



Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, February 18, 2021

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2019-20 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 23
- 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
 - CHANGED TO: Thursday, April 22 (School Break: April 12-16, 2021)
 - Tuesday, May 18
 - Thursday, June 10



ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Person Responsible
Handmade Sale	Confirm with the Board that planning for this event can go forward (with the understanding that it can be cancelled at any time) and then order tables	Mr. Sendrea, Erin
Partnership with Trees for Woolwich	Confirm with the Board that these partnerships can move forward and meet with a Board Representative to discuss details	Mr. Sendrea, Katie, Gena
School Landscaping Community Partnership		
Maple Syrup Fundraiser	Develop a draft plan	Sandra, Karen H, Mr. Sendrea
Graduation Committee	Create CPS Google Drive folder to organize and share documents	Gena



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 22	May 18	June 10
Co-Chair	Colleen Heinrichs	P	P	P	P				
Co-Chair	Rebecca Hallman	P	P	P	P				
Treasurer	Karen Hofbauer	P	P	N	P				
Communications	Jenny Benham	P	N	P	P				
Co-Secretary	Gena Braun	P	P	P	P				
Co-Secretary	Ian Howlett	P	P	P	P				
Principal	Michael Sendrea	P	P	P	P				
Teacher Reps	Carolee Fox	P	Lori Hillman	Carolee Fox	Carolee Fox+ Sarah Barber				
Community	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				
WRAPSC	Jessica Gordon	P	P	N	P				
Parent Members & Volunteers	Stephanie Forte	P	P	P	P				
	Christine Sanchez	P	N	N	N				
	Katie Misener	P	N	P	P				
	Marsha Ferguson	N	N	N	N				
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	N	N	N				
	Shawna Gingrich	N	N	N	N				
	Karen Forsyth	P	P	P	P				
	Erin Schmidt	N	P	N	P				
	Jenn Metzloff	N	P	N	N				
	Julianna Oitment	P	P	P	P				
	Sandra Clark	P	P	P	P				
	Natalie Edery	P	N	N	N				



Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Add to Standing Agenda Items:
 - WRAPSC report
- Add to Committees and Events:
 - Maple Syrup Fundraiser
 - PRO Grant
- Add to Open Discussion Items:
 - Partnership with Trees for Woolwich

Agenda approval with changes motioned by:

1st: Colleen
2nd: Jenny

Minutes, January – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- Date at the bottom of each page needs to be changed to 2021

Minutes approval with changes motioned by:

1st: Colleen
2nd: Jenny

April Meeting Date

- Proposed new date: Thursday, April 22 (School Break: April 12-16, 2021)



PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – Mrs. Fox

- Joined by Mrs. Barber to talk about the current state of things at the schools
- There was some level of uncertainty around the plan for the Snow Days, but the teachers were able to figure things out
- Transitioning back into school from remote learning has gone rather smoothly
- Black History Month is being taught throughout the school with various teachers and classes
- School spirit has been lifted just from the students and staff being back into the school
- Things are starting to normalize as we continue the transition back into in-person learning
- Google Classroom has helped get things more organized for the teachers
- Mrs. Barber and Mr. Sendrea identifying and helping students that need additional
- The transition to Google Meets was the first, difficult transition point for teachers to engage with students when we switched to online learning
- Mrs. Barber worked with younger students to learn how to use new tools and technologies, such as using screens to test out reading skills
- If we have the need to go back to remote learning we have more tools and best practices to allow us to switch back quickly and effectively
- Getting started on Emotional Learning program with Grade 7 students, using mindfulness strategies as the students transition back into in-person learning

Principal's Report – Mr. Sendrea

- Mrs. Barber has come in as the new Special Education teacher this year and has surpassed expectations to help support the staff and students
- Mrs. Barber is the link for the playground committee along with Mr. Budafalvi
- Pivoted back to in-person learning very recently and quickly
- Teaching over the screen is a much more difficult process, but staff found ways to make it engaging (such as in morning presentation)
- Face coverings are now mandatory from Grades 1 to 12 now according to new guidelines
- Students are also encouraged to wear face masks outside when it isn't possible to physically distance
- Report cards went home yesterday to all students. Envelopes do not need to be returned, only the tear-off slip needs to be returned
- The character attribute being focused on now is Cooperation, moving on from January's "Hope"
 - Daily reminders through the announcements
 - Some classes take leadership in doing a slideshow on showing off the attribute
- March Break has been moved to April, there is no break in mid-March. The new date is April 12-16
- During the shutdown a few trees were removed from the front of the school. The trees were in bad shape and were consistently shedding branches that posed a risk to staff and students
- For the last few weeks, there has been a gas smell in the office area which has resulted in extending a venting pipe
- The smell may be a result of sewage, but it has been inspected multiple times and does not pose any danger to staff and students. Removing the smell is still being investigated
- EQAO assessment will not be taking place this year and the future of the program is uncertain
- The money that the council has been raised is being used and the staff wants to thank everyone for their help.



