

Connaught School Council Meeting – June 18, 2019 Minutes

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Approval of Agenda

- Draft agenda – **Approved**
- Minutes from May 21st meeting – **Approved**

2. Principal's Report (Caretta Williams DeAveiro)

- **Planning:**
 - Staff departures include Karen Mackey (Learning Support Teacher), Tammy Moffatt (Library Technician) and Jackie Barratt (Breakfast Coordinator, Lunch Monitor) who will be retiring, as well as Dylan Rankin (Teacher), Mary-Kate Thompson (Teacher) and Brooke Davis (Early Childhood Educator - ECE) who will be moving on to new schools.
 - Other changes include the hiring of part-time staff (Merve Fathel (ECE) and Lydia Cochrane (ECE)) into full-time contracts for next year.
 - The library has been booked next year for the third Tuesday of every month for school council meetings.
- **Community Use of the School:**
 - Connaught has lost "priority status" for community use which means that groups now will have to pay full cost when using space at the school.
- **School Buses:**
 - Walking School Bus:
 - A conversation took place with Vicky Kyriaco (General Manager, Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA)) about the Trotibus link. Trotibus is a program that was started by the Canadian Cancer Society to help elementary school children walk to school together in the morning, accompanied by parents and volunteers. It is a 100% volunteer model as opposed to OTSA's funded or hybrid models. It was learned that one school is piloting it right now.
 - Discussion: Given that Connaught's WSB program will remain funded by OSTA for next year, we are being encouraged to promote it to parents so as to increase our participation. As a next step, Caretta will include information on the WSB, including how to register with OSTA, in the End of Year Principal's Newsletter.
 - Regular School Buses:
 - The cost of school buses has gone up and we can expect this trend to continue into next year. For example, teachers were quoted

\$1600 for two buses to go to Upper Canada Village and because of this, they decided to cancel the trip.

- One factor appears to be a lack of competition in busing services.
- Council, who already provides support towards the costs of bus transportation for fieldtrips, will monitor the issue and discuss whether additional money will need to be allocated for next year.

- **School Council**

- A big thank you to the Parent Council, for all of the work that they do, and to parent volunteers in classrooms.
- Possible "Asks" for next year include additional funding for paper and toner (as prices are increasing) and support to build or purchase a new movable cabinet for the library.

3. Teacher's Report (Michelle Richardson)

Classroom activities:

Kinders:

- ***Inquiry Topic*** - Animal life cycles (i.e. butterfly, chick, bumblebee)
- ***Nature Education Centre*** - Outdoor classroom has been in use with all this beautiful weather! Students have enjoyed outdoor learning stations for all subject areas.
- ***Grade 1 transition sessions*** - have been ongoing for the past two weeks. Students have met all grade 1 teachers and toured classrooms.

Primary and Junior:

- ***Scientists in Schools*** (Gr 1) – Visits took place on June 4-5 to talk about "Energy".
- ***Picnic in the Park*** (Gr 1 & 2) – All classes will be going to Hintonburg Park for a picnic on June 26th all afternoon.
- ***Swim to Survive*** (Gr 3) – Took place three times in June.
- ***Abbeyfield House*** (Gr 3) – Trip to the senior residence took place to interview the residents about what they did for entertainment when they were children.
- ***Wax Museum and Time Travel*** (Gr. 3, 4) – Visit to take place on June 21st.

Extra-curricular activities:

- **Kinder Concert** – The end of year concert for the Kiwanis will take place on June 21, 9:00, in the large gym.
- **Proulx Farm** – Kinder Field Trip to take place on June 26th.
- **Bake Sale** - Grade 5 classes will have a bake sale during the End of Year BBQ to help raise funds for the grade 6 overnight field trip to MacSkimming.
- **Track and Field** – Took place on June 11th at Carine Wilson High School. Connaught placed third overall and the Grade 5 boys took home the banner for their age group.

