



Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, October 18, 2018

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2018-19 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, November 8
- PRO Grant event: Family Math Night – Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 11
- ArtShine: TBD
- Mad Science: TBD
- Holiday Fundraiser: TBD
- Council Meetings (the third Thursday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays):
 - November 8, 2018
 - December 13, 2018
 - January 17, 2019
 - February 21, 2019
 - March 21, 2019
 - April 18, 2019
 - May 16, 2019
 - June 13, 2019



ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Member Responsible
Agenda for November	Set start time as 7:00 on Agenda for future meetings	Gena
	Discuss Parent/Teacher interviews during November meeting.	
	Discuss creating a club board so everyone is aware of clubs	
Classroom Temperature Concerns	Follow up with Mrs. Brown regarding classroom temperature data.	Erin
	Provide list of schools to Jenny that received air conditioning recently (and what type of system they received + cost).	Karen Larke
Graduation	Confirm that parents have received recent communication regarding graduation planning and/or send reminder the day before.	Cathy
	Encourage teachers to provide this information to students as well so that they can take some initiative with this event.	Cathy
WRAPC Meetings	WRAPC encourages specific comments related to PIC and PRO Grants as these may be "on the chopping block"	ALL
Fun Fair	Celebration meeting - October 28: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM – send invitation	Jenny
Magazine Fundraiser	Put on agenda for next meeting to determine if we want to sign up for two-year contract	Gena
	Investigate WEFI donation link to confirm that it is working.	Cathy
Holiday Fundraiser	Send communication plan from last year to Erin.	Deb
S'Cool Life Fund	Deb will submit application using quote provided by Cathy	Deb
Staff Appreciation	Provide list of allergies to Shawna.	Cathy
	Create School Day message after feedback from Shawna	Deb
	Ask Teachers to bring Tupperware for leftovers.	Cathy
Speaker from Teachers College	Provide list of topics and then we can determine interest.	Jenny



WELCOME & GENERAL BUSINESS

Attendance

(P present, N absent/regrets. Parent Members must attend 7/10 – 70% of meetings to maintain voting privileges.)

Role	2015-16	Sep 13	Oct 18	Nov 8	Dec 13	Jan 17	Feb 21	March 21	Apr 18	May 16	June 13
Co-Chair	Jenny Benham	P	P								
Co-Chair	Rebecca Hallman	P	N								
Treasurer	Karen Hofbauer	P	N								
Communications	Deb Jones	P	P								
Secretary	Gena Braun	P	P								
Principal	Cathy Baer	P	P								
Teacher Reps	Carolee Fox	P	Karen Larke	Angela Bauman	Sherry Morland	Rachel Quickfall	Dougall Newport	Carolee Fox	Carolee Fox	Shannon Brown	Lori
Community	Stephanie Forte	P	P								
	Chris Sabean	N	N								
WRAPSC	(currently vacant)	n/a	n/a								
	Colleen Heinrichs	P	P								
	Jessica Gordon	P	P								
	Gloria Ramage	P	N								
Parent Members & Volunteers	Marsha Ferguson	N	N								
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	N								
	Katherine Sunday	N	N								
	Shawna Gingrich	P	P								
	Karen Forsyth	N	P								
	Erin Schmidt	P	P								
	Mel Thompson	P	N								
	Laura Bredahl	N	N								



Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Set start time as 7:00 on Agenda for future meetings**

Agenda Approval with changes Motioned by:

1st: Erin
2nd: Colleen

Minutes, September – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes Approval with changes Motioned by:

1st: Deb
2nd: Karen



PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – Karen Larke

- Ms. Larke teaches French to primary grades up to the 3-4 split class.
- She also run the very popular Harry Potter Club
 - Meetings communicated through “scrolls.”
 - Core group of kids meet once per week and do crafts, activities, etc.
 - Shifting to a more literary focus this year (still with some crafts, dress up day, etc.), somewhat like a book club with more reading and writing (talk about characters, personality traits, etc.).
- She emphasized the challenges of teaching and learning during the very hot days at the beginning of the school year (with some classrooms experiencing temperatures in the high 30s for multiple consecutive days)
 - Some schools have air conditioning systems installed by the Board, and this may be something we should advocate for as parent feedback may have more impact.
 - Council follow up approach was discussed with a petition or similar suggested.
 - Follow up with WRAPC to see if other schools have dealt with this issue and their approach.
 - The teachers have a record of some of the classroom temperatures that could be provided to Council (Mrs. Brown).
 - **ACTION ITEM, Erin: Follow up with Mrs. Brown regarding classroom temperature data.**
 - **ACTION ITEM, Karen L: Provide list of schools to Jenny that received air conditioning recently (and what type of system they received + cost).**