Kid-sized shovels are going to be distributed to the students for use at the school

- Question: Is the change to EQAO a Ministry (Ontario) decision?
 - Yes, this is being done province-wide
- Question: Do we know about Kindergarten registration?
 - We have ten students registered in JK so far, compared to 11 around this time last year

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Silent Auction met the fundraising goal and we were under budget for expenditures related to Silent Auction
- We received an unexpected refund for magazines (\$50)
- Kodaly money was still spent even though the event did not happen, but we will use
- We received a refund for the taxes for the Kindie Playground that was not supposed to have been paid (\$1337)
- It was also determined that the Playground Tables were paid for by another account, so we have an unexpected \$9000
 - We are looking into who/how it was paid for to ensure that we are not missing the invoice somehow
- Question: Have we received any funds from WEFI?
 - It is not quick for those funds to be processed
 - Nothing on the books for it so far this year
- **ACTION ITEM, Mr. Sendrea:** Determine how the Playground Tables were paid for

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

- First meeting is booked for February 23rd with staff and students
- The question posed to the committee is "What is the end goal for the students?" to determine the direction of the committee's objective

WRAPSC Report – Jessica

- Previous two WRAPSC meetings
 - First was a conversation between parents on how they were doing council meetings, but nothing noteworthy for the CPS
 - Last meeting had a Trustee come and discuss what the Trustees' role is in the board
 - You can reach out to a Trustee at any time, but they are likely to direct you back to the teachers, superintendent or other board staff
 - They must look at the board as a whole, although they do consider their own constituency
 - Their job is about making policy, but not about how it is implemented
- Parent Involvement Committee is having a member of Public Health coming to their meeting on March 2nd, if there are any questions please email to WRAPSC@gmail.com and then can be addressed
- If you want to join the meeting you need to email pic@wrdsb.ca and then can send you the link to join the March 2nd Parent Involvement Committee meeting with the Public Health representative
- Question: Any information on rapid testing or any testing facilities?



- Mr. Sendrea: There has been no communication from the Board for any random, voluntary testing
- Availability of nurses has changed, the daily online tests have changed, but anything that actively impacts the school will be communicated

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Handmade Sale - Erin

- This is the time when we would normally be recruiting vendors for the Fall
- Potential for an outdoor sale to mitigate the risk of having an indoor event
- We could also sign-up vendors but not take any money until we were more certain that the event was going forward
- Aiming for potentially doing this sale in September rather than October due to weather
- This would be a good opportunity for Fundraising, but having the challenges of Covid would need to be considered
- **ACTION ITEM, Mr. Sendrea:** follow up and determine if we are okay to get planning started from the Board
- Motion to consider the Handmade Sale as a fundraising activity for the Fall of 2021 depending on approval and safety
 - Motion: Karen Hofbauer
 - Second: Jenny Benham
 - Motion carried

Playground Committee - Gena

- Membership update: Sarah Barber will be the teacher representative.
- The committee is chatting with teachers to discuss the Parkour idea
- Discussing options to partner with the Optimist Club
- Jessica Gordon offering to join the committee

Maple Syrup Fundraiser - Sandra

- Some open questions on how to proceed: What would the start date and closing date be? What is the pick-up date? Will we limit to just one colour (Amber)? How are we going to order? How do we handle the money? Reason for the fundraising? Do we provide recipes?
- Money/Ordering: Keeping it simpler and limiting the options we can do the sale through School Day
- **ACTION ITEM:** Sandra Clarke, Mr. Sendrea and Karen Hofbauer to take some of these questions offline to determine a draft plan
- We want to come up with a plan to get this done since Maple Syrup buying season is coming up quickly
- Jenny Benham will draft a message to indicate this sale is coming soon



PRO Grant Cybersecurity Virtual Seminar – Colleen

- We haven't gotten an update on whether we received the funds at this point, but we expect potentially by End of February
- School Day message went out today as a reminder as the talk is going on February 24th
- Zoom Link will be sent out via School Day for all parents to join
- The focus of the talk is to Grade 7-8 and their parents, although other students/parents can join

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Landscaping Proposal – Colleen/Katie

- Post from the Conestogo Neighbourhood FB group asked for volunteers to help refresh the landscaping for the CPS front gardens
- Katie Misener responded to let them know that there is a committee to help doing this
- Conestogo Contracting Group has offered to donate their design and labour time to help landscaping
 - Former students of the school
- Question: Does the school fall into any heritage designation?
 - Not that we are aware of, but there are limitations due to the age of the school
- The front and side entrance on the older school are under review
- Mr. Sendrea is going to reach out to see what is and isn't possible before we start any initiative in earnest

Partnership with Trees for Woolwich – Gena

- Trees for Woolwich is providing funding for additional trees
- Proposing to adding trees to the Northfield road
- Trees used to be there at one point, but they were torn down as they interfered with the hydro lines
- Trees for Woolwich was asking to reach out to CPS Council to determine if we want to partner with them and find out how we want to proceed from there
- **ACTION ITEM, Mr. Sendrea:** Reach out to the board about the possibility to plant trees
- Motion to move ahead with the Trees for Woolwich Project and Landscaping
 - Colleen Heinrichs puts forward the motion
 - Karen Hofbauer second
 - Motion was carried

Graduation Committee – Jenny

- CPS Council to provide some guidance on how their funding is used, but generally the graduation committee is in charge of how their money will be spent
- Information from previous years and documentation should be handed over from the CPS council to the next committee
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena:** Create a folder in the Google Drive for the Graduation Committee
- Company that does graduation photos isn't available, but we need to come up with a new solution
- Graduation Committee is going to be starting in March



ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:

1st: Jenny

2nd: Katie