

Connaught School Council Meeting – January 22, 2019 Minutes

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

- Draft agenda – **Approved**
- Minutes from November 20th and December 18th meetings – **Approved**

2. Principal's Report

- **PD Day – January 25th**
 - Focus on report card writing; report cards to be issued on Feb 14th.
- **School Learning Plan for Student Achievement**
 - Cycle 1 (numeracy and problem solving) is winding down; focus continues to be on work moderation, individual progress for students, number lines and descriptive (scaffolded) feedback.
 - Cycle 2 goal will link with specific curriculum objectives; staff will decide on the goal after Term 1 report cards.
- **Kindergarten Promotion Week**
 - Kindergarten Information Evening - Wednesday January 30th, 6 pm in the school library
 - Registration packages are available at the school, on the OCDSB website, or at the board office at 133 Greenbank Road.
 - Push on pre-registration
- **Winter Activity Fun Day - February 13th**
 - Students will be grouped according to their "House" colour.
- **OCDSB Strategic Plan (2019-23) - January 31, 2019**
 - Focus group discussion on the results of the online consultations with parents, staff, community members and students in the Fall.
 - Discussion to take place at Cairine Wilson High School from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Parents, staff and community invited to register on the [OCDSB](#) website.
- **Connaught Daycare/Toddler Program**
 - No announcements have been made and the understanding is that it will not be in place for September.
 - In the meantime, the rooms will be used for extracurricular activities (e.g. the play) as needed.

- **Discussion**

- Fraser Institute Report Card on Ontario Elementary Schools - 2019
 - Connaught received an 8.1 out of 10 rating based largely on its 2017-18 EQAO test results.
 - Tied for 5th place out of the 47 public elementary schools in Ottawa
 - Tied for 9th place out of all 81 elementary schools (with the exception of some private schools) in Ottawa
 - It was noted that although the report card results are a success story for the school, other drawing points for parents are often factors relating to the school's diversity (e.g. % ESL) and community ties.
- Water Fountain/Bottle Refilling Station – Third Floor
 - Caretta to submit work order to the board

3. Teacher's Report

Classroom activities:

Kinders:

- ***Artic Animal Inquiry and Ancient Egypt*** - Current inquiry topics focussing on penguins, narwhals and arctic foxes; jewelry, pyramids, sarcophagus and hieroglyphics.

Primary and Junior:

- ***Pioneer Village at MacSkimming*** (Grades 3 & 4) – Several classes visited the Pioneer Village at MacSkimming to learn about life in the region during the early 1900s.
- ***Scientists in Schools*** – Scientists visited the school to lead discussions on topics including "Pulleys and Gears" (Gr 3/4), "Forces Acting on Structures" (Gr 4/5) and "Celestial Sleuths" (Gr 5/6)
- ***Live video chat with Astronaut David St. Jacques*** – (Gr 5-6) – Several classes participated in the launch of a new interactive activity at the Science and Tech Museum which uses photos taken by astronaut David St. Jacques from the International Space Station (ISS). Students chatted with the astronaut to learn about his experience on the ISS and how the photos were taken. They also had the opportunity to meet Roberta Bondar, the first Canadian woman to go to

space. Connaught was one of 4 schools invited to attend and our students generated several of the questions that were posed to the astronaut.

Extra-curricular activities:

- ***Drama workshop*** (Kinders) – Took place with Kate from the Skeleton Key Theatre on Jan 22.
- ***Solutionary Workshops at the Parkdale Food Centre*** (Gr 6) - One-hour workshops on “Food Justice” where students discuss issues of poverty, health and food insecurity in their neighbourhood and to participate in a hands-on activity in the community kitchen.
- ***MacSkimming Overnight Fieldtrip*** (Gr 6) – Annual overnight trip to MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre. Students participated in orienteering and tree classification activities... collected materials and learned how to start a camp fire... did a night hike and saw a breathtaking view of the moon through a telescope.
- ***Volleyball intramurals*** – Intramural games/tournament tryouts have started.
- ***School Play (Jungle Book)*** – Auditions are over and parts have been assigned to students. Play rehearsals will begin shortly. A performance date will be set for some time in April.

4. Treasurer’s report

- Revenues:
 - No new revenues to report
- Spending:
 - Cheque issued for council’s annual contribution to the Field Trip School Bus Fund (\$1000)
 - Cheque issued for the Gr 6 overnight fieldtrip to MacSkimming from Citrus Fundraiser proceeds (\$600)
- Spending requests:
 - Gift certificate to families affected by Forward Family Shelter Closure (TBD)

5. Community updates

- **Forward Family Shelter – Update**

- One family has moved to new housing and the other two are scheduled to move on February 1st. The first family had most of the supplies they needed but the other two families, both led by a single parent, have a greater need for donated items.
- Lots of donations received to date including multiple living and dining room sets, kitchen supplies, etc. One of the dining room sets was not needed by the families and was sold (as vintage furniture) by a parent volunteer for \$800. The proceeds of the sale will go towards the purchase of two used washer/dryer sets for the families.
- For the February 1st moving date, a truck has been booked and parent volunteers organized to help with the move.
- A discussion took place on what to do with left-over donated items. It was decided that staff would reach out within the Connaught community to see if other families had a need for household supplies.

6. Committee Updates and Events

- Stone Soup – March 27th

- Plans are underway with bowls being ordered, teachers signing up to volunteer and an artist secured to help students paint their bowls.
- Leadership Club to help out again this year in exchange for a portion of the net proceeds (up to \$600). The role will be to help with waste management and the distribution of trays. Organizers to prepare a brief job description for the students.

- **Schoolyard Renewal Committee**

- Site Planning and Implementation

- ***Big Yard Funding Announcement*** – The board advised that they have allocated \$300 000 to install a new turf field at Connaught. This amount will go towards the total project including hiring consultants, obtaining permits, etc. Other costs will need to be covered through fundraising.
- A Landscape Architect will be hired to provide option concepts with rough budgets; once a concept is selected, a detailed design and costing will be established.
- The initial project will focus on the installation of a turf field with the redevelopment of the amphitheatre area for snow storage. An outdoor seating area may also be created.

- Fundraising

- Meeting took place on January 15th to discuss the plan for schoolyard fundraising activities for the remainder of the year.

- ***Planned upcoming events:***
 - Winter Parents Night out – February (details TBC)
 - Pancake Breakfast – March 5 (Shrove Tuesday)
 - Stone Soup Event Raffle – March 27th
 - Easter Chocolate Sale - April
 - Star Wars Movie Night – May 3rd
 - Lawn Bowling – May (Adult event)
 - Pay it Forward – June (Sponsorship-based fundraiser)

7. Clubs

- Leadership Club (M. Richardson)
 - Students will be adopting the story of Rose from Kipsongol to share at the Stone Soup event.
- Chess Club (R. Thompson and J. Cromey)
 - First week went well. Games were set up on three tables at a time which worked well. No kids were left out.
 - Julia Cromey, who volunteered in the past, has returned to help Rob. She is excited to be back!
 - No spending requests at the moment. The club has 20 full chess sets which is sufficient for the number of students currently enrolled.

8. Key Dates

- Next Meeting : February 19, 2019