



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

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## UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

### 2018-19 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, April 18
- Family Skate: Saturday, March 23
- PRO Grant event: Family Math Night, Thursday, April 11
- Kidney Clothing Drive: Thursday, April 11, and Friday, April 12
- Teacher Appreciation (Desserts): May 29
- Upcoming Council Meetings (the third Thursday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays):
  - April 18, 2019
  - May 16, 2019
  - June 13, 2019



## ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Member Responsible	
Playground Update	Painting the Gagaball pit: Investigate paint and stain options and consider long-term maintenance (provide suggestions at April meeting)	All	
Budget	Brock McGillis visit	Determine the total costs	Cathy
		Include in budget discussion for next year	Karen H
Kindergarten Registration	Please REMIND all new families to register new Kindergarten students for next year as soon as possible.	All	
Fundraising: Finscrip/Flipgive	Please review the Fundscrip/Flipgive information, try these programs, and provide feedback to Gena	All	
Family Skate	Provide cash box with appropriate change	Karen H	
PRO Grant: Jump2Math	Print and distribute flyers	Gena, Agnes	
	Facilitate permission for grade 8 volunteers through School Day	Cathy	
	Organize/recruit volunteers from Council to help with the event	Deb	
April Agenda Items	Speaker from Teachers College	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	P	P			
Co-Chair	<b>Rebecca Hallman</b>	P	N	N	P	P	P	P			
Treasurer	<b>Karen Hofbauer</b>	P	N	P	N	P	P	P			
Communications	<b>Deb Jones</b>	P	P	P	P	N	P	P			
Secretary	<b>Gena Braun</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
Principal	<b>Cathy Baer</b>	P	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	N			
	Chris Sabean	N	N	P	N	N	N	N			
WRAPSC	<b>Jessica Gordon</b>	P	P	N	N	P	P	P			
	<b>Colleen Heinrichs</b>	P	P	N	P	P	P	P			
	<b>Gloria Ramage</b>	P	N	N	N	P	N	N			
Parent Members & Volunteers	<b>Marsha Ferguson</b>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
	<b>Agnes Lehtonen</b>	P	N	P	N	N	P	P			
	<b>Katherine Sunday</b>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
	Shawna Gingrich	P	P	P	P	P	N	N			
	<b>Karen Forsyth</b>	N	P	P	P	P	N	P			
	<b>Erin Schmidt</b>	P	P	P	P	P	N	P			
	Mel Thompson	P	N	N	N	N	N	N			
	<b>Laura Bredahl</b>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N			
	<b>Jenn Metzloff</b>	P	N	N	P	P	P	P			



## **Agenda – Review & Approval**

### **Adjustments to Agenda:**

- Speaker from Teachers College postponed until April

### **Agenda Approval with changes Motioned by:**

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

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

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

### **Adjustments to Minutes:**

- None

### **Minutes Approval with changes Motioned by:**

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

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



## PRESENTATIONS

### Teacher's Report – Carolee Fox

- Mud Puppy – May 5, UW, would love to have more great participation from Conestogo PS
  - 5 k, and Fun Run. The Conestogo PS Team details can be found [here](#).
- Jump Rope – May 15: Kick off. June 6, 7: Jump Rope event at the school.
  - The school gets point that can be redeemed through Wintergreen for items the Gym or outside.
- School attendance discussion:
  - Video on school attendance study: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/doctors-warn-of-serious-consequences-for-kids-who-miss-too-much-school-1.5018878>
  - Mrs. Fox added the following:
    - Absenteeism has a big impact on school learning! Family time and vacation is important, but it **needs to be balanced with the impact it has on their learning** and timed appropriately. This, combined with days missed due to illness, can have a big impact on learning, the sense of continuity in the classroom, and work ethic. “A student’s job is to come to school” and it is important help them build that work ethic.
    - Missing two days is a long time for young children and also impacts building their social skills.
    - Absenteeism has an impact on all children, especially those that are struggling or disadvantaged.
    - Students may also spend time away from school for other useful activities, such as leadership building, but the importance of school still needs to be protected and emphasized to children.
  - Council members provided the following comments:
    - Absenteeism can sometime be outside of parent control with long term illness, etc., and it is more helpful to focus on recognizing and supporting the importance of education rather than just looking at the number of days absent.
    - One council member indicated concern regarding some solitary work being done by older students when they have completed their work and they don’t feel they are being given useful and productive work (students feel like they might as well just stay home or feel that they are getting this message from the teacher). This issue seems to arise occasionally when the teachers are away from the classroom as well and the work provided for the students does not feel suitable/productive.
      - Note that a shortage of supply teachers within the Board may contribute to this issue and the school has to fill the class time as best they can in these situations.
  - Younger children (JK, SK) are typically away more often simply due to higher levels of illness (or exhaustion) and this is of course completely acceptable. They still benefit greatly from these early education programs.

