



Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Thursday, June 13, 2019

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2018-19 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, September 12, 2019
- **Proposed Council Meeting dates for 2019-2020** (the third Thursday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays):
 - Thursday, Sept 12, 2019
 - Thursday, Oct 17, 2019
 - Thursday, Nov 7, 2019 (Thursday, Nov 14 Parent Teacher Interviews?)
 - Thursday, Dec 12, 2019
 - Thursday, Jan 16, 2020
 - Thursday, Feb 20, 2020
 - Thursday, Mar 26, 2020 (March Break: Mar 16-20, 2020)
 - Thursday, Apr 16, 2020 (Easter Fri Apr 10, Mon Apr 13)
 - Thursday, May 14, 2020 (Victoria Day, Mon May 18)
 - Thursday, Jun 11, 2020



ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

Initiative/Project	Action Item	Member Responsible
Rural Child Well-Being Project	Provide Emily McClement with additional feedback regarding the program.	All
Kindergarten Welcome Night	Put a copy of the Kindergarten Welcome Night document (created by Jessica) in the Google drive.	Gena/Jessica
Subsidies/Assistance to participate in extra-curricular activities	Improve access to subsidies; investigate the possibly of doing this via School Day.	Cathy
Budget for 2019-2020	Review funding requests for 2019-2020.	Budget Committee
	Consider additional fundraising options.	Fundraising Committee
Playground	Investigate additional grants.	Gena
Fun Fair	Consider a direct fundraising option for Fun Fair via School Day or WEFI (and include in Communication Plan for 2019-2020).	Council/Jenn
	Request donations for silent auction.	All



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



Agenda – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Agenda:

- None

Agenda Approval with changes Motioned by:

1st: Erin

2nd: Jessica

Minutes, May – Review & Approval

Adjustments to Minutes:

- None

Minutes Approval with changes Motioned by:

1st: Jessica

2nd: Erin



PRESENTATIONS

Rural Child Well-Being Project – Cathy/Emily McClement

- A detailed description of the project can be found in the [Woolwich Community Health Center Update](#).
- This project is run through Woolwich Community Services (with funding from a Lyle S Hallman Foundation grant) and aims to fill gaps in rural programming for children and youth.
- These social and recreational programs are intended to overcome access barriers that result from lower density in rural vs urban communities.
- Sid Bater (Social Worker) assists with this project to help meet parent's needs.
- Free Programs:
 - Saturday program: Creative Crafts (June 22, 9:30 – 11:30 at Woolwich Memorial) and Curious Minds Program (STEAM).
 - Summer programming will be offered as well.
 - Programs held at a variety of locations depending on space available.
- Primary focus is children between 6 and 13.
- Youth Center at Woolwich Memorial is open from 1 PM to 10 PM Tuesday through Thursdays during the summer.
- These programs require registration, so food allergies and craft details can be communicated (i.e. appropriate clothing for messy crafts). Registration can be done via e-mail: ruralchildwellbeing@wchc.on.ca.
- Emily requested some feedback as follows:
 - What are some of the needs in our community/area for kids and parents?
 - Council member indicated gap in programming between very young and school age children (i.e. ages 3-5).
 - Do kids miss out on extracurricular programming that has a fee?
 - Council member noted that there are subsidies provided, but individuals may not feel comfortable accessing this or know how to access these resources.
 - Emily commented that this is an advantage of these programs as they are free.
 - What type of programs would be desired?
 - Arts and crafts, such as pottery.
 - Programs for pre-school children.
 - Would family workshops be useful or are there topics that might be beneficial?
 - Council may provide feedback via e-mail.
- **ACTION ITEM, all: Provide Emily with additional feedback if desired: emilym_wcs@yahoo.com**

Teacher's Report – Lori Hillman

- General feedback: It has been a great year and we are sad to see Cathy retire. She has had a great positive impact at CPS!
- EQAO: Students feel very positive about the experience this year.
- Track and Field was a great success.
- Kodaly Choir was also very successful. We are hopeful the choir will continue next year. Council also expressed appreciation for ALL the work that goes into making Kodaly a success!! Students and parents are so grateful!
 - This is such a great opportunity for students that don't have access to music instruction outside of



school, including the amazing experience of singing with an orchestra. This is the only program of its kind in Canada.

