

Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Monday, November 21, 2022

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2023 Event Dates:

- Lion's Bingo: Wednesday, February 9, 2023
- Next Council Meeting: February 20, 2023
- Council Meeting Dates for 2023 (the third Monday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays)
 - April 17, 2023
 - May 15, 2023

WELCOME & GENERAL BUSINESS

Attendance

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

ROLE	2022 - 2023	Sept. 12	Oct. 17	Nov. 21	Jan. 16	Feb. 20	April 17	May 15
Co-Chair	Colleen Heinrichs	P	P	P				
Co-Chair	Rebecca Hallman	P	P	P				
Treasurer	Gena Braun	P	P	N				
Secretary	Christine Sanchez	P	P	P				
Principal	Sara MacNeill	P	P	P				
Teacher Reps	Carolee Fox (Lori Hillman, Oct.17)	P	P	P				
Community	Katie Misener	P	N	P				
WRAPSC	Kristen Kent	P	P	P				
Parent Members & Volunteers	Shawna Gingrich	P	P	N				
	Mark Edwards	P	P	P				
	Amy Hertz	P						
	Angelique Gray	P						
	Jenn Metzloff	P						
	Karen Forsyth	P		P				
	Ian Howlett	P	N	P				
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	N	N				
	Juli Oitment	P						
	Erin Schmidt	P	N	P				
	Jeremy Young	N	P	P				
	Karen Hoffbauer	N	P	P				
	Kim Hart	P	P	P				
Alicia Gross	P	P	P					

AGENDA – REVIEW & APPROVAL

- **Adjustments to Agenda for November 21, 2023 (3 items added)**
 - Playground
 - WRAPSC
 - Adding New Members
- **Agenda Approval**
 - **1st** – Colleen Heinrich
 - **2nd** – Erin Schmidt

MINUTES, October 17, 2022 – REVIEW & APPROVAL

- **Adjustments to Minutes – N/A**
- **Minutes Approval (with changes when applicable)**
 - **1st** – Kristen Kent
 - **2nd** – Katie Misener

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – Mrs. Fox

- Staff meeting was held outside for a 'change of pace'
- Exploring ways to incorporate indigenous education to maintain students' interest by relating it to their own lives
- Focus on nature/indigenous perspective and connecting it to language, science and math
- Introduce literature, art and music by indigenous cultures, i.e. "The Giving Tree" in Metis culture
- WRDSB will be rolling out a reading and writing program based on the Hagerty Program. Science is proving that learning how to read isn't a natural process.
- The importance of phonics was highlighted at the staff meeting. Phonics is the pathway to reading and whole group instruction will be starting in JK and the program will be made available for the primary and junior grades. Strong Start pairs well with the Hagerty program.
- There has been a cycle of peak absences within the last couple of months due to various colds and viruses being spread. Teachers need to come up with good ways to keep everyone connected.

Principal's Report – Mrs. MacNeill

- **TREE PROGRAM – Ripple Effect Education Program**
 - Program has started. The focus is building relationships/connections with the class and within yourself
 - Conflict resolution, growing as a community and understanding and respecting people's different perspectives are covered
- **BULLYING AWARENESS/PREVENTION WEEK**
 - November 20 – 26, 2022
- **SAFE, CARING, INCLUSIVE & HEALTHY SCHOOL COMMITTEE**
 - Focus will be on wellbeing/wellness, indigenous perspectives and understanding different lived experiences within and outside the classroom
- **KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE**
 - Friday, November 25, 2022
 - Tabletop activities and different stimuli will be made available
- **STUDENT LEADERSHIP**
 - Grade 7 & 8 students are spearheading the Remembrance Day Assembly, including the tech and other equipment required. They are going over assembly etiquette and making announcements regarding the special event.

- **SPIRIT TEAM**

- Meeting every Tuesday. Mrs. Thiel and Mrs. Fox are helping facilitate this team. There will be a Spirit Day once per month. Participation is not mandatory, and all themes have been thoughtfully decided through an equitable lens.
 - Spirit Days:
 - January – Sunglasses
 - February –
 - March – Favourite Colour
 - April – Super Fan Day
 - May – Mismatch Monday
 - June – Rainbow Spirit Day
- December Open House will happen on Tuesday the 20th and Wednesday the 21st beginning at 12:30 p.m., the doors to the school will open at 12:15 p.m. Self-screening, hand sanitizer and masks will be strongly encouraged.

- **BOOK FAIR**

- November 30 – December 2, 2022
- Each class will have time to attend. Older grades will be paired with younger grades
- List of desired books will be sent home with the child and parents can check the books online
- Funds raised will go towards indigenous land based learning books and different seating options for the library.