### Principal's Report – Cathy Baer

- Umbrella Project – March is “Autonomy” and April is “Intrinsic Motivation”
  - The goal of this month is to encourage students to be confident to attempt tasks independently and



- solve problems on their own where possible.
- Autonomy is encouraged following "1-2-3 Then Me":
  - This approach asks students to rely first on their own and their peers' understanding of a task.
  - Give students one minute to go over the directions silently, two minutes to discuss the directions with each other, and three minutes to plan their approach to the task.
  - Only then should they ask for assistance.
  - Alternate approach: Give a one-minute explanation of the directions to the whole class in place of or prior to students reading the directions silently or in pairs.
- Umbrella Project:
  - Updated [Website](#): They are continuing to make the website more accessible and useful for parents and teachers
  - Primary Reading List (see attachment): Exemplifying the Umbrella Skills (Year 1)
    - Resilience
      - The Hugging Tree: A Story about Resiliency – Jill Neimark
      - Bounce Back: A book about Resilience – Cheri Meiners
      - Step forward with Problem Solving – Shannon Welbourn
    - Empathy
      - Empathy, I know how you feel – Liz George
      - How do I stand in Your Shoes – Susan DeBell
      - God's Dream – Desmond Tutu
      - Caring – Robin Doak
      - Step forward with Empathy – Shannon Welbourn
      - Live it! Empathy – Martha Martin
      - Understand and Care – Cheri Meiners
      - Homesick Penguin – Ken Bowser
      - Good Neighbour Nicholas – Virginia Kroll
      - Best Friend Trouble – Frances Itani
    - Kindness
      - Each Kindness – Jacqueline Woodson
      - Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed – Emily Pearson
      - If you plant a seed – Kadir Nelson
      - Paulie Pastrami Achieves World Peace – James Proimos
      - Kindness – Kimberley Pryor
      - Kindness to Share from A to Z – Todd Snow
      - Small Acts of Kindness – James Vallbracht
      - Kindness and Generosity: It starts with me – Jodie Shepard
      - One Caring Kid - A Book about you and what your kindness can do – Michaelene Mundy
      - When I'm Feeling Kind – Tracey Moroney
    - Gratitude
      - Look and Be Grateful – Tomie DePaola
      - The Thankful Book – Todd Parr
      - Thank you God – Bradley Wigger
      - Thankful – Eileen Spinelli
      - Thankfulness: A Gratitude Attitude – Liz George
      - Thankfulness – Cynthia Roberts
      - An Awesome Book of Thanks – Dallas Clayton
      - Attitude of Gratitude – Julie Andrews



