

## Connaught School Council Meeting – December 18, 2018 Minutes

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

- Draft agenda – **Approved**
- Minutes from November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Deferred to January meeting**

### 2. Principal's Report

- Communications
  - Starting in the New Year more news/announcements/information from Council will be included in Principal's newsletters.
- Spirit of Giving (December 18-19) - Underway
  - Annual event where the Connaught Community donates new and lightly used items for students to purchase (for a nominal amount) as holiday gifts. Proceeds to be donated to the Parkdale Food Centre and the Somerset West Community Health Centre.
- Kindergarten Promotion Week
  - Will take place Jan 21-25
- Indigenous Ally Alliance – Update
  - Meet once per week for drums, singing and arts and crafts. Will be making placards for **Have a Heart Day** which is on February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussion:
  - A question was asked as to whether there were any updates on Connaught's Daycare/Toddler Program. On hold for now. Still a lot of logistical questions -- ratio would be 1-3, which would be a large number of additional adult workers, with resource, parking needs, etc. Expect a further update possibly by April.
  - **Happy holidays to all!!**

### 3. Teacher's Report

Classroom activities:

Kinders:

- **Outer Space with a Math Application!** Classes built space stations in the classrooms and are learning about astronauts and how they live in space. Word problems were then used to look at the number line in a way that's relevant. E.g. "There are 4 aliens on this planet and 6 on this one. Which planet has more? Find the answer using the number line."

- **Holiday Celebrations and "Things that move"!** Caribou friends constructed ramps and sleds using various recyclable materials and are testing classroom objects to see if they roll. They also learned about various holiday celebrations and made potato latkes in honour of Hanukkah.
- **Baking with a Math Application!** Students learned the story of the gingerbread man and participated in the baking process... created a bakeshop in their dramatic play centre and mixed ingredients to make gingerbread dough with Mrs. Jacquie. As a post activity, students graphed what part of the cookie (head, arms or feet) they ate first.

#### Primary and Junior:

- **Empathy/Community Building** (R3A) – The class continued to enjoy weekly sessions of the Roots of Empathy Program (and monthly visits with Baby Nolan). Students met with both their Little Buddies (Connaught Kinders) and Big Buddies (students from Fisher/Summit). Other accomplishments included the students reaching 41 minutes of sustained reading and making cards for overseas soldiers.
- **Forward Shelter Closure** – A Grade 1 class wrote letters to the city about their concerns over the shelter; Jeff Leiper came to speak with kids and delivered the letters to the mayor.
- **Growing Towers** - In production; Grade 5 English class to provide "salad bowl" lunch to primary class this Wednesday.

#### Extra-curricular activities:

- **Visits to Grace Manor** - On December 20<sup>th</sup>, Kinders (Beavers) will sing for the residents.
- **Winter Concert and Kiwanis Book Party** – On Dec 13<sup>th</sup> kinder classes hosted a special concert to honour Kiwanis volunteers who read to Connaught students.
- **Skating** - Some primary and junior classes will be skating in the New Year; there may be a need for donated skates and helmets.
- **Bordenball** – Tournament took place this week; grades 4-6 students played against other elementary schools in the district. Boys brought home Gold; girls came in a respectable fourth place.
- **School Play (Jungle Book)** – Three days of auditions took place; will be announcing those who were selected shortly.

#### 4. Treasurer's report

- Revenues:
  - First of three pizza rounds coming to a close – on track for ~\$6K budget for full year (close to \$2K in net proceeds from this round)

- Parent involvement grant received (\$500) from OCDSB
- Spending:
  - Toner refill purchased for office printer (~\$300) and Family Feast expenses roughly in line with expectations (\$135)
  - Have over \$60,000 set aside for Playground renewal (turf field), around \$8K in spending for council also budgeted for this year.
- Spending requests:
  - \$100 gas card for Jackie (thank you gift)
  - Reimbursement of \$100 to office for use of printer paper

## 5. Community updates

- **Mamisarvik "A Place of Healing" - Update**
  - Proposed addiction treatment centre at 25 Rosemount.
  - Didn't get answers to all of the questions raised.... however, the city has granted the variance required by the centre (no objections at zoning meeting). It will need to be a transition centre such as the Salvation Army.
  - Still to do: find out what the experience has been with other centres.
- **Forward Family Shelter – Update**
  - At the last council meeting we had just found out about the closing of the shelter, which impacted three families attending the school. Wrote a letter on behalf of Council, submitted and tweeted to mayor. CBC also got in contact and we were on radio, Internet and in the end probably helped to put more pressure on the mayor. Mayor committed in writing that the families would get long-term housing and the site would be kept for affordable housing. Concern about keeping families within the community but given the size of the families and the scarcity of local rentals it wasn't possible to find something close by. City was initially only offering one option for location but ended up in at least one case having a secondary (better) option provided. All the three families are moving to new housing – one as of Jan 15, and two on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The parent community has been providing both monetary donations (one parent provided \$200 in Wal-Mart gift certificates to the families) and also have been compiling a donation list of items to help with the transition. Council will be providing another \$300 in support in total for groceries.
  - Kerry Barnes offered her garage for storage of donated goods in advance of the families' moving date.
  - Suggestion for the idea of a liaison individual or committee for support for other families who may have needs in the future.

