

Conestogo Public School – Council Minutes: Monday, October 17, 2022

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UPCOMING COUNCIL EVENTS

2022 – 2023 Event Dates:

- Online Silent Auction: November 19 – December 4
- Lion’s Bingo: Wednesday, February 9, 2023
- Next Council Meeting: November 21, 2022
- Council Meeting Dates for 2022 – 2023 (the third Monday of each month with some dates adjusted for events and holidays)
 - January 16, 2023
 - February 20, 2023
 - 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					
Co-Chair	Rebecca Hallman	P	P					
Treasurer	Gena Braun	P	P					
Secretary	Christine Sanchez	P	P					
Principal	Sara MacNeill	P	P					
Teacher Reps	Carolee Fox (Lori Hillman, Oct.17)	P	P					
Community	Katie Misener	P	N					
WRAPSC	Kristen Kent	P	P					
Parent Members & Volunteers	Shawna Gingrich	P	P					
	Mark Edwards	P	P					
	Amy Hertz	P						
	Angelique Gray	P						
	Jenn Metzloff	P						
	Karen Forsyth	P						
	Ian Howlett	P	N					
	Agnes Lehtonen	P	N					
	Juli Oitment	P						
	Erin Schmidt	P	N					
	Jeremy Young	N	P					
Karen Hoffbauer	N	P						

AGENDA – REVIEW & APPROVAL

- **Adjustments to Agenda – N/A**
- **Agenda Approval (with changes when applicable)**
 - **1st** – Gena Braun
 - **2nd** – Karen Hoffbauer

MINUTES, September 2022 – REVIEW & APPROVAL

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

PRESENTATIONS

Teacher's Report – Ms. Lori Hillman

- Ms. Hillman introduced herself and expressed appreciation for in person learning and her enthusiasm for teaching and learning in person for this school year.
- Outdoor learning centre was discussed, including identifying tree species and the learning garden, indicating that outdoor learning is widely accepted amongst the students.
- Gym equipment needed concerning deterioration of equipment. More gym equipment is required and replacements of existing gym accessories are needed.
- Remembrance Day assembly on November 11, 2022, will be the very first assembly as a school community. This assembly solidifies and drives the spirit of community within the school. Letters are written to veterans in nursing homes and there will be a Google Doc created to commemorate this observance.

Principal's Report – Mrs. MacNeill

- **Outdoor Education (Land Based Learning)**
 - Outdoor Education team from the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Outdoor Ed centre came out to do some outdoor activities and learning with K-6 students.
 - There are 2 Monarch Waystations and the students will be planting seeds to create biodiversity
 - Land based learning and our outdoor space will be utilized by staff and students to enhance learning throughout the school year in all kinds of weather and children should be dressed accordingly.
- **Student Leadership**
 - Students have been eager to help and volunteer their time in all requested areas.
 - Grade 5 & 6 students are volunteering their time as **'Lunch Helpers'** for the primary grades.
 - Grade 7 & 8 students have started a **'Leadership Team'** wherein they will be involved in school assemblies, MCing for Spirit Days, class visits, announcements, making posters, having a tech team for setting up sound systems for assemblies, etc. This leadership aspect will be evolving as the students want to be involved and contribute to school culture. They meet every Tuesday and Mrs. Thiel and Mrs. Fox are helping facilitate this team.
 - Spirit Days:
 - November – Mustache Day
 - December – Comfy Cozy Day

Principal's Report – Mrs. MacNeill, Continued...

- **Special Food Days**
 - Lunch Lady has been approved to provide our students with lunch on Wednesdays
 - Pizza has been sourced to provide options for Halal, gluten free and dairy free options for students if desired or required. Pizza will be offered once a month.
 - Lunch days will be happening during first break.

- **Strong Start**
 - The program starts this week (October 17, 2022). Three volunteers are assisting with this program and 10 people have completed the volunteer process and are on our approved volunteer list to be used as needed.

- **Photo Retake Day, November 1, 2022**

- **TREE Program**
 - This program involves relationship building with self and others, including how to resolve conflict and intervene in appropriate ways to become a leader in peacemaking.
 - This program will begin the week of November 14, 2022 for Grades 1 – 8
 - The cost is substantially subsidized for all Woolwich schools by an anonymous donor
 - The facilitators of this program will be in discussion with each teacher to discuss class dynamics beforehand.
 - There will be 5 workshops for each grade. The sessions for the junior and senior grades will be 1.5 hours per session. The sessions for the primary grades will be 1 hour per session.

- **Remembrance Day Assembly**
 - The Leadership Team is helping to organize this assembly.

- **Sports**
 - Mrs. Thiel and Ms. Rudd are facilitating the volleyball team for the Grade 7 and Grade 8.