- I'm Thankful Each Day – Pk Hallinan
- Give Thanks for Each Day – Steve Metzger
- Step Forward with Gratitude – Shannon Welbourn
- Growth Mindset
  - Anything is Possible – Giulia Belloni
  - Going Places – Paul A Reynolds
  - Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle – Chris Raschka
  - Rosie Revere Engineer – Andrea Beaty
  - Ish – Peter Reynolds
  - My Think a ma jink – Dave Whamond
  - The book of Mistakes – Corinna Luyken
  - It's Okay to Make Mistakes – Todd Parr
  - The Almost Impossible Thing – Basak Agaogulu
  - The Most Magnificent Thing – Ashley Spires
- Mindfulness
  - Sitting Still Like a Frog – Eline Snell
  - I am Peace: a book of Mindfulness – Susan Verde
  - Meditate with Me: a step by step mindfulness journey – Mariam Gates
  - A world of Pausabilities – Frank Sileo
  - Meditation is an Open Sky: mindfulness for kids – Whitney Stewart
  - The Lemonade Hurricane: a story about Mindfulness and Meditation – Licia Morelli
  - I am Yoga – Susan Verde Grit
- Grit:
  - Perseverance: I have Grit – Jodie Shepard
  - Step forward with Grit – Shannon Welbourn
  - Ada Twist Scientist – Andrea Beaty
  - The Tortoise and the Hare – Jerry Pinkney
  - The Most Magnificent Thing – Ashley Spires
  - Rosie Revere Engineer – Andrea Beaty
  - Grit – Ramona Siddoway
  - The Almost Impossible Thing – Basak Agaogulu
  - Sink or Swim – Valerie Coulman
  - Rosalyn Rutabaga and the biggest hole on earth – Marie-Louise Gay
  - Woodpecker wants a waffle – Steve Breen
  - The Thing Lou Couldn't Do – Ashley Spires
  - Pancakes for Breakfast – Tomie DePaola
- Cognitive Flexibility
  - What do You do With a Problem – Kobi Yamada
  - My Day is Ruined: a story teaching flexible thinking – Bryan Smith
  - Whimsy's Heavy Things – Julie Kraulis
  - Alexander and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day – Judith Viorst
  - More than one Way to be Okay – Ronit
  - Gross Step Froward with Problem Solving – Shannon Wellbourn
- Hope
  - Hope – Shaggy Hope is an Open Heart – Lauren Thompson
  - Hope – Kate Hannigan
  - Rain Brings Frogs: a little book of hope – Maryann Cocca-Leffler
- Compassion





- Lily and the Paper man – Rebecca Upjohn
- A sick Day for Amos McGee – Phillip Stead
- South – Partrick McDonnell
- Bear Feels Sick – Karma Wilson
- Angelo – David Macaulay
- Self Autonomy
  - Clark the Shark – Bruce Hale
  - Step Forward with Responsible Decision Making – Shannon Wellbourn
  - Stand Tall Molly Lou Mellon – Patty Lovell
  - Oddrey – David Whammond
- Self Efficacy
  - Oh The Places You'll Go – Dr. Seuss
  - The Best Figure Skater in the Whole Wide World – Linda Bailey
- Purpose
  - Clorinda Takes Flight – Robert Kinerk
  - Unsinkable – Larry Dane Brimner
  - Not the Quitting Kind – Sarra Roth
  - Stickley Sticks to It: a frog's guide to getting things done – Brenda Miles
- Mastery
  - Dream Big Little Pig – Kristi Yamaguchi
  - Jazlyn J Gets a Goal – Renna Bruce and Robin Oakes
  - The Best Figure Skater in the Whole Wide World – Linda Bailey
- Integrity
  - Step Forward with Integrity – Shannon Wilbourn
  - Integrity – Kimberley Jane Pryor
  - Live it. Integrity – Robert Walker
  - Honesty – Cynthia Roberts
  - Honesty – Kimberley Jane Pryor
  - I Tell the Truth – David Parker
  - The Golden Rule – Ilene Cooper
- Authenticity
  - Oddrey – David Whammond
  - The New Jumper – Oliver Jeffers
  - A Bad Case of Stripes – David Shannon
- Optimism
  - Step Forward with Optimism – Reagan Miller
  - Live it Optimism – Robert Walker
  - Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons – Eric Litwin
  - Sink or Swim – Valerie Coulman
  - Optimism – Terry Teague Meyer
  - Optimism: sunny side up! – Jodie Shepard
  - Today is a Great Day! – Bobbie Kalman
  - Good News Bad News – Jeff Mack
  - It's Tough to Lose Your Balloon – Jarret J. Krosoczka
- Healthy Lifestyle
  - You are Healthy – Todd Snow
  - Eating Well – Liz Gogerly
  - Exercise – Liz Gogerly