Principal's Report – Cathy Baer

- Thank you so much for the staff appreciation treats – we felt very appreciated!! Note: Cathy has never been at a school that expressed appreciation to the staff in this way.
- Thank you for the new sound system. It worked very well for our Jump Rope for Heart event. **It is available if you would like music for Fun Fair.**
- Umbrella Project –June is “Mastery”
 - 2019 – 2020 Skills: Empathy, Growth Mindset, Cognitive Flexibility, Authenticity, Purpose, Kindness, Self-Efficacy, Optimism and Lifestyle.
- Thank you to Jessica Gordon for welcoming our newest CPS families. Jessica also provided a handout with helpful tips for new families and contact info. **ACTION ITEM, Gena/Jessica: Put a copy of this document in the Council Google drive to have on hand for next year.**
 - Suggestion from Council: Ideal to have a parent of a recent (or current) kindergartener in this role to provide helpful advice.
- Staffing Updates:
 - We will not loose any teachers to enrollment but will see a drop in some programming time due to decreased SERT time (Special Education Resource Teacher) and decreased Guidance time.
 - Some teachers are shifting positions and responsibilities so that teachers can teach what they are passionate about.
 - Expect fewer split classes next year.
- Timetabling Process:
 - Optimizing the timetable for the students and so it is still a work in progress. The newer schedule will improve class timetabling.
- Items for future consideration, looking through a Safe, Caring and Inclusive lens:
 - Something to consider: Some of these programs can single out families for whom this is not affordable and can put pressure on families.
 - ESNS, ArtsShine, Mad Science.
 - Perhaps Council can support these programs to improve accessibility?
 - **NOTE: Council has a line item for subsidies, but it has never been used. It may be something to promote more directly.**
 - Grade 7/8 trip may also fall into this category.
 - Subsidies for field trips/events – parents may not be comfortable requesting assistance, so staff have been working to make this more accessible.
 - Activities/events for all students, such as Junglesport, are helpful in overcoming these access issue.
 - Question: Can WEFI be allocated accordingly? Yes.
 - Suggestion: Is there a way to make accessing subsidies easier? For example: A checkbox on School Day for example? (Also more accessible for parents working during the school day and unable to contact the school during business hours).
 - Teachers are also encouraged to reach out to indicate assistance can be provided.
 - **ACTION ITEM, Cathy: Will investigate the option of offering subsidy through School Day or another avenue.**
- Requests from Robin Goodwin:
 - Request for an Author visit – Eric Walters:



- JK to Grade 8. This individual needs to be booked well in advance (asap) so this needs to be determined before the end of the year. **ACTION ITEM, Council: Include in budget discussion for next year.**
- Request for funds to purchase magazines for the library.
- Other requests that may come up:
 - Brock McGillis, stereo system upgrade.
- Playground Enhancements Update:
 - Home Dome for Ages 2 – 5
 - Outdoor sitting area (WEFI fundraiser?)
 - Paving/landscaping to occur in July
 - Outdoor drinking fountain
 - Basketball backboards installed on outside gym wall
 - For future consideration – Junior/Intermediate Climber/Obstacle Course
- **Thank you!!! It has been an honour for me to be part of the Conestogo PS community!**
- 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

- Note: ESNS is a significant fundraiser, so this needs to be considered when planning for inclusivity.
- Budget Summary: Majority of expenses have been paid and additional revenue for this year can be put into the playground fund to purchase dome and tables.
 - If we can purchase the tables this year, the overall cost will be lower, and this can be accommodated in the budget, so it would be ideal to find a way to finance this project this year.
 - Considerations:
 - Fun Fair funds are not guaranteed – we need to have good weather, etc.
 - i.e. food may also need to be covered as Optimists have not yet responded.
 - QSP for next year is a bit unknown.
 - Holiday urns no longer available from the same vendor so some research needs to be done here.
 - Are we willing to forgo other items for playground? I.e. technology enhancements or author visits vs playground (a budget adjustment for one year could be considered).
 - Tables: 9 tables would be required to seat one complete class.
 - Note: Cathy would like to buy a table through WEFI (ACTION ITEM, Gena – send a card).
 - There are additional grants we can apply for. **ACTION ITEM, Gena: Investigate additional grant options.**
 - MOTION: For the budget for 2019-202, we are willing to give up technology enhancements and the author visit for one year **if required** to provide funds for the following playground enhancements:



- [dome](#) and 9 tables.
 - 1st: Erin
 - 2nd: Gena
 - Passed by vote.
- Additional suggestion: Provide direct fundraising option at or before Fun Fair through WEFI
 - Can we “round-up” to the nearest dollar or add as a “product” on School Day?
 - **ACTION ITEM, Jenn: Add to communication plan for next year.**

WRAPC Report – Jessica

- No updates.

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

- See Principles Report.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

Playground Update – Cathy

- Cathy presented playground structure to consider for future fundraising (“Game Time” Park n Play Design).
- Outdoor drinking fountain to be installed.
- Input from Council member:
 - Perhaps students can have more freedom with playing “zones” so kids of different ages can interact more and in different areas.
 - Feedback from Cathy: students have provided input that guides some of these rules (i.e. so big kids can play differently in the Gagaball pit than smaller children), but there will always be challenges.

Magazine/Fundraising Update – Fundraising Committee

- Craft Show – Shawna
 - Cost of advertising through lawn signs through E-Print Fast (12 x 18 signs = \$74/six including, 18 x 24 more, but all below \$100) not customized with the date and can be re-used.
 - Motion, Shawna: Purchase 10 of the 18 x 24 signs.
 - 2nd: Rebecca
 - Passed
 - Set up a table for kids’ craft/projects.
- Fun Fair – Jenny/Rebecca
 - Summer meeting to determine details.
 - Any new suggestions also welcome.
 - **ACTION ITEM, All: Start looking for donations for silent auction.**
 - Nimble Bus, Kung Fu, Photo Booth
 - TBD: Conestogo Horses.
- QSP/Magazine update – Karen F/Shawna



- Karen contacted QSP directly and the company will be closing operations as of June 28, 2019.
- Our QSP representative will be following up with some additional options starting in July.
- A committee will need to meet in the summer to consider fundraising options for 2019-2020.
 - Fundraising options: Father-Daughter ball etc. – we need to reach out to families to determine when/if inclusion would be an issue.

OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:

1st: Steph

2nd: Jenn