- **SENIOR BASKETBALL**

- Grade 7/8
- WRDSB Athletic Council has directed that no school can start basketball whether it be practices, drills or “practice” games before December 15, 2022
- Practices will be during school hours and games will take place right after school
- Juniors will be asked to try out if there isn’t enough interest

- **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Playgrounds are officially closed due to temperatures hovering around zero degrees
- Pizza Day – Tuesday, December 13, 2022
- Last Day of School – Friday, December 23, 2022

WRAPSC (School Board Meeting) – Kristen Kent

- Various topics were discussed including accessing Grants and strategizing how to properly state your purpose for grant applications
- Volunteer Waterloo spoke at the meeting
- The Coalition for Muslim Women (Kitchener/Waterloo) attended and spoke regarding complimentary information sessions they offer concerning hate crime incidents, Islamophobia and violence at home and within the community as well as justice initiatives.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

TREASURER’S REPORT - PARENT COUNCIL BUDGET, Gena Braun (N/A)

SILENT AUCTION – Karen Forsyth, Erin Schmidt & Katie Misener

- Currently 40 – 45 items have been collected, there needs to be a ‘push’ to reach out within the school community to acquire more donated items.
- Our goal is to raise \$4,000.00
- Items will be available for pick up inside the vestibule at the school

LION’S BINGO NIGHT

- Located at the Lion’s Club in Elmira on Thursday, February 9, 2023
- We will need some volunteers to stay behind and help collect and put away chairs and tables

PLAYGROUND UPDATE (Added to Agenda) – Colleen Heinrichs

- There has been acknowledgment that the Williamsburg playground and our newly installed playground have discrepancies with the installation. The vendor will attempt to remedy the situation in the spring of 2023.
- Alex Ramirez, Facility Manager, for the Board of Education, has advised that whatever the vendor is planning to do regarding adjusting the installation of the playground, a new playground assessment and inspection will have to be conducted. Given our situation the required approvals will be fast tracked.
- The playground will not be replaced and there continues to be uncertainty regarding any monetary compensation.

GRANTS

- There are a multitude of grants available to primary schools, including, PRO Grant, PIC Grant, TD Grant Friends of the Environment, Canada Post Community Foundation Grant.
- To increase our chances of a successful application, there needs to be a clear and detailed plan on what the funds will be used for with a detailed budget.
- Vote needs to be had regarding how funds (if successful) are to be allocated. This is an Agenda Item for January 16, 2023.

INQUIRY ITEMS

- **Grocery Card Fundraiser**
 - This is a local school community initiative from December 12-21, 2022
 - Any denomination of gift card is welcome and will be handed out anonymously to respect people's privacy
 - Unused gift cards will be distributed throughout the school year

- **Winter Hats/Gloves Drive – Leadership Team**
 - Drop Box will be available for new winter clothing items
 - Items will be distributed to outreach organizations within the Region.

- **Trees for Woolwich – Gena Braun**
 - 2 trees are available, and it has to go through 'facilities' in order to be approved

- **Teacher Plaques**
 - Recently there has been discussion as to who should be responsible for purchasing the plaques and if it is something the Parent Council wants to continue to provide and who should be recognized for providing the plaques, Parent Council or the school?
 - A Motion was tabled by Karen Hoffbauer and there will be a MOTION section within these Minutes (below).

MOTIONS (2 Motions)

TEACHER PLAQUES CRITERIA

1. We will no longer be purchasing gifts for teachers.
2. Plaques are not considered gifts.
3. Any teacher/principal retiring from Conestogo Public School will have a teacher plaque in recognition of their service, regardless of their tenure at the school.
4. Teachers/Principals will be recognized with a plaque once they have worked at Conestogo Public School for a minimum of five (5) years.
5. Parent Council will continue to provide the plaques

KAREN HOFFBAUER (Tabled Motion), the following members voted in support of this motion:

Rebecca Hallman

Kristen Kent

Erin Schmidt

Colleen Heinrich

Ian Howlett

Karen Hoffbauer (can you vote in favour of your own motion?)

MOTIONS CONTINUED....

KATIE MISENER (Tabled), Motion to add **Kim Hart** and **Alicia Gross** as Voting Members to Conestogo Parent Council.

The following members voted in support of this Motion:

Erin Schmidt – Second the Motion

Ian Howlett

Colleen Heinrich

Karen Forsyth

Kristen Kent

Karen Hoffbauer

Rebecca Hallman

MOTION PASSED: Kim Hart and Alicia Gross are Voting Members of Conestogo Parent Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by: Rebecca Hallman

1st: Rebecca Hallman

2nd: Kristen Kent