



Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, March 25, 2021

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2020-21 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 (March Break: Mar 15-19, 2021 - POSTPONED)
 - 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
Mabel's Labels	Council to send text to Mr. Sendrea to include on the CPS website	Colleen
Orientation	Send kindergarten parent guide to Mr. Sendrea	Jessica
Budget	Send details of budget line items needing further information to Mr. Sendrea for review	Karen H



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



Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- Add WRAPSC as a standing agenda item

Agenda approval with changes motioned by:

1st: Agnes
2nd: Karen

Minutes, February– Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes approval with changes motioned by:

1st: Jenny
2nd: Jessica

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher’s Report – Mrs. Robb

- Thanks to the CPS Council for providing the shovels
- Students (especially the kindergarten) are excited about the nice weather that has come up
- Grade 8 Graduation is upcoming although no details are planned
- Intermediate students at CPS will be participating in a French music competition
- Library recently received new books
- New theme upcoming is Cooperation but we are continuing with Integrity and has been well received
- St. Patrick’s Day had a Spirit Day for wearing Green and another Spirit Day to celebrate what would have been March Break

Principal’s Report – Mr. Sendrea

- Students are continuing to demonstrate a lot of resilience responding to the changed atmosphere
- There is a growing “anxiety” with the continued change and uncertainty with the students which the staff has responded with by trying to have a little more fun in the school
- Fundraising is underway and the Maple Syrup drive is going very well
- Grade 8 grad is still in a waiting pattern for the Board to provide details on what is and what isn’t allowed
- Some details were posted on the Board website indicated that all graduations must be virtual this year
- The staff continue to focus on however much they are allowed to do they will do, but are still facing a lot of limitations



- Gena has recently done some work to get some trees planted and the group that we are working with like the plan, but we will confirm if we are ready to go ahead
- Meetings planned for tomorrow with Conestogo Community member to potentially do some landscaping and planting work in the front of the school
- School team does not have any information around what will be happening the rest of the school year. Information would be shared with the community as soon as it changes, but the plan is to be in class until June
- Director Bryant released a statement outlining the 2021/2022 plan that indicates that they want to have as normal a year as possible going into next year. This will include giving parents the option to be entirely virtual
- Staffing process is currently underway for CPS which is impacted by enrolment. On March 31st we will share the number of students enrolled for next year and the Board provides the amount of staffing that will be provided
- JK enrolment numbers aren't being shared at this point, but the school is graduating 38 students this year
- **Question:** Will parents deciding to go virtual impact the amount of teachers?
 - This has already had an impact as Mrs. Bauman already switched to support remote learning
 - We do not have any details on what that impact (if any) would be at this point
- **Question:** Would kindergartens ever be combined with another grade due to low enrollment?
 - This is not normal practice and would be very surprising
- **Question:** How is the school / Board supporting younger students mental health through the challenges posed by the pandemic?
 - The social worker has been active in the school as a support role
 - The Board is trying to put their money into an increased number of workshops for parents
 - SCIHSC is working in this way to talk to students about where we can direct our energy to gather more support
- **Question:** Are we planning on having a parent council presence at the Kindergarten introduction meeting? Will we be providing the parent onboarding documentation that was worked on?
 - **Action:** Jessica to send that guide to Mr. Sendrea
 - Potential to provide a virtual session
- General consensus from Parents in the council that teachers and staff have been incredibly supporting for students with their mental health and wellbeing this year
- Suggestion for Parent council to expand the offering for Kindergarten orientation to do virtual sessions and offer support for new families joining the school
- If at all possible offering in person tours for JK/SK students would be hugely beneficial to help set their expectations on what Day 1 will be like



STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Shovels and Math and Science items have potentially been paid out of the wrong account
 - **Action:** Karen to send details of line items to Mr. Sendrea for review
- Flip Give has paid out \$950 which is the total amount we are expecting for this year's budget
- \$1300 of maple syrup sales have come through
- All of the items from last month were checked and all of the playground equipment has been paid for so we do have access to funds we did not anticipate at the beginning of the school year
- **Question:** Can we include Mabel's Labels details in the orientation package?
 - We currently have 38 dollars in the account
 - There is no link to Mabel's Labels on the school website
 - It is included in the mailer sent out to the Kindergarten students
 - **Action:** Council to send text to Mr. Sendrea to include on the CPS website
- There is a plan currently in place for the Gym Equipment (\$200) and Recess Items (\$600) budget and that money is being put to good use
- We are not getting any funding this year from Maple Syrup Grant or Kiwanis

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

- Steph Forte, Mr. Budafalvi and one student from grade 8 met
- Surveys have been sent out to gather information from students. One survey for junior and primary and a separate survey for Grade 7/8
- Once the data has been collected the SCIHS group will reconvene

WRAPSC Report – Jessica

- The Let's Connect surveys that have been going out haven't had as much of a turnout as they were expecting
- There are more surveys coming in April and June and people are encouraged to provide feedback
- Lots of comments from parents about Distance Learning on weather impacted days
- Student census is coming up and will be given to Grades 4 and up to be done in class, younger children will have their parents do it for them
- There was concern that Grade 4 students may not understand the nuance around race or economic status, so all parents will have access to the details of survey so parents can discuss it with their children
- Parent Involvement Committee's Family Engagement committee is coming April 10th



COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Maple Syrup Fundraiser - Sandra

- We had \$2901.25 purchased through School Day by 38 families
- Out of that, the CPS Council will get \$543.43
- We sold 20 orders of the 250mL, 50 orders of the 1L, 2L sold 24, 4L sold 11 and maple candy floss sold 43 units
- Orders should be coming in on Monday and will be held for several days before being given to families for COVID safety
- School is able to provide PPE as necessary and Snyder's Farm will be using proper precautions to handle the materials
- Need to get volunteers to distribute the sales
- **Question:** What do we do when it is raining?
 - Volunteers should prepare with rain gear
- Suggestion to prepare the orders by family names in separate storage areas on site to make distribution easier
- Suggestion to use a tool like Calendly or Google Sheets to organize families to pick-up
 - Potentially recommending a time slot but not forcing the point so families don't abandon their products
- Mr. Sendrea, Karen, Agnes and Colleen have volunteered to help with logistics. Any others would be welcome to help as well
- Distribution is currently planned for Thursday April 1st
- Paper Fortune Tellers from Snyder's farm would also be distributed with the rest of the goods

PRO Grant Cybersecurity Virtual Seminar – Colleen

- We had the Family Safety event that went very well
- Lots of useful information that was shared with students and parents
- 18 community members attended, which is lower than hoped for turnout
- Survey will be sent out to parents that attended
- Presentation fatigue is definitely setting in, so new ideas would be good for next year
- Given the audience (Grade 6-8) it may have been a decent percentage of turnout



School Landscaping Proposal – Colleen

- Team has met to discuss options for moving forward with improvements for the front of the school
- The CPS Council found a grant that helps fund improvement on community spaces (Canada Healthy Community Foundations of Canada)
 - This is geared towards communities impacted by Covid
 - Applications are due by June 25th but the work can be done into 2022
 - We would require a charitable organization to sponsor our application, which the Township of Woolwich may be able to do
 - Input from the community as to why this work would be needed and why it is important
- Any parties interested in assisting in the initiative are encouraged to reach out
- **Question:** Is the plan to get the grant before going to the Board for approvals?
 - Yes, we will have a detailed plan and have it costed out to get the grant which will be useful to provide to the Board when required
- We would want to send a survey out to families out ahead of the grant applications
- Some other charitable organizations that may be worth reaching out to are the Optimists, 100 Women of Woolwich or the Lions Club
- **MOTION** To get a committee together to look into applying for the Grant
 - Motion by Jenny Benham
 - Seconded by Karen Hofbauer
 - Motion Carried

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Update to Parents from Parent Council - Colleen

- Given that we haven't been in the class to see teachers so parents do not have as much opportunities to communicate with Parent Council
- Suggestion is to send out a newsletter talking about the work that the council has been doing
- Any volunteers are encouraged to reach out

Playground Committee - Karen Hofbauer

- Mrs. Barber and Mr. Budafalvi met to review funds and options for playground
- Talking about a low-profile all-weather equipment



- Given all of the other initiatives in play, the group is slowing down to focus more on the other initiatives at play and planning to focus on the playground upgrades for next year

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:

1st: Steph

2nd: Jenny