Principal's Report – Cathy Baer

- Umbrella Project (JK – Gr. 8) and Gratitude Month for October.
- Coffee with Cathy – see notes Cathy sent
 - Deb and Colleen will attend as Council representatives.
- Parent/Teacher Communication:
 - A survey was completed in June.
 - This is an ongoing process, but staff and admin are working on more cohesive approach overall with variations between grades based on appropriate approach for that age and the information to be conveyed.
- Field Trips: Deadlines are put in place to enable teachers to plan logistics (similar for Fun Fair).
 - Question: How can we encourage the community to follow up before the deadline?
 - Suggestion: Parent orientation for new families or parents may be helpful.
 - Add this to the into for new JKs during staggered entry (first day they come, invite parents as well and provide orientation to general school policies as well as School Day)
 - Also provide this information to new families along with other basic info (like when you can use the parking lot, or where to drop off kids, etc.).
 - It may be easiest to provide this information on an info sheet sent home with new kids.
 - **Parent/Teacher interviews are coming up – ACTION ITEM, Gena: Put on agenda for November meeting.**
- Boomerang Lunch – “Modified” to enable parents to know what children are not eating.
- Parking lot: Cathy is looking into the option of adjusting the diagonal spots to add a couple additional parking



- spaces.
- Crossing Guard: Second person is helping on a part time basis.
 - Police have been collecting data to determine a final solution for speed control by the crosswalk.
- Halloween parade: alternate activity provided for families that prefer not to participate in this activity. Grade 7-8 may choose their own activity or may participate in the parade.
- Cycling: Grant through Woolwich for grade 5 and 6 students to do various cycling-related activities and bike maintenance learning.
- Dreambox licence in process.
- Grade 7-8 trip: [Camp Kintail](#) is an option, is close and has multiple outdoor activities (add website address), to be further discussed with parents.
 - Would it be an option to share years with the school in St. Jacobs.
 - Water safety will be carefully considered/discussed.
 - Graduation planning:
 - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Confirm that parents have received recent communication regarding graduation planning and/or send reminder the day before.**
 - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Encourage teachers to provide this information to students as well so that they can take some initiative with this event.**
- See School website calendar for other upcoming events.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Fun Fair: net proceeds similar to last year, so a great success.
- Planners and Team uniforms paid for over the last month.

WRAPC Minutes Summary – Gena

- Education Consultation from the Ontario Government:
 - Please visit <https://www.ontario.ca/form/open-submissions-education-ontario> to provide the Ontario government feedback on the education system in Ontario in the following areas:
 - **Improving student performance** in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
 - Preparing students with needed **job skills**, such as skilled trades and coding
 - Improving provincial **standardized testing**
 - Ensuring students graduate with important life skills, including **financial literacy**
 - Managing the use of **technology in classrooms**, such as cell phones
 - Building a new age-appropriate **Health and Physical Education curriculum** that includes subjects like mental health, sexual health education and the legalization of cannabis
 - Developing the first-ever Parents' Bill of Rights
 - **Consultation closing date: December 15, 2018**
 - **WRAPC encourages specific comments related to PIC and PRO Grants as these may be "on the chopping block" (Action item: ALL)**
- Discussion concerning council wrdsb.ca e-mail account using G-mail groups (note from Gena: as per Deb's suggestion, we already plan to do this with our current Gmail account).
- Talk by Dr. Marcel O'Gorman regarding digital device addiction (personal phones) and distraction in the classroom.
 - Research shows a breakdown in cognitive abilities and multitasking skills due to over-use of



technology and improved test scores when phones have been banned in the classroom.

- Dr. O-Gorman's lab has produced a phone case ("Resistor Case") from recycled bottles to help students control their phone time (loud Velcro opening).
- WRDSB MyWay portal gives students access to 46 online courses, Google education apps, Mathify (access to live math tutors), My Blueprint (track and plan university credits). Students gain access with their OEN number. → This is primarily for grade 8 students at Conestogo to sign up for courses for high school.
- PRO and PIC Grants:
 - Future PRO grants may not exist under new government and we are waiting to hear if grants will be active this year.



COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Safe Caring and Inclusive and Healthy Schools

- Usually starts in mid November.
- Based on surveys completed by students last year with information to be provided to Cathy next week.
- Cathy will follow up with team participants from last year

Fun Fair Update – Jenny

- Summarize and discuss lessons learned from Fun Fair: October 28: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM - **ACTION ITEM: Jenny to sent invite for meeting.**
- Lesson learned:
 - Better correlation between prize costs and “stamps” available.
 - Prize bags not that popular as kids like to see what they are exchanging
 - Print out of instructions at the games so grade 9 or parent volunteer has clear understanding of rules and stamps.
 - What can we do with left over prize bags and unsealed candy?
 - **ACTION ITEM, Jenny: Will give USB with photobooth pictures to Mrs. Goodwin.**

Magazine Fundraising Update – Shawna, Karen F

- Approximate revenue:
 - Sold 442 magazines and received some money in WEFI, with approx. revenue of \$5200 minus expenses.
 - Expect similar net revenue than last year.
 - Net revenue yet to be determined, plus signing bonus.
 - Discuss other fundraising options at the Fun Fair celebration.
 - Colleen suggested Charleston Wraps.
 - **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Put on agenda for next meeting to determine if we want to sign up for two-year contract.**
- Ice cream party coming up and volunteers needed, date TBD.
 - Agnes and Shawna and possibly Steph to help run.
- Cupcake party: Need to be nut free or possible other allergens.
- **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Investigate WEFI donation link to confirm that it is working.**

Holiday/Poinsettia Fundraiser – Erin

- Example Google Form used by John Mahood provided as an alternative approach.
- After submitting form, parents receive an e-mail with total cost and then it is paid through School Day.
- Suggestion that we try to continue using School Day as was done last year so we can build on what we have learned with this system in the past and become proficient with this single system.
- Assuming issues that we had last year (with posting pictures, etc.) have been resolved, then we can continue



with the School Day approach (Deb will run the School Day information/ordering).

- See communication plan from last year (**ACTION ITEM, Deb: Send to Erin**) for campaign start date and pick-up dates.
 - Note: purchase multiple small poinsettias rather than one large one to increase minimum order number.
 - Centerpieces will not be offered this year as feedback regarding product quality was poor.
 - Pick-up date set for December 5, 3:30 – 5:30 PM. (Volunteers to come earlier in the afternoon for sorting, and separate set of volunteers to help during pick-up).
 - Orders during the first two weeks of November.

Pro Grant – Laura/Deb

- Thursday, April 11: Jump to Math Family Night (not yet scheduled).

S’Cool Life Fund – Deb

- Sherwood Music representative provided feedback on current system and indicated it is generally good quality, but provided some suggestions for improvement that reduce our flexibility, so not desired
- Portable unit option can be used indoor/outdoor for Fun Fair and choir (or other) events in the gym.
 - Quote included several useful items, totalling around \$6K.
 - Sherwood Music is a well established local company that could provide ongoing support.
- S’Cool Life Fund application due October 31 and **Deb will submit using quote provided by Cathy. (ACTION ITEM, Deb).**
- Will focus on additional components for the choir event (musical, Christmas concert, etc.) as specific event/program that this will support. Will fund portable sound system through Council budget.

Staff Appreciation – Shawna

- November 14, Wednesday: Hot soup/chilli/crockpot lunch items, fruit and veggie trays
 - Deliver in the morning for first break.
 - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: will provide list of allergies to Shawna.**
 - **ACTION ITEM, Deb: Create School Day message after feedback from Shawna.**
- Tupperware options for storing food:
 - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: ask Teachers to bring Tupperware.**



OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

Bulletin Board – Jenny

- Will be used by Council until New Year.

Speaker from Teachers College – Jenny

- Ontario's Teachers College has speakers that are willing to come to parent groups, and we could run this as a joint event with other parent councils.
- **ACTION ITEM, Jenny: To provide list of topics and then we can determine interest.**

ACTION ITEM, Gena: For next agenda: Create a club board so everyone is aware of clubs.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:

1st: Erin

2nd: Steph