- From Head to Toe – Eric Carle
- Healthy Kids – Maya Ajera
- Health – Karen Durrie
- Miss Fox's Class Shapes Up – Eileen Spinelli
- Additional Resources Books with Positive Messages: Use these books to find quotes or snippets for multiple Umbrella themes!
  - E is for Ethics – Ian Corlett
  - Kid President's Guide to Being Awesome – Brad Montague
  - Edge – Chris Brady
  - 365 Days of Wonder – R. J. Palacio
- Sherwood Sound System Update: We had been renting one and then purchased our own in November, but it has not been working properly. We returned the faulty unit and exchanged it for a slightly more expensive new one (\$423 more) that is higher quality and was what was desired initially (and is the model we had rented in the past). Cathy intends to cover the difference in cost out of the school budget for now but we may be able to fund it using a different grant if the application is successful.
  - Karen H noted that we have some funds in the technology budget that could cover part of the cost if needed.
- CBC Recent Media Releases on Chronic Absenteeism (discussed during the Teachers Report)
  - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/school-absenteeism-pediatrics-1.5005670>
  - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/doctors-warn-of-serious-consequences-for-kids-who-miss-too-much-school-1.5018878>
- Feedback Requested:
  - 1) Painting Gaga Ball Pit Rainbow Colours:
    - Question: What kind of maintenance would this require over the long term? Council recommended getting a stain that would fade over time (rather than flake off).
    - **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Include this in the agenda for April (and Council can investigate ideas for painting).**
  - 2) [Brock McGillis](#) Guest Speaker:
    - Biography was included in the minutes during the fall.
    - Discussion of sexual identity and his experience as a homosexual.
    - Students could be split into two groups with a presentation for younger and older students.
    - His story also supports various Umbrella skills, such as resiliency.
    - Based on the budget, this would be something Council could consider funding for next year.
      - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Confirm the costs to have Brock McGillis come to the school.**
      - **ACTION ITEM, Karen: Include this in the budget discussion for next year.**
- **ACTION ITEM, all: Please REMIND all new families to register new Kindergarten students for next year as soon as possible.**
  - Current enrollment for JK next year is quite low.
  - Council suggested reposting this on the school sign to remind new parents.
- Upcoming Field Trips and Special Events: Please check the Calendar on our website, <https://con.wrdsb.ca/calendar-events/>.



## **STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Treasurer's Report – Karen**

- Deposit placed for craft show for next year.
- No other significant changes to the account since the last report.

### **WRAPC Report – Jessica**

- March 27: Bluevale PIC event is open to all parents and childcare is provided if needed. These events are excellent and attendance is recommended if possible. Information was provided through School Day.

### **Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools Committee - Cathy**

- Playground was discussed (and the rainbow bench); See details in the Principle's Report.



## COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

### Staff Appreciation – Jenny for Shawna

- Date changed to May 29 to avoid conflicts with other events in April.
- Treats/desserts will be provided for teachers by Council and parents.
- This happens to fall during EQAO and is good timing for the staff.