4. Treasurer's report (Laura Hurst)

- **Highlights from the past month:**
 - **Revenues:**
 - Pizza sales concluded and were well ahead of target earning close to \$7400.
 - Lawn it for Connaught – over \$7000 raised for Schoolyard Renewal Campaign.
 - **Spending:**
 - Hot Lunches website renewal for 2019-20 - \$236.25
 - Staff Good-bye Book initiative - \$175
 - Butterfly garden planter for NEC - \$90
 - Water fountain/bottle refilling station – \$1500 (pending)

6. Community updates

- **Connaught "Families Helping Families"**
 - Forward Family Shelter – Update (Holly Cartwright)
 - A number of parents are still in touch with the two families that were relocated from the Forward Family Shelter. Both families are doing well and the children have made lots of friends at their new school. The issues that one of the families experienced after moving in (e.g. washing machine repair) have all been resolved.
 - A bedframe, that was marked for one of the families, was also recently delivered.
 - Discussion:
 - An idea raised by one of the teachers was to use the *Families Helping Families* initiative to collect bicycles and helmets for students who might need them. It was noted that there is a particular need for bikes for older students (gr. 4-6). Although

there was support for the idea, it was determined that it would not be possible to link in with this initiative due to liability risks for the school.

6. Committee Updates and Events

- Lawn it for Connaught Feedback - June 14th (Cynthia Shelswell, Darlene Moll)
 - The event was a huge success, generating over \$7000.
 - Feedback has been so positive that there are plans to make it an annual event.
 - Participants appreciated the instruction they received from the club volunteers and the way that the event was organized which provided opportunities to meet new people while playing games, as well as to have time to mingle and participate in the Silent Auction.
 - Organizers felt that the sponsors were key to the fundraising success of the evening. It is felt too that there's an opportunity to grow this area with additional sponsorships and a potentially larger silent auction. The cash bar was also a huge success.
 - Waste Management: Efforts made included the use of compostable materials and the requirement for guests to reuse their plastic glasses. It was also noted that the waste receptacles provided by the club, which consisted of two clear plastic bags suspended from a frame, worked well for collecting black and blue box items as it was clearer for people to see what should go where.

- End of Year BBQ – June 19th (Kirsten Hanna)
 - Preparations are well underway; meat and vegetarian hamburgers and hotdogs have been purchased along with vegetable platters, drinks and popcorn. The Grade 5 classes will be hosting the bake sale to raise funds for the sleep over at MacSkimming that will take place in Grade 6. The henna artist who participated in previous years, will be on hand again this year for the event.
 - In previous years, meat options (in particular, burgers) have sold out early. A suggestion from a former Connaught BBQ volunteer was to anticipate the need for a minimum of 350 burgers.

- Pay it Forward – June 24-28 (Karen Monaghan)
 - A notice will be going home in the back-pack express informing families of this year's event. It was decided to keep the fundraising aspect separate so

as to distinguish this event from the Lawn Bowling event and to keep the focus more on giving back to the community.

- It was also decided to keep the Chimp account active for the next year to collect donations for this event and to acknowledge sponsors.

- **Schoolyard Renewal Committee**

- **Site Planning and Implementation** (Kerry Barnes, Melissa Black)
 - Big Yard Development Plan – Summer 2019
 - The tendering process, which will enable the Board to identify the successful contractor to complete the Turf Field Project, will be completed this week.
 - Work to install the turf is expected to start this summer and to finish sometime in the fall.
 - Nature Education Centre
 - The rebuild of the garden beds is now complete and looks fantastic! THANK YOU School Council, Lee Valley, Lowes ... and Marcus Heath (parent volunteer)!!!
 - The new beds were planted by grade 3 classes during *Growing Up Organic* workshops, as well as by kinders and grades 4/5.
 - A list of families to care for the garden in the summer is being coordinated.
 - An online news article on the NEC appeared in the June issue of the Kitchissippi Times.
- **Communications and Engagement** (Catherine Pirie, Karina Roman)
 - An information table for the Turf Field Project will be set up at the End of Year BBQ – June 19th.

7. Club Updates

- Leadership Club
 - Celebratory end of year slide show took place on June 12th followed by ice cream treats by Merry Dairy.
- Eco Club
 - Continue to recycle pens and markers.

8. Reflections on the Year

- It was a full and productive year for the Student Council. The Turf Field Project and the conception of the *Lawn it for Connaught* event were sited as two very large accomplishments. There was also pride in Council's continued emphasis on "community" which can be seen through the establishment of the *Families helping Families* initiative and the continuation of outward facing events such as Stone Soup (now approaching year 15) and Pay-it-Forward (now in year 2). The outstanding work done in the Nature Education Centre which included the installation of a new butterfly garden, an insect hotel and 7 new garden beds was noted, as was the work done to plan and organize Connaught's popular annual Winter Feast and End of Year BBQ events.
- Suggestions for next year include the resurrection of the Active Transportation Committee, developing a plan for using the collection of historical Connaught photographs, and examining ways to more easily add council-related items to Connaught's website.

9. Key Dates

- Next Meeting : September 17, 2019