



Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2019-20 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 18, 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 |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Kindergarten Registration | Please let any parents or families with eligible children know that Kindergarten registration is open. | All |
| Playground Committee | Follow up with teachers to determine who would like to participate. | Mr. Sendrea |
| | Confirm with parents that would to participate (based on Minutes from Dec meeting). | Council |



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 | P | | | | | |
| Co-Chair | Rebecca Hallman | P | P | P | | | | | |
| Treasurer | Karen Hofbauer | P | P | N | | | | | |
| Communications | Jenny Benham | P | N | P | | | | | |
| Secretary | Gena Braun | P | P | P | | | | | |
| Principal | Michael Sendrea | P | P | P | | | | | |
| Teacher Reps | Carolee Fox | P | Lori Hillman | Carolee Fox | | | | | |
| Community | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | | | | | |
| WRAPSC | Jessica Gordon | P | P | N | | | | | |
| Parent Members & Volunteers | Stephanie Forte | P | P | P | | | | | |
| | Christine Sanchez | P | N | N | | | | | |
| | Ian Howlett | P | P | P | | | | | |
| | Katie Misener | P | N | P | | | | | |
| | Marsha Ferguson | N | N | N | | | | | |
| | Agnes Lehtonen | P | N | N | | | | | |
| | Shawna Gingrich | N | N | N | | | | | |
| | Karen Forsyth | P | P | P | | | | | |
| | Erin Schmidt | N | P | N | | | | | |
| | Jenn Metzloff | N | P | N | | | | | |
| | Julianna Oitment | P | P | P | | | | | |
| | Sandra Clark | P | P | P | | | | | |
| | Natalie Edery | P | N | N | | | | | |
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Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- None

Agenda approval with changes motioned by:

1st: Steph

2nd: Katie

Minutes, December – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes approval with changes motioned by:

1st: Colleen

2nd: Jenny



PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – Mrs. Fox

- Big thanks to the Parent council for continuing to keep organized and the meetings going despite all the current challenges
- Mrs. Fox wanted to also thank the Parent Council members for sending a gift and card to honour her mother's recent passing due to Covid-19
- With regards to the current remote learning situation, teachers at first were concerned but have been able to adjust to the synchronous online and asynchronous learning with lots of effort
- Another big thanks to parents for their support through these changes
- If this continues, they will have more things they need to learn in order to continue online learning in the long term
- Thursday is a Spirit Day and everyone is encourage to participate as they are able.

Principal's Report – Mr. Sendrea

- The return date is still scheduled to be January 25th but we will find out tomorrow whether or not that is still the case
- The current situation is Remote Learning, not Distance Learning. Distance learning is what has been carried out by teachers since September for students that opted for that. Remote learning is an emergency change to learning in response to the government mandate
- There have not been many
- We are continuing to focus on character development, based on 8 character attributes (previously having done Empathy) and are now looking at Hope. The knowledge that things will improve.
- We've exhausted our current supply of Chromebooks but are looking to resupply
- There is government money set aside for Remote Communities, which Conestogo qualifies for, so we are able to get an additional 10 Chromebooks
- The board is making cellular enabled iPads to be used as an internet hotspot for homes that do not have consistent high-speed internet
- Kindergarten registration has started and some students have already registered.
 - **ACTION ITEM, all: Please let any parents or families with eligible children know that Kindergarten registration is open.**
- PD Day on Friday set aside for report card work for the teachers. In Kindergarten it is for Communication of Learning.
- Math is now only one mark instead of five, so there is some learning that the teachers will have to do to combine the existing areas in to one grade
- Currently looking into Grade 8 -> 9 transition programs for our older students. Deadline for the STRING program has passed.
- Course selection for Grade 9 is in February and will be assisted by guidance councillors in the school
- Mrs. Fox and Mr. Budafalvi are the teachers in charge of Spirit Days. Sports day is January 21st for students to wear jerseys or hats for their favourite sports teams
- Questions from Council:
 - The Umbrella Project: Has this been replaced?
 - A: This was a two year program that finished last year. The school is now following the Board's character development plan which is very similar to the Umbrella Project.



- Remote vs. Distance learning: Are we behind as far as curriculum requirements go?
 - A: No. The affects of the March-June closure were evident in September, however students in Distance and Remote learning are now learning material equivalent to what they would be learning in class (including French and Music, which was missing in the spring). Teachers are able to focus on the core aspects of the curriculum and have been able to adapt it to online learning.
 - The children that have adapted the most quickly to online learning, especially in the early years, are the ones that did not struggle with in class learning. Extra care and attention needs to be paid to students that already struggled in class, and the teachers and Special Ed teacher are working to support these students.
 - Question from Council: The materials that came home before the break really help to support remote learning. Will more materials be available if remote learning is extended?
 - A: This has yet to be determined, but Mr. Sendrea would advocate for this.
- Would it be possible for teachers to remind kids to go outside during break times?
 - A: It is difficult for teachers to make these suggestions as they do not know what the situation is at home and weather or not the parent is able to
- The staff did what they could in December to anticipate having to switch to Remote Learning
- The expectation is that if we are expecting for this to continue any longer, the Board should be providing some learning materials to the students to help facilitate further online learning

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

WRAPSC Report – Jessica

- No updates available at this time

Treasurer’s Report – Karen

- Karen is absent, but has sent messages to Mrs. Bauer and will provide an update when we return next month.
- Budget: Math-Up licence purchased, and thank you to Council for supporting this purchase.

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

- No updates since Students and Teachers have not been in school

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

PRO Grant - Colleen

- Grant application has to be back in by February 5th
- Our previous vendors we have worked with (Binary Tattoo) have said they can work with the \$500 budget that we are proposing



- It would be a 90-minute presentation for Grades 7 and up
- We are going to finish the application this week and hopefully get approvals back from the grant application in the next few weeks
- Grant money has to be used by the end of the school year
- Aiming for a February date if we can accommodate, we would need to get some date suggestions from the council
- It may be valuable to include more students, possibly Grade 5 and up in order to accommodate the fact that more students are getting access to technology and this knowledge would be important
- Question: Do we want to involve other schools as well?
 - The grant is only for our school to use and just logistically it may be more difficult to include other schools
- **Motion to proceed with PRO Grant application**
 - First Colleen, Second Jenny
 - Motion passed

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fundraising

- Question to Council: Do we want to do any additional fundraising before the end of the year?
- **Ian H** has indicated he will reach out to a local company to create gift boxes
- Idea: Partnering with the local restaurant Crowsfoot Smokehaus to provide a discount based on referrals from
- Sandra has spoken with Snider's Farm about do Maple Syrup fundraising who have provided some options for Maple Syrup, Maple Butter, Maple Sugar and Candy Floss
- Cost to us for 500ml is \$8.50 and it is retailed for \$12. Wholesale is \$14 for 1L jars and cost is \$18 so it is an opportunity
- Potentially better to wait until the stay-at-home order has been lifted to start organizing this, so for a vote for the next meeting
- **Motion to proceed with Maple Syrup order planning and getting the word out**
 - Passed
- We need to ensure that the budget allocation for any fundraising should be decided before we send any messaging out
- Fundraising would likely be going towards the Playground Improvement budget

Playground Committee

- **ACTION ITEM, Mr. Sendrea: Follow up with teachers to determine who would like to participate.**
- **ACTION ITEM, Council: confirm with parents that would to participate (based on Minutes from Dec meeting).**



ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:

1st: Katie

2nd: Colleen