### Magazine Fundraising Update – Fundraising Committee

- Fundscrip/Flipgive (information provided by Gena):
  - Directed Council to the information already provided by e-mail and encouraged members and volunteers to try the program and provide feedback.
  - **ACTION ITEM, all: Please review the Fundscrip/Flipgive information, try these programs, and provide feedback to Gena**
- Kidney Foundation Clothing Drive (information provided by Erin):
  - Green Team to collect clothing and other items during Jump2Math and the following morning (April 11 and 12). The Kidney Foundation will pick up the items at noon on April 12.
- Family Skate, March 24 (information provided by Rebecca):
  - Ready to go! Pizza will be provided and other items from Fun Fair will be used/sold.
  - Extend the invitation to the wider community!
  - Help required starting at 3:30 and to clean up.
  - Note: We will need a cash box/change: **ACTION ITEM, Karen H: Will provide cash box with appropriate change.**

### Pro Grant Jump2Math Update – Laura/Deb

- Thursday, April 11: Jump2Math Family Night
- Colleen will print the posters
- Flyers: Double sided to advertise both Jump2Math
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Get paper from Rebecca, print flyers, and organize distribution with help from Agnes.**
- Deb has created webpage for the event and set up a scheduled post for the clothing drive.
- Food will not be provided to avoid any issues with keeping the Jump2Math equipment clean. Participants are welcome to bring water bottles to be used outside the event space.
- Grade eight students will be included by helping to run the activities:
  - Pizza will be provided for these volunteers.
  - Jenny suggested a google sign-up with a clear list of tasks.
  - Grade eight students will be trained by the Jump2Math staff and this message was provided to teachers and will be passed on to parents.
    - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Parents will need to provide permission, so it was suggested that this be obtained via a field trip invitation/form on School Day.**
  - **ACTION ITEM, Deb: Deb will send an e-mail to organize Council volunteers to help**



with the event.

## Playground Update – Cathy

- Site maps provided for Council members to discuss.
- Goal: Multi-year plan that we can build on over time.
- Considered many different needs and had input from students and teachers:
  - They would like a hang-out area, shaded, with fixed picnic tables (maybe chess tops). Suggested to put between the school wall and trees in an area that does not impact the field (northwest side).
    - This could also be used as an outdoor classroom and snack area.
    - Question: How long would the picnic tables be projected to last?
    - Items have to be purchased through specific vendors so costs are higher than for typical purchases.
  - Basketball hoop with three openings also suggested.
  - Painting the GagaBall pit was recommended.
- For the eroded area near the gym doors. Grounds is considering building onto the current path to connect these areas and reducing the slope. A fixed basketball net could be placed here as well or instead.
  - Some of these items have to be done by the Board as they fall under grounds maintenance.
- Wintergreen cards (from JumpRope for Heart) funds can also be put toward this.
- Kindergartens are requesting an area with “outdoor kitchen” and small climbing structures. The Kindergarten teachers have been “given” and area to come up with ideas.
- Area “5” will be planned for junior students. They are very interested in climbing! Platforms and slides are very expensive and probably not needed as we already have these features in our current playground. An obstacle course is also being considered.
- TREES: Board has a contract with a nursery and we can have a consultant come out to assist our planning (Green Team initiative).
- Recommendation from the Board and Cathy: By the end of 2019, start spending funds each year they are raised to add components to the playground.
- Council expressed appreciation for the work that has been done to date!
- Next steps:
  - Meet with the Kindergarten teachers to determine their needs/dreams.
  - Vendors will visit the school and provide suggestions and designs (hopefully by the end of April).
  - If the costs are over \$10,000 then three quotes must be obtained.
  - By May, plan to have designs to review.



## OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

### Communications Team Development – Deb, Jenn

- Plan a calendar for the next school year in advance to simplify developing a communication plan.
- Are there other methods we can use for communicating with parents?
  - Any methods have to be approved by the school administrator.
- A google form or word document with a list of guidelines and suggestions may help other council members develop messages for events they help to coordinate.
  - An outline for social media posts could also be provided.

### School Grounds Maintenance

- Discussed as part of the Playground Update.

### Speaker from Teachers College – Jenny

- Note: School board trustee to come to our next meeting as invited by Jenny.
- **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Put in the agenda for April.**

## ADJOURNMENT

### Motioned by:

1<sup>st</sup>: Rebecca

2<sup>nd</sup>: Karen