



## Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, February 21, 2019

<b>Upcoming Council Events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Action Item Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Welcome &amp; General Business</b>	<b>4</b>
Attendance	4
Agenda – Review & Approval	5
Minutes, January – Review & Approval	5
<b>Presentations</b>	<b>6</b>
Teacher’s Report – Sherry Morland	6
Principal’s Report – Cathy Baer	6
<b>Standing Agenda Items</b>	<b>7</b>
WRAPC Report – Jessica	7
Treasurer’s Report – Karen	7
<b>Committees &amp; Events – Status Reports</b>	<b>8</b>
Fundraising Update – Fundraising Committee, Shawna	8
PRO Grant Jump2Math Update – Deb, Laura	8
Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools and Playground Update - Cathy	9
<b>Open Discussion Items</b>	<b>9</b>
Succession Planning: Council Communications – Deb	9
Speaker from Teachers College – Jenny	9
<b>Adjournment</b>	<b>9</b>



## UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

### 2018-19 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 21, 2019
- PRO Grant event: Jump2Math Family Math Night: Thursday, April 11, 2019
- Upcoming Council Meetings (the third Thursday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays):
  - March 21, 2019
  - April 18, 2019
  - May 16, 2019
  - June 13, 2019



## ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Member Responsible
Umbrella Project	Determine if the Umbrella Project parent website link could be added to the CPS website.	Cathy
	Add some information about the Umbrella Project to the planner for next year.	
Button maker	Determine if the button maker from KWAG can be borrowed by the school rather than purchasing our own for other school events.	Cathy
Connecting with the Woolwich-Wellesley WRDSB Trustee (Karen Meissner)	Invitation to join us for our Jump2Math event.	Cathy
	Set up a meeting for a general discussion and to get to know each other.	Jenny?
Family skating event	Determine if CSA helmets would be required if this is an event run through the school.	Cathy
	Follow up with details and let Council know what they can do to help out.	Rebecca
Fundraising activities	Maple Syrup grant application	Gena, Erin
	Kidney clothing drive (to be run by Green Team)	Gena, Erin
PRO Grant	Jump2Math poster and School Day messaging	Deb, Laura, Colleen
Communications	Develop a succession plan for a new team to take over Council communications.	Deb, Jenn
Playground update	Include on the agenda for the March meeting.	Gena
Speaker from Teachers College		
School ground maintenance (slippery back hill)		



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



## **Agenda – Review & Approval**

### **Adjustments to Agenda:**

- Postpone Teachers College Discussion

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

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Deb

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Karen H

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

### **Adjustments to Minutes:**

- None

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

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Deb

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Jenn



## PRESENTATIONS

### Teacher's Report – Sherry Morland

- Umbrella Project: Mindfulness Jar
  - Uses a jar with glitter to talk about stress or being upset, and shows how being still and mindful allows the glitter to settle, just like your mind.
  - The teachers have been sharing this idea and using it for multiple grades/classes.
  - Kindergarten students will be making one to take home and use to learn about self regulation.
- Kindergartener students also thinking about mindfulness during their quiet time and relaxing with pillows and blankets.
- Other strategies for being mindful include walking away, deep breaths, and thinking about the zones of regulation (green, blue, yellow, red – the teachers also have these symbols on their lanyards as a reminder for everyone). The teachers can check in with the kids and ask how they are feeling today, i.e. what zone are they in?
- Self regulation is also through social stories, and the school purchased several books on this topic by [Cheri Meiners](#) to discuss these issues with the kids and give them strategies (also includes ideas for parents and teachers, games and activities). The same author has similar books for older students and they are highly recommended.
- What are the strategies the teachers are using for older students?
  - “Hook-ups” involve moving your body in certain ways to promote thinking patterns (“[Brain Gym](#)”)
  - Counting in your head, deep breathing, stress balls, get a drink of water, teachers talk a lot about what works for us to share ideas and normalize it.
  - The Umbrella Project also has a parent website and could perhaps be added to the CPS website.
    - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Determine if this link could be added to the school website.**

### Principal's Report – Cathy Baer

- Umbrella Project: February is “Mindfulness” and March is “Autonomy”
  - We are also embedding the skills to keep building on what we learned in previous months
- Bell Let's Talk: Great involvement from students and positive feedback.
- “Love is Love” fundraiser with buttons was very successful and there is a request to consider purchasing a button maker. Council indicated that a button maker can be signed out from the Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery and this might be something to consider in the future.
  - Funds went to a variety of projects, including “Ok to be Me” and “[ACCKWA](#)” (HIV/AIDs organization).
  - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Will look into borrowing the button maker from KWAG instead of purchasing one.**
- Request for Strong Start volunteers: Council suggested that the time commitment needs to be communicated more clearly and more people may be willing to volunteer.
- Brightening up Room 12: Very dark basement room. The ceiling tiles need to be replaced to help brighten up the space (they have been painted by previous students and can be used as art elsewhere or pictures taken and used for a slideshow).
- Visit from Trustee, Karen Meissner: We can also invite her to JUMP2Math (**ACTION ITEM, Cathy**) and she



can be our voice in the Region.

