

Connaught School Council Meeting – May 21, 2019 Minutes

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

- Draft agenda – **Approved**
- Minutes from April 16th meeting – **Approved**

2. Changes to Walking School Bus Program

- OSTA confirmed that the current WSB program is not operating at capacity. There was a waiting list in September but since this time, children have not been using it consistently and numbers have dropped off.
- After further reviewing Connaught's WSB route (and path through the hazard zone), it was determined that it was not a good fit for testing the Hybrid model. However, council is encouraged to promote participation in the program to justify the continued support of two paid leaders for 2019-2020. OSTA may also look at introducing a 100% volunteer model on the north side of the Queensway at a later date.
- Agreement around the table to promote the program. A suggestion was made to use the Principal's newsletter to help drum up interest.

3. Principal's Report

- **Planning**
 - The school's capacity is 420; enrollment for 2019-2020 is at about 395.
 - Seven staff members will not be returning to Connaught in 2019-2020.
 - Astrid Johnson is organizing a donation to the library in the names of the staff which include departing teachers, early childhood educators and a librarian. The initiative includes book donations in the amounts of \$25 per teacher. Staff is asking for council's support again this year.
 - **Ask:** \$175 for good-bye book donation initiative
- **Connaught Open House**
 - Took place on May 8th and was fairly well attended, particularly in the younger classes.
 - Attendance was higher in classes where teachers had reached out. It was noted that unless teachers communicated the event, parents were not as likely to have known about it or to have felt welcome to participate.
 - Another comment was that it was on the same day as the school play which may have prevented some parents from participating.

- **Visit from the Mayor**
 - Mayor Jim Watson visited the school during the week of May 13th along with the Kiwanis District Lieutenant Governor and the President of the Kiwanis International. The visit was, in part, to acknowledge the Kiwanis Clubs extensive volunteer efforts at the school. Kiwanis club members have been reading to Connaught students for 27 years. Some photos were taken during the visit. It was confirmed that parental permission is always obtained before photos are used.

- **Other**
 - Connaught's Volunteer Breakfast will take place on June 6th
 - The next PD day is June 7th; teachers will focus on report card writing.

4. Teacher's Report

Classroom activities:

Kinders:

- **Fire Station** – All classes went on a field trip to the fire station on Preston. The curriculum link was Community Helpers.
- **Coding Workshop (May 22nd)** – Workshop will be hosted by Louise Vaillancourt from the board office; students will use Ozobots and Bee Bots.
- **Scientists in Schools (May 1 and 6)** – Two workshops to take place titled "I can be a scientist".

Primary and Junior:

- ***Trip to NAC*** (Gr 1) – On May 29th, students will attend a play at the NAC called "Le petit cheval blue".
- ***Scientists in Schools*** (Gr 1) – Visits will take place on June 4-5; topic will be "Energy".
- ***Growing up Organic Workshop*** (Gr 3) – Taking place on June 5th.
- ***Project Webfoot Program*** (Gr 4-5) – Field trip to the Bill Mason Centre to participate in the wetlands educational program.
- ***Festival Franco Ontarien*** (Gr 5-6) – During the week of June 13th, students will attend the festival at Majors Hill Park. Activities include musical and art performances and food samples.
- ***International Children's Festival*** (Gr 6) - Took place during the week of May 8th. Students participated (wrote and performed in) two performances.

Extra-curricular activities:

- **Right to Play** – Students have started leading their game groups at recess. They hosted a game wearing red pinnies and invited students of all ages to join in a new game or to try something new (meet new people) through collaborative play. The students decided what type of activities they wanted to lead and wrote announcements inviting others to join. They provided support during the *Week of We* by organizing a “Virus” game in support of the Health Pillar.
- **Sports Teams:**
 - **Basketball** - Girls took first place in Tier 2, second place in Tier 1, and third place in Tier 3. Boys took first place in Tier 1, and third place in Tiers 2 and 3. “Connaught kids always set great examples of good sportsmanship, fair play, grit and skills!”
 - **Track and Field** – Try-outs are taking place from May 14th to 28th (Tuesday and Thursdays). The regional event will take place on June 11th at Carine Wilson High School.
- **Heart of the City Piano** – Some students are continuing with lessons.
- **Nature Education Centre:**
 - Students to participate in the garden bed rebuild and the development of the Insect Hotel and Butterfly Garden
 - Insect Hotel Committee: Filled the hotel with materials to attract bugs (branches, bamboo sticks, pine cones, clay flower pots).
 - Butterfly Garden Committee (Eco Club): to plant larger host plants (e.g. swamp milkweed) in new planter and smaller plants in the new spiral herb garden (e.g. parsley, dill).

