



Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, April 22, 2021

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2020-21 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 18
- 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
 - Thursday, April 22
 - Tuesday, May 18
 - Thursday, June 10



ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Person Responsible
Mabel's Labels	Add Mabel's Labels link to bottom of the school webpage	Mr. Sendrea
School Grounds	Follow up on possible grants from the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative or TD Friends of the Environment	Colleen/Katie
Playground Committee	Obtain quotes from vendors and Board approval	Playground Committee/Mr., Sendrea



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



Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- None

Agenda approval with changes motioned by:

- 1st: Rebecca
- 2nd: Steph

Minutes, March– Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes approval with changes motioned by:

- 1st: Agnes
- 2nd: Colleen

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher’s Report – Mrs. Fox

- The teachers would much rather be in the school, but feel that the transition to online learning has gone well.
- For some students, online learning has provided some flexibility that they benefit from, however for others this approach is even more of a challenge than being in school.
- Special events will continue (Bird Count, bird house building, solidary bee homes, and pollinator garden).
- Integrity is the current character development focus and students were getting paper feathers when they practiced this skill. The feathers will all go together to make a large set of wings.
- Please reach out the teachers if students need any extra help!

Principal’s Report – Mr. Sendrea

- Continuing in shutdown and all students are learning from home. There is no current end date for this situation.
- Staff are working from home, and office staff have that option as well.
- Synchronous vs asynchronous: Teachers are combining both strategies with a mix dependant on what works best for their students, for a total of 225 minutes for all grades except kindergarten (as a guideline). The teachers generally follow the school day timeline.
- Chromebooks: There are few extra at the school if anyone needs one. The board can also provide cellular-enabled iPads if better internet connection is required (mailed to the home).
- Earth Day, April 22: Celebrated at the school with a “build your own birdfeeder” contest that ends on April 26. The classes all came up with different ideas to mark Earth Day as well, and the Board is organizing the Backyard Bird Count.
- Isolation during lockdown: Staff and teachers occasionally see some behaviour that may indicate stress due to lockdown, and teachers will reach out to parents with any concerns or observations. Teachers encourage students to stay active and attend Google Meets to maintain links with classmates. It is important to set and follow routines as well, and this is partially why the school day starts with an all-school meet.
- Staffing update: This process has been delayed by the upheaval of the last few weeks. The board has put this on hold pending information about distance learning for next year (as this option will be available to parents in 2021-2022).



- Graduation: Plans are on hold pending announcements, but it will be a virtual event and the grad committee continues to work on this initiative.
- Kindergarten welcome event: Planned for end of May or beginning of June as a virtual event to welcome new parents and JK students.
- School building: Gas smell has been investigated and some progress has been made to resolve this problem (there is no danger, but the smell is unpleasant).
 - Question from council: Is the roof leak still an issue? Answer: This has not been an issue and the leaking roof drain has been replaced/fixed.
- Board initiatives: Equity and inclusion, active anti-racism, and indigenous knowledge are an important focus of the Board and in the classroom.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen H

- Update to be provided at the next meeting in May.

WRAPSC Report – Jessica

- WRAPSC provided confirmation that the Board has no information on when in person school will resume and is waiting for information from the Ministry of Education.
- The Board is drafting a letter to express their concern over continued distance learning after the pandemic is over. The Board sees this as a concern for staffing resources. Surveys also indicate that most students prefer to be in class, but the Ministry seems to be pushing for continued online learning options post-pandemic. Distance learning during the pandemic will continue and courses that were already online (elearning) will continue, but the Board is concerned about the Ministry's push for significant permanent online learning.

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

- Survey data has been collected and the committee will be meeting to review the results.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Mabel's Labels – Karen F

- Karen created some information and it is on the school website and sidebar. It may be useful to add this to the bottom of the website as well. **ACTION ITEM, Mr. Sendrea.**
- School Day message for events (summer camp labels, back to school) would be good to put out in the future.

Maple Syrup Fundraiser - Sandra



- This event was a success with almost \$600 raised.

School Ground and Playground Update – Katie, Rebecca

- Council has several projects on the go and have decided to prioritize the playground. The projects to be temporarily postponed are as follows:
 - Woolwich Trees: Can be revisited next year and watering will be considered as part of the Council budget.
 - TD grant could be used for this or school grounds upgrade: https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/WRDSBGuidelines.K_12-Outdoor-Play.pdf (Due July 15)
 - School grounds upgrade: **Application for school grounds can still be submitted (ACTION ITEM: School Grounds Committee)** and then the work for this can be done after the playground is complete.
 - May want to consider this area as extra parking as well.
 - Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, due May 14
<https://communityfoundations.ca/initiatives/chci/>
- Playground history: This project was initiated roughly 5 years ago to meet the needs of the intermediate students (who had requested something to do). Kindergarten and senior students have had recent upgrades (climbing structure and picnic tables). Parkour equipment has been recommended for the intermediate grades.
- Playground committee welcomes anyone that is interested in participating! **Agnes indicated that she would like to join.**
- Teachers that are on the playground committee are enthusiastic to continue participating (Ms. Barber and Mr. Budafalvi). Staff are very supportive of this idea as well.
- Comment from Council: "Risky play" is considered a good experience for kids based on current play theory (not to the point of being hazardous) to learn how to assess risk.
- Quotes have been requested and received from some different suppliers, with a cost from \$10k to \$40k.
 - Approved vendors: This list is maintained by the Board, and a new vendor can be approved.
- WRAPSC meeting: The board has discussed school council budgets and it is important that budgets with surplus have a defined plan and spend funds in a reasonable time.
- The board has a useful document about playground planning: https://www.wrdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/WRDSBGuidelines.K_12-Outdoor-Play.pdf

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

(None)

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:

1st: Katie

2nd: Colleen