- **ACTION ITEM, Jenny?: Set up a meeting with Karen Meissner (School Trustee) for a general discussion and to get to know each other.**
- Bus Cancellations: Note that 173 out of 283 students at CPS take the bus.
- Parking lot – planner message for next year:
  - Student Drop-Off / Pick-Up: Please do not drop off or pick up students in the staff parking lot from 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. or 3:10 – 4:00 p.m.. There is additional parking on Flax Mill Drive, Glasgow Str., Weberlyn Cres., Musselman Cres., Ferland Avenue or Country Spring Walk. Please do not block bus areas or entrances/exits and please do not park on the grass.
  - Suggestion from Council: include a map if possible or put a link to the website (and have a map on the website).
  - **Suggestion: add Umbrella Project to the planner for next year (ACTION ITEM: Cathy).**
- Upcoming field trips: Please check the Calendar on our website, <https://con.wrdsb.ca/calendar-events/>.

## STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### WRAPC Report – Jessica

- Strategic plan and budget: Some things are mandated by the Province, and the Board has control over some things. New policies by the Province are not having a big impact on Board policies currently.
- Graduation rates and EQAO scores have increased to meet and exceed provincial average.
- Parent engagement and Council engagement in schools varies from school to school.
- High needs student requirements impacts other students and this was expressed as a concern:
  - Accommodations are mandated by the Province and schools have management plans.
  - Parents of students with IEPs also concerned with how the needs of these students are being met.
  - Schools are seeing increased enrollment, increased ESL, and increased learning needs, and decreased budgets, so this is an ongoing challenge.
- Pooling financial resources from Parent Councils was brought up for discussion. A school with a strong budget would have the option to donate funds to a school that is struggling. (This will always be optional).
- New provincial budget will limit capital (building) projects.
- Province limits what can be fundraised for (for CPS, this limits our ability to act on issues like the slippery hill on the northwest side of the building).
  - We should be reporting and filing accident reports related to this area to build a case for the landscaping repair.
  - Historically, this has been an area of concern for over 5 years.
  - Senior students do use a different entrance when the conditions are too dangerous.
  - **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Include on the agenda for March.**

### Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Reviewed current budget and playground planning:
  - Updates on fundraising plans and spending expectations.
- Maple Syrup grant: **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Follow up with Erin.**
  - Note: This was raised during the meeting in January as well with no clear conclusions.



## COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

### Fundraising Update – Fundraising Committee, Shawna

- Family skate event – postponed to March or April.
  - Insurance is covered by the facility, and we would strongly recommend CSA approved helmet.
  - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Determine if CSA helmets would be required if this is an event run through the school.**
  - Possible dates: March 23 or March 30.
  - RIM park might be a good location because items can be rented and this may make it more inclusive.
  - **ACTION ITEM, Rebecca: Follow up with details and let Council know what they can do to help out.**
- Kidney Foundation: Pick up on Saturday.
  - Drop off on Saturday morning, pick up on Saturday afternoon.
  - **Action Item, Rebecca: Send emailed info to Gena (event to be run by the Green Team).**
- Handmade show:
  - 20 paid vendors have signed up.
  - 26 vendors can fit in the gym, and there is capacity for 40 including the hallways.
  - October 26 (Double check).
  - See the [Facebook page](#) for details.
  - Suggestion to make sure there are food vendors.

### PRO Grant Jump2Math Update – Deb, Laura

- Family Math Night ([Jump2Math](#))
- Grades JK – Grade 6 families (children included) come and participate in large games and other big math activities. To do list:
  - 16-20 volunteers required – grade 8 students requested (and grade 7 if needed).
    - Teachers are rallying volunteers.
  - Gym needs to be cleaned very thoroughly and available from 2:30 onward that day to set-up.
    - Custodian will clean it with an auto-scrubber starting at 2 PM.
  - Can pizza be provided for the volunteers? Yes, this should fit in the budget.
  - Refreshment table: No food is permitted in the gym during the event, but a table can be run by the grade 7 and 8 and these funds can be raised for their own event. The Learning Commons space would be available for gathering.
  - Council volunteers will be needed to help during registration on the night of.
  - Deb will develop School Day message, and Laura is working posters.
    - **ACTION ITEM, Colleen: Print 11 x 14 posters.**





## Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools and Playground Update - Cathy

- Committee met and also discussed playground through the eyes of the committee.
- Goal: Playground layout to be determined and installed gradually.
- Consultation with students revealed three areas to consider:
  - Rainbow colours used to welcome LGBT community
    - Suggestion: Paint the Gagaball pit rainbow colours
  - Free standing basketball hoops to allow independent play/practice (less competitive focus)
  - "Hang out" area, rather than loitering by the doors.
    - Picnic tables with shelter to protect from the elements for games, colouring, chatting, etc.
- Buddy Bench (\$1150 plus installation) very positively received.
  - WEFI Grant funding and Optimist grants are being investigated by Cathy.
- Outdoor drinking fountain – determining if this is a facility cost.
- **Various ideas to be discussed in greater detail at the meeting March (ACTION ITEM, Gena: include on the March agenda).**
- Karen H to help with mapping suggested playground layouts.
- Additional school community member to join committee: Julie O.

## OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Succession Planning: Council Communications – Deb

- Deb would like to mentor additional council members to take on communication roles.
  - Jenn Metzolf has indicated an interest and additional people are strongly encouraged to participate
  - Several people are suggested for sharing this role as a team.
  - Can you break this down into specific roles so people are clear on what they are signing up for?
    - For example: Website person, School Day person....? Or a director/lead and a team to follow through?
  - **ACTION ITEM, Deb and Jenn: Discuss a plan to bring to council for March meeting.**

### Speaker from Teachers College – Jenny

- **ACTION ITEM, GEna: Include on the agenda for March.**

## ADJOURNMENT

### Motioned by:

1<sup>st</sup>: Jenny

2<sup>nd</sup>: Deb