5. Treasurer’s report

- **Highlights from the past month:**
 - **Revenues:**
 - Pizza sales are on track and proceeds (after expenses) are expected to exceed the \$6000 target for the year.
 - \$1300 raised from Star Wars movie night.
 - \$200 received for the sale of the shed.
 - **Spending:**

- Classroom expenses: Nine reimbursements (totalling \$802.44) have been made to date; still well below the \$2000 target for the year.
 - Club/Event expenses: One reimbursement (totalling \$116.93) was made; still well below the \$1000 target for the year.
 - Schoolyard renewal: \$60 000 was transferred from school council to the board for the Summer 2019 field project.
- **Spending Requests:**
 - \$1500 contribution to water fountain/bottle refilling station – **Approved (pending)**
 - \$175 for Staff Good-bye Book initiative - **Approved**
- **Other:**
 - Switch from Paypal to Bambura - The Hotlunches.net system recently adopted a company called Bambura as its new payment provider. This change has several benefits including the fact that Bambura is less expensive and simpler to use than Paypal. No actions are required by Hotlunches.net account holders. The next time they place an order in the system, the payment will automatically be processed by Bambura.
 - Hintonburg Community Centre Donation – Each year the HCC contributes \$1000 for arts or sports-related initiatives and it is time, once again, to make the request. A discussion took place on what to use the money for and it was decided that it could be used to purchase extra drums (5) for the Indigenous Ally group. Drums are \$100 each.

6. Community updates

- **Connaught “Families Helping Families”**
 - In the spirit of our ongoing efforts to help families, the following updates were provided:
 - A dining room set was located and delivered to a Connaught family.
 - A shelving credenza was put up for offer and a home was found with another Connaught family.

7. Committee Updates and Events

- Star Wars Movie Night – feedback
 - The event was a success, generating almost \$1300.

- A comment was made to have the next movie night feature a movie that will appeal to girls as much as boys. The movie "Troll" was suggested.
- Waste Management: A discussion took place on sustainable waste management during events. Suggestions were to use similar sized blue, black and green bins and smaller sized garbage bins and to label each with instructions and pictures to help guide the process. It was also suggested that the bins should closely resemble residential bins to help students make the association with what they do at home. Although the residential bins are smaller than the school's commercial sized bins, it was suggested that Enviro Club or Leadership Club students could be on hand to monitor and empty the bins as needed.
- Lawn Bowling (Cynthia and Darlene) – June 14th
 - Organizing is well under way with 15 teams of 4 already registered. The event is expected to sell out. Maximum number of players is 128; priority registration is going to Connaught community before being opened further. Sponsors from previous years have been invited to attend. About 150 people are expected including volunteers, spectators, etc.
- End of Year BBQ – June 19th (Kristen)
 - Organizing is underway.
- Pay it Forward – June (Karen)
 - Given the anticipated success of the Lawn Bowling event, it was suggested that this year's Pay-it-Forward event could be less about fundraising and more about giving back to the community and recognizing its long-term support over the years (e.g. Giant Tiger). An idea was to have the students prepare thank you cards to distribute to donors.
 - There was agreement around the table for this suggestion.
- **Schoolyard Renewal Committee**
 - **Site Planning and Implementation**
 - Big Yard Development Plan – Summer 2019
 - The board is finalizing conceptual plans and preparing to submit the project to tender.
 - Crews have been to the school to do survey and scoping work.
 - Nature Education Centre
 - Planning for the garden bed rebuild project is underway. The current 3 large beds will be dismantled and replaced with 7 new smaller beds. A new herb garden spiral will be built and placed near the entrance to the NEC.

- The garden shed has been removed in preparation for the installation of a concrete storage bunker (to be completed as part of the Summer Field Project).
- A volunteer DIY day is planned for May 26th
- There will be an article in the June issue of the Kitchissippi Times about the NEC.

○ ***Communications and Engagement***

- Schoolyard Renewal Parent Information Night - June 18th
- Information table at End of Year BBQ – June 19th

8. Club Updates

- Leadership Club
 - The Wonderful Week of WE (May 6-10) summary:
 - Food – seeds were planted for the garden.
 - Education – 20 minutes of whole-school reading took place.
 - Opportunity – 100 Rafiki bracelets were sold. \$500 of the sales will go directly to the community of Kipsongol.
 - Health – cards were made for CHEO and Civic Hospitals.
 - Water – “We walk for Water” simulation activity took place.
- Walking Club
 - Was a great turn out. Over 50 students from grades 2 to 4 participated in addition to 12 parent/grandparent volunteers and 8 staff members.
- Eco Club
 - Adopted a tree in a pot. Students will be taking care of the tree and will plant it at MacSkimming in the Fall.

9. Key Dates

- Next Meeting : June 18, 2019