



## Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Wednesday, September 29, 2021

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## UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

### 2020-21 Event Dates:

- Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 20
  - November 17
  - December 15
  - January 19
  - February 16
  - March 23 (Adjusted FOR MARCH BREAK)
  - April 20
  - May 18
  - June 15



## ACTION ITEM SUMMARY

<b>Initiative/Project</b>	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>
Budget	Follow up on the expenses and ensure they are not owed money	Mr. Sendrea



## WELCOME & GENERAL BUSINESS

### Attendance

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

Role	2020-2021	Sep 29	Oct 20	Nov 17	Dec 15	Jan 19	Feb 16	Mar 23	Apr 20
Co-Chair	Colleen Heinrichs	P							
Co-Chair	Rebecca Hallman	P							
Treasurer	Karen Hofbauer	P							
Communications	Jenny Benham	P							
Communications	Gena Braun	P							
Secretary	Ian Howlett	P							
Principal	Michael Sendrea	P							
Teacher Reps	Shannon Brown								
		A							
Community	n/a	n/a							
WRAPSC	Jessica Gordon	P							
Parent Members & Volunteers	Cori Algeier	P							
	Christine Sanchez	P							
	Erin Schmidt	P							
	Lynn Ferguson	P							
	Agnes Lehtonen	N							
	Karen Forsyth	P							
	Erin Schmidt	P							



## Agenda – Review & Approval

<b>Adjustments to Agenda:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ADD Mrs. Goodwin: Request for magazines at the school</li></ul>	<b>Agenda approval with changes motioned by:</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup>: Jenny</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica</b>
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## Minutes, May– Review & Approval

<b>Adjustments to Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>	<b>Minutes approval with changes motioned by:</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup>: Colleen</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica</b>

## Council Election Results

- Added Cori Allgeier as a Parent Member
- MOTION: Accept election results
  - First: Jenny
  - Second: Jessica
  - Motion passed

## Council Meeting Dates

- Next Council Meeting: Wednesday, October 20
- Aiming to meet on Wednesdays as the back and forth on days last year was not helping attendance
  - November 17
  - December 15
  - January 19
  - February 16
  - March 23 (Adjusted FOR MARCH BREAK)
  - April 20
  - May 18
  - June 15



## PRESENTATIONS

### Teacher's Report – Mrs. Brown

- Mrs. Brown is one of the 2/3 teachers
- Today we had the Terry Fox run which was a success
- Tomorrow is Orange Shirt Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day
- Friday is Blue Jays Day so wear your blue to support the Jays
- **Question:** How is the general morale of the teachers for this year?
  - Answer: Things are going well. Teachers are more used to the routines now instead of adjusting for the first time

### Principal's Report – Mr. Sendrea

- The kids are getting used to the routines and protocols around Covid restrictions and staff is continuing to focus on Trauma-Informed teaching (as students are still dealing with the pandemic)
- This year we have ten classes which is the same as last year
- We have two Kindergarten classes this year (more than last year)
- Mr. Budafalvi is now acting as Special Education teacher
- Ms. Lacey is covering for Mrs. Morland while she is on indefinite leave
- Mr. Zack is replacing Mr. Lambert who is currently on a short-term leave
- Mr. McMillan is back from her maternity leave
- School is searching for a new custodian as Mr. Smith has left to be the Head Custodian at Elmira District Secondary School
  - Interviews are underway for that role
- One of the things that is being noticed this year is that there are more academic needs than in the past both in literacy and numeracy
  - This is consistent with other schools hearing from other principals
  - Dreambox is being recommended to parents as an app to help with mathematics
  - Lexia is being recommended as a literacy tool for children
- Parents are being very helpful in keeping kids home when they have symptoms
- We have raised over \$1700 so far for the Terry Fox run
- School does more than just having children wearing orange shirts for Orange Shirt Day including education of indigenous issues
- Remembrance Day has not yet been discussed. Mr. Lambert is usually the primary organizer of this but is on leave