- **Harry Potter Club**
 - The club is open to any interested students from Grades 3 – 8.

Principal's Report – Mrs. MacNeill, Continued...

- **School Day**
 - This program is now 'up and running' and is open to taking payments.

- **Kitchener Ranger Game**
 - On November 4, 2022, students in Grade 7 & 8 have been invited and will perform the Canadian & American National Anthem at the Kitchener Auditorium.

- **Halloween**
 - Students are permitted to wear a costume, theme colours, so long as their 'costume' does not offend.
 - Students are not permitted to bring props or wear masks.
 - There must be an environment of peace and respect for those that do not celebrate this day.
 - This day is to remain a teachable and educational day.
 - Treat protocol must be followed, which includes purchased fully wrapped items produced in a commercial facility and that does not contain any allergens that students may have within the specific class.

- **Safe Caring Inclusive Healthy Schools**
 - Met with staff interested in being involved. There needs to be a consensus on what we need to focus on. Students will be part of the team. Parent volunteers will be needed and meetings will be held during the day at the first nutrition break.

WRAPSC (School Board Meeting) – Kristen Kent

- Various topics were discussed including accessing Grants, equity, fundraising, the Public School Board Trustee All Candidates Meeting, Bridging WRAPSC and PIC.
- Supporting kids to get 'back on track', the effectiveness of programs, potentially involving pediatricians, mental health advocates and the possibility of using Council money to support kids' success.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS – STATUS REPORTS

TREASURER’S REPORT - PARENT COUNCIL BUDGET, Gena Braun

- The budget was approved unanimously and the 2022 – 2023 budget is attached to this correspondence
- When going over the budget there were key line items discussed:
 - **Grants.** We do need someone to help with grants (PROGrant, Lions Club, Kiwanis Grant, TD Friends of the Environment)
 - **Winter Social.** This event is held in St. Jacobs at the Lion’s Hall. Expenses are covered through ticket sales. The goal is to run at a balance and put on a nice community event.
 - **Gym equipment.** Utility balls are needed. Council would like an itemized list of equipment needed.
 - **Home Reading** books are needed. Our current inventory is in bad shape and new books are required such as Decodables, Soundwalls, Early reading behaviours (The Science of Reading)
 - **Trees for Woolwich**
 - **Teacher Plaques,** is this something that we want to continue to implement?

Fun Fair – Rebecca Hallman

- The Fair was a success and next year we need a new strategy for the ‘participation’ cards that were handed out for the games

Playground Update – Colleen Heinrichs

- The playground structure and installation discrepancies continue to persist. Alex Ramirez, Facility Manager, for the Board of Education, compared the structure.
- Parent Council was advised to request that the vendor provide specs and installation requirements. No specs were provided.
- The vendor appears to be ‘pushing back’ indicating that it may be the mulch or the grading of the land. They have offered to come out to discuss the installation.
- Based on the structure in Williamsburg and compared to our structure, the difference in elevation for key aspects such as the ‘monkey bars’ is anywhere from 6” to 12”, based on measurements from a ‘lay’ person.
- The new play structure was also the wrong colour. There needs to be leeway to negotiate, whether it be requesting a refund or acquiring more useful play equipment.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is used for early learning technology, math and reading, club supplies, etc. Requests from the staff that could be supported through fundraising include: Outdoor learning (i.e., mud kitchens), Equity tools in the library (the Board provides minimal funding for the library, so additional support is requested, including library teacher resources).

- **Online Silent Auction – Karen, Erin, Rebecca**
 - Items are required
 - There will be a list of previous items accrued and businesses contacted from the previous year in the hopes that these businesses will support us again.
 - Karen and Erin will be sending out an email with a Donation Request Letter and confirming dates for donations and when online auction will start.

- **Lion’s BINGO Night**
 - Taking place on Thursday, February 9, 2023 in Elmira at the Lion’s Hall

- **Mabel’s Labels**

INQUIRY ITEMS

- **Winter Concert**
 - The Winter Concert will be referred to as a Winter Open House. The exact date will be provided later.
 - Participation is voluntary by teacher(s) and student(s) alike.

- **Extra-Curricular Sport Activities**
 - Currently extra-curricular sport activities are available to the senior grades as it pertains to volleyball
 - Going forward, parents would like to be notified when try-outs for teams are occurring in order to make sure that hesitant students are encouraged to participate in the try outs.

- **Greenway Holiday Fundraiser**
 - Is there an interest to facilitate this project? The turn around time is fairly quick, but there is minimal ‘hands on’ involvement as the set up and purchasing are done on ‘School Day’.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by:

1st:

2nd: