



## Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, January 17, 2019

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## UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

### 2018-19 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 21, 2019
- PRO Grant event: Family Math Night – Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019
- Upcoming Council Meetings (the third Thursday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays):
  - February 21, 2019
  - March 21, 2019
  - April 18, 2019
  - May 16, 2019
  - June 13, 2019



## ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Initiative/Project</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Member Responsible</b>
Budget	Follow up on Kodaly choir and author visit costs.	Cathy
Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools Committee	Follow up with potential parent council volunteers to participate.	Jenny
Fundraising Committee	Set date for next fundraising committee meeting	Gena
Playground Committee	Schedule a date for the first meeting.	Cathy
	Follow up with students/teachers to determine if the Buddy Bench should be part of the playground plan	
	Actively recruit individuals to participate on the playground committee	All
Speaker from Teachers College	Include on the agenda for the February meeting.	Gena



## 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	<b>Jenny Benham</b>	P	P	P	P	P					
Co-Chair	<b>Rebecca Hallman</b>	P	N	N	P	P					
Treasurer	<b>Karen Hofbauer</b>	P	N	P	N	P					
Communications	<b>Deb Jones</b>	P	P	P	P	A					
Secretary	<b>Gena Braun</b>	P	P	P	P	P					
Principal	<b>Cathy Baer</b>	P	P	P	P	P					
Teacher Reps	Carolee Fox	P	Karen Larke	Angela Bauman	Dougall Newport	Rachel Quickfall	TBD	Carolee Fox	Carolee Fox	Shannon Brown	Lori
Community	Stephanie Forte	P	P	N	P	P					
	Chris Sabean	N	N	P	N	N					
WRAPSC	(currently vacant)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a					
	<b>Colleen Heinrichs</b>	P	P	N	P	P					
	<b>Jessica Gordon</b>	P	P	N	N	P					
	<b>Gloria Ramage</b>	P	N	N	N	P					
Parent Members & Volunteers	<b>Marsha Ferguson</b>	N	N	N	N	N					
	<b>Agnes Lehtonen</b>	P	N	P	N	N					
	<b>Katherine Sunday</b>	N	N	N	N	N					
	Shawna Gingrich	P	P	P	P	P					
	<b>Karen Forsyth</b>	N	P	P	P	P					
	<b>Erin Schmidt</b>	P	P	P	P	P					
	Mel Thompson	P	N	N	N	N					
	<b>Laura Bredahl</b>	N	N	N	N	N					
	<b>Jenn Metzloff</b>	P	N	N	P	P					



## **Agenda – Review & Approval**

### **Adjustments to Agenda:**

- Speaker from Teachers College discussion postponed
- Add Buddy Bench agenda item

### **Agenda approval with changes motioned by:**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Shawna  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Colleen

## **Minutes, December – Review & Approval**

### **Adjustments to Minutes:**

- None

### **Minutes approval with changes motioned by:**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Colleen  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Jenn



## PRESENTATIONS

### Teacher's Report – Rachel Quickfall

- Rachel Quickfall teaches grade 8 and math and she also initiated the Umbrella Project at CPS.
- Umbrella project: Well-being curriculum with a two-year plan focusing on emotional and cognitive skills. Each month the teacher introduces a new skill (total of 18 skills over two years). Introductory video is available on the website: [www.umbrellaproject.co](http://www.umbrellaproject.co). The website includes parent resources and a link to a Facebook group and matches the skill currently being discussed at school.
- The resource kit that the school receives includes detailed activities for each age group that teachers can use.
- Many schools in the Region and other school boards are participating. The Ontario curriculum has some of these skills intrinsically embedded, but this is a much more direct method for explicitly teaching these skills.
- Each grade has a different approach to introducing and learning how to strengthen the skills. Examples of how the teachers have put this into practice at CPS are as follows:
  - Students did artwork to reflect self-compassion.
  - Gratitude scavenger hunt.
  - "Grit" cards to recognize students working through something difficult.
  - Graffiti wall of gratitude quotes.
  - The power of "Yet".
- Option for the future: Host a parent night on this topic (may be a **PRO grant idea** for the future and we could partner with another school).

### Principal's Report – Cathy Baer

- Umbrella project – January is "Resilience"
- Safe, Caring, and Inclusive Schools video: Understanding the Well-Being and Asset Indices of the Middle Years Development Index. **See "DiscoverMDI.ca."**
  - The following "assets" strongly correlate with well-being:
    - Asset index looks into positive relationships
    - School climate includes subjects like bullying and after school activities
    - Nutrition and sleep
  - The students completed a survey on these topics and results are compared across the board. The results from CPS are very positive, and staff continue to work through the data.
  - The information also provides suggestions for supporting children at home and school with these skills and is complementary to the Umbrella Project.
  - Question: Are any results linked to individual students in case a specific child is dealing with exceptionally difficult circumstances? Answer: The school does not receive data from individual students.
  - Student feedback with PAC indicates they feel like their needs are being heard and met.
  - Bell "Let's Talk Day": Wednesday, January 30
- Carnavale: We do not yet know if we have received a grant for this event. Planned for Friday, Feb 22. Will be led by senior students, and they plan to have hot chocolate (Tim Horton's) and cookies (peanut free). Expected cost of \$400.
  - Motion to cover Carnavale costs if needed:
    - 1<sup>st</sup>: Karen H



- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jenny
- Lego Club: Specific requests for certain sets (Harry Potter, Star Wars, Sponge Bob, other sets with figurines)
  - Run by Mrs. Fox.
- Coffee with Cathy (Tuesday, January 22, 1 PM) with Neil Grant (attendance counselor). Colleen H will attend on behalf of Council.
- "Friends for Life"
  - Requires two social workers to attend multiple times over several weeks and helps children develop social skills. Requested for Mrs. Newport's Grade 4/5 class.
- Playground Committee: Waiting to hear from parents that would like to participate and volunteers are welcome.
- Kindergarten Registration: It is helpful for the school to have registrations completed early (we are currently in a declining enrollment situation) as numbers are sent to the Board in March. The Board will decide on class splits, etc. in April and this will determine staff requirements for the following school year. It is preferable for the school to have an accurate number in March so that teachers do not have to be moved to a different school and then hire new teachers in the fall (if numbers change again).
  - Feedback from parents on council indicated that registration information needs to be more clear for new parents. Messaging needs to be expanded beyond the school sign.
  - Question: How many registrations are actually coming in late? Not a large percentage, but even so, our small numbers mean that one or two students can shift class assignments.
- Upcoming field trips: Please check the Calendar on our website, <https://con.wrdsb.ca/calendar-events/>.

## STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Reviewed expenses (including 2.9% School Day fees) and revenue to date.
  - **Action items, Cathy: Follow up on Kodaly choir and author visit costs.**

### WRAPC Minutes Summary – Gena

- WRAPC (Waterloo Region Association of Parent School Councils) is made up of representatives from parent councils throughout the board. The last meeting was on January 8.
- Presentation and discussion on self-regulation led by Dr. Nusca, retired Chief Psychologist for the WRDSB. Twelve schools in the region have implemented a new program in kindergarten to help teach self-regulation skills.
- Presentation regarding "Day for Girls": A volunteer run group with the goal of helping girls in developing countries have access to female hygiene products. KCI has a noon hour student volunteer group that is participating.
- Presentation on trends and differences in EQAO results by Jeff Outhit on: graduation rates, demographics, board funding, and school maintenance, between private, Catholic and public boards as well as differences between students in French immersion and those in Core French. Many interesting graphs are available online and links are in the WRAPC minutes document.
- Next meeting is February 5 and Jessica Gordon will attend on behalf of CPS Parent Council.

## Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools



- The school board has mandated that each school has this committee in place, however there are minimal guidelines regarding the specific activities for the committee.
- Have been collecting MDI data and data from discussion with students.
  - **ACTION ITEM, Jenny: Follow up with potential parent council volunteers to participate.**
- Should the committee be planning an event, such as an assembly or other? A School Day message was sent out to request feedback, but no responses were received.
  - The Umbrella Project and the Buddy Bench could be part of this initiative.
  - Metrics for determining impact would also be helpful.

## COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

### Magazine Fundraising Update – Fundraising Committee

- Rebecca summarized the conclusions of the fundraising committee meeting, as follows:
- **Fundraising Plan Proposed by Committee:**
  - Maple Syrup Grant application?
  - 2018-2019:
    - Year round: Flipgive and Fundscrip (gift card and online purchasing).
      - Run as a pilot project within Council.
    - January 2019: Kidney Foundation Clothing Drive (\$0.13 - \$0.15 per pound).
      - Students on a Saturday morning between 10 AM and 12 PM (for example) to collect clothing, and then the Kidney Foundation can pick it up at 2 PM that afternoon. Only clothing and shoes accepted (no household items).
      - Volunteers will need to be equipped with a list of accepted items.
    - February 2019: Family skate and pizza in St Jacobs.
  - 2019-2020:
    - Sept 2019: Fun Fair
    - Sept/Nov 2019: Magazines (sign up for a two year contact again, with option to drop second year if desired)
    - Oct 2019: Craft show at CPS. Shawna will lead planning for this event.
      - Planned for October 26.
      - Would charge per table (need to reserve these with the school board) and have an admission fee of \$1-2.
      - Planning would involve advertising and securing craft suppliers.
    - Nov 2019: Holiday Fundraiser (Urns/Poinsettias)
      - An external payment method and advertising to the community will be investigated.
    - January 2020: Kidney Foundation Clothing Drive
    - Feb 2020: Father Daughter Ball + Mom/Son Hockey Tournament
      - Father Daughter Ball: Tentative date: Feb 14. Sell tickets and provide snacks and beverages.
      - Hockey question: May want to consider ball hockey or something similar to include parents/students that may not skate.
  - Date not decided: Bingo (following feedback from Cathy regarding school board policy).





- Note: Riverside, Linwood, and Park Manor schools run Bingo with the Lions Club.
- MOTION: That the fundraising committee continue with the above fundraising plan as proposed.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: Karen H
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Karen F
- Other ideas discussed by subcommittee but not scheduled:
  - Pancake breakfast + Santa or Maple Syrup event (and sell student art)
  - Fresh from the Farm produce
  - Big Box of Cards
  - Community race event
  - Cookie Dough
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Set date for next fundraising committee meeting and determine who will take the lead on each initiative.**
- Feedback from Council:
  - Parents have expressed frustration with the focus on raising money and would like more focus on community-building events like the Fun Fair. Events that raise money but also bring families together would be great.
  - second silent auction/raffle scenario in the year no recommended.
  - Craft show in October may be overwhelming during the busy fall season both to organize and to communicate.
  - Pancake breakfast held in the winter (perhaps February) could bring families together for a fun event. Dollars would come from ticket sales for the breakfast. Adding in some craft/art items for sale/auction with items the students create could be a great addition. This idea sounds quite manageable for both families and council.

## Playground Update - Cathy

- Current members: Cathy, Jessica, Jenn
- Goal for the committee for **this year** is to determine the multi-year vision for the playground (the actual process will occur over several years and can involve many different people over time).
- **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Schedule a date for the first meeting.**
- **ACTION ITEM, Council: Actively recruit individuals to participate on the playground committee.**



## OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Speaker from Teachers College – Jenny

- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Include on the agenda for the February meeting.**

### Buddy Bench

- Concept: Very colourful bench that students are welcome to sit on if they feel lonely or left out. This helps other student identify lonely students and take initiative to include them and demonstrate care.
- Fits in with Umbrella Project and Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy School Committee goals.
- Suggestion to have the students participate in fundraising to empower them.
- CBC recently ran segment on this program.
- Note: the bench will need to be anchored to the ground.
- Could be added to the Playground Committee mandate.
  - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: follow up to determine if it was part of playground requests from students and will follow up at Feb meeting.**

## Communication Discussion

- Suggestion to use the phone messaging system as well to highlight specific announcements and events.
- Phone messages can be pre-recorded and will help to differentiate who the message is from and what the event is for (i.e. school event such as humane Society)

## ADJOURNMENT

### Motioned by:

1<sup>st</sup>: Erin

2<sup>nd</sup>: Rebecca