- **Question:** What is happening in the schools in terms of restrictions in the classrooms? There have been conflicting reports from students. How is library impacted, recess, etc.
  - **Answer:** Library is being rolled to students by bringing books to students (Uber Reads). Older students can head to the library (capacity is 18, so full classes are not brought in). The 10-minute quiet time after lunch is not a program that was in place at CPS
  - There is a link on the CPS website that will describe some of the changes and rules (<https://con.wrdsb.ca/con-school-handbook/2021-22-and-covid-19/>)
- Lockers have been redone and are not yet available but will be used by the Grade 7s.
- **Question:** Can we form a committee now to look at the Grade 8 graduation
  - **Answer:** Would suggest waiting a month to plan as there are a few other priorities to tackle first
- **Question:** More behavioural issues are being noted in students, potentially more bullying-type behaviour from students as they return to school from extended periods at home. What is the school looking at to address that?
  - **Answer:** Individual issues are being addressed in the moments and with parents. Not seeing any systemic behaviour that is too serious at this point
- **Question:** For the Strong Start, will there be volunteers allowed in the school?
  - **Answer:** We should be getting the go ahead for that but no timeline yet
- **Question:** Do we have a reason why we have so many split classes at this point and is there any possibility of changing?
  - **Answer:** Want to assure parents that children in split classes that they will receive the same curriculum as if they were in a straight grade class. Straight grades are easier for the teacher but should be the same for students. Teachers are generally teaching in small groups in all kinds of classrooms to address students with different learning needs.
  - The reason there are two 2/3 splits is because of ministry requirements. Grades 1-3 have a maximum size of 20 for the classes, but there can be an exception in some percentage of the schools in the board to have up to 23. There are 24 Grade 2s alone, so that would not have worked.
- **Question:** Could students potentially group with their same grades for specific subjects?
  - **Answer:** It is something we can explore. Outside is much easier so it works for the Fall but may become more difficult due to distancing rules in the colder weather
- **Question:** Can that extend to recess play for children in the same grade but different classes?
  - **Answer:** Something that we can explore
- **Question:** Because some students are falling behind this year, so do we have more licenses for tools like Lexia to help those students?
  - **Answer:** Yes, we have more licenses
- There are a lot of questions so we should potentially schedule a Principal Social to talk more about these issues and other topics



## STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

### Treasurer's Report – Karen

- Planning normally happens in the Spring but we have not done that for this year due to the uncertainty around the pandemic
- Some items such as math funding and others have not come out of the account
- **Action:** Mr. Sendrea to follow up on the expenses and ensure they are not owed money
- **Question:** Do we have to submit our financials to the Board?
  - **Answer:** No, but we are audited occasionally. We were audited last year
- Each year we do send details on to the Board for fundraising, but this was not requested last year (likely due to Covid)

### WRAPSC Report – Jessica

- No updates, first meeting is in October
- If you have interest, you do not need to come to WRAPSC meetings
- You can get the link from various council members (reach out to Jessica if need be)
- New Director will be at the meeting to talk about his strategic vision so it would be worth attending
- Agendas are posted on the Board website under WRAPSC
- New Director visited the school today and is doing a tour of all schools

### Safe, Caring, Inclusive, and Healthy Schools Committee – Mr. Sendrea

- The committee has not been struck or met

## COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

### Active Together Program

- Research has been done to try and determine how parents can be involved in activities with their children
- Last year a program was started called Swim Together for women and their daughters in a coached swimming program together
- Building confidence and technical skills in swimming
- Presently in the second session and retention has been good
- Building out a model called Active Together by looking at the work with Swim Together and applying it together sports
- Starting a program called Run/Walk Together starting this Friday



- This will be the pilot version to gather feedback and determine what works and what doesn't
- Slides will be sent and attached with the minutes and folks can check out [activetogether.ca](http://activetogether.ca)
- \$30 fee per family starting this Friday for six weeks at Conestogo Public School

## Fundraising

- Fundraising is still a necessary component of our work
- Playground committee has gotten some designs to continue with a set-up for the older grades
- There was a funding gap, but a local organization has stepped up to cover a significant amount of the funding gap
- Our board contact has moved on from the board so we will be re-engaging with the board shortly
- One other request was to reach out the Township to see if we can secure additional funding

## Gardening Committee

- Thank you to those who have kept up our front gardens during lockdowns and Covid

## Fun Fair / New Fall Event

- Fun Fair is an important part of our fundraising every year, so should we be considering some options for fundraising this fall
- We would like to set up a committee to plan out fall fundraising
- Jenny, Katie Christine and Gena have volunteered to talk set up a committee for this
- **Question:** Are we continuing to promote Mabels Labels?
  - Answer - Details will be sent out to parents

## Monarch Waystation Program

- The Board is setting up Monarch Waystations at various schools
- We would need 100 sqft of space in the yard
- Erin and Gena would like to scout out space in the school yard where this system could be set up
- Mrs. Bauer would also like to be included in this program

## Crossing Guard

- There is significant traffic on Sawmill Road and there are concerns from parents about the increase in traffic
- Conestogo Public School was not selected to have speed cameras
- We would like to reach out to the existing Crossing Guards to get feedback and see if we can support them in any way
- **Question:** Can we reach out the Region of Waterloo to remove the detour sign on the south side of Sawmill since it is obstructing the view of traffic?



- **Answer:** Mr. Sendrea will reach out and investigate
- The teachers have noticed the traffic and fast-moving cars

## OPEN DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Question to Mr. Sendrea:** Are Parent-Teacher meetings happening?
  - **Answer:** No plans for in person meetings at this point so expecting it will be virtual again

## ADJOURNMENT

### Motioned by:

1<sup>st</sup>: Jenny

2<sup>nd</sup>: Katie