by the Board and is a great way to support the school and students.
- Staff: Mr. Budafalvi, Mrs. Woodhall.
- Student: Grade eight student will be participating.
 - Question: How many students can participate and is there a minimum age? (**ACTION ITEM, Mr. Sendrea**)
- Will be meeting in the new year.
- Participating Council members: Steph, Katie.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Virtual Auction – Erin

- Silent auction was a great success – thank you to the community and all of the sponsoring businesses!
- Recommendation to do a silent auction in the future rather than the in-person auction at Fun Fair (could do a raffle at Fun Fair).
- Thank you cards: Paper cards are usually sent out, but under the circumstances a digital copy is recommended this year. Any picture that is used will be confirmed as acceptable by Mr. Sendrea (with regard to protecting privacy and use of student images).
 - The school has a twitter account and it could also be posted there with a list of the sponsors.
- For the future: WRAPSC feedback from Jessica:
 - Fundraising without cheques: You can use FLIPGIVE to "DONATE" as an alternative to cheques, or USE WEFI. Mr. Sendrea followed up with Finance and they confirmed that a bank account is not an option.

PRO Grant – Jenny

- Suggestions: Cyber-use panel (networking, safety, phishing)



- Presentation related to cyber-safety to help parents protect their children and families (online safety for kids).
 - The speaker we had a few years ago was from www.binarytattoo.com.
- Character development support would also be good (i.e. January = Hope) – a talk that both parents and children can attend is also good.
- Networking at home and Phishing: Council members and other local individuals can provide information on how to set up your home to optimize multiple individuals online and how to recognize phishing scams
- We can run this as a multi-school event and include Riverside and Elmira.
- Concern: Zoom fatigue is something to consider, so anything that can make it more interactive and enticing is highly recommended (can be discussed with speaker).
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena and Colleen: Prepare grant application.**

Other Comment:

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Supporting Teaching and Virtual Resources

Council is happy to help in ways that are not just financial: Finding resources, etc.

- Online resources:
 - Science by the seat of your pants
 - Friends of the Pinery and other provincial park tours.
- School Trips
 - Virtual trips are being offered by various organizations, including Bright Spark (who helped organize the Montreal Trip at the school last year)

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:

1st: Karen H

2nd: Ian