## 6. Committee Updates and Events

- Scholastic Book Fair

- A great success; proceeds generated \$3,523 from Scholastic that will be used for book purchases for library. This compares to about \$3,300 last year. Given a relatively weak selection of French books there will be a move to add the French book fair at the same time next year, which will help to increase the choices in French.

- Winter Family Feast

- Seemed a bit smaller, calmer this year. Kids activities generally went well – coloring on table and dance party were among highlights. Biggest problem was recruiting volunteers, and food supply was on the light side. Suggestion to move to late Nov instead when not as busy and re-emphasize the multicultural aspect of the event.

- Stone Soup

- To take place Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Just placed the order for the bowls. Will be ramping up in January. Agreed to allow Leadership Club to help out again this year (were a big help last year) in exchange for a profit sharing arrangement on a portion of the net proceeds.

- **Schoolyard Renewal Committee**

- Site Planning and Implementation

- ***S’Cool grant*** – Good news! – Were recently were awarded a grant of \$2,500 to purchase and install flowers for the music garden.
- ***Trees*** - Met with landscape architect from City on tree situation (Council has a \$3,500 City of Ottawa grant for new trees) and would like to work with Board directly on the plan – can put on hold for one more year but want to coordinate this with the Board.
- ***Big yard situation*** – Board just advised they have developed the budgets and allocated money to Connaught for a turf field. Scope of the project needs to be further assessed for cost and timelines, full scope to be determined and they also indicated they need to understand the Council financial commitment. While still not yet a firm commitment on the summer 2019 installation, Council is encouraged by this communication and will be in contact with the Board again in early January 2019.

- Fundraising

– **Results from recent fundraisers:**

- Citrus Fundraiser – Net proceeds of ~\$1,300. Overall went relatively well. One big challenge from the event was the need for more help in the future to run this event, particularly unloading the truck on the day of delivery. Some discussion of whether students could help in this process (i.e. the grade 6 class which was in a profit-sharing arrangement with council on this).
- Tiggy Winkles – Net proceeds of \$237. Recognized it had a relatively small turnout but is a fun event. Good event to bring people together, easy to organize as well. Do need more communication in future to promote.
- Christmas Wreaths – Net proceeds of ~\$370. Carp Garden Services stepped up last minute and were a very reliable and high-quality supplier of wreaths and centrepieces. Profits are a bit lower than last year but people seem to be happy with the quality. Agreement to start earlier next year.
- Raffle at winter feast – Proceeds of ~\$340, in line with recent raffles.

● **Looking ahead at upcoming events:**

- Pay it Forward event – to take place again in June
- Pancake breakfast – March 5 (Shrove Tuesday)
- Movie night - around the Star Wars theme again in May?
- Possible parent night out in Feb/Mar

● **Family Directory:**

- Finished updating, sent to participants this week; involved a lot of data input, will seek a more efficient process next year.

● **Active Transportation Committee** – still looking for a lead.

## 7. Clubs

● Knitting Club (Samagh, Crowe & grandparent volunteer)

- Starting in January; grades 3-6 will be invited to participate.

● Leadership Club (M. Richardson)

- Information shared at the recent Winter Family Feast event on the WE's 5 pillars. Another \$86 in donations was raised – now over \$100 YTD which will go toward the Kenya initiative. In January, the group's focus will shift to learning about and planning "Global" initiatives.

- Enviro Club (Desmarais & Larocque)
  - Working on a number of initiatives, including ensuring recycling bins for each class to collect pens/markers etc. to return to Staples. Still looking to improve the Litterless Lunches initiative and are informing students by making announcements on the PA system.
  
- Chess Club (R. Thompson)
  - We are very excited to offer chess club again this year for grades one to three. It will run from the third week of January (week of Jan 14-18) until the week prior to March Break (week of Mar 4-8). It will be held in the library during first recess (10:45 - 11:15). Grade six students will help. We are always looking for additional adult volunteers. Female volunteers would be especially welcome to help ensure the leadership of the club reflects the diversity of the players participating.
  
- Robotics Club:
  - The idea of a robotics club was raised using the Lego Minestorm. More investigation into whether a smaller scale rollout out of this might be possible in the new year. Possible candidate for the Best Buy grant program (STEM grant).

## **8. Key Dates**

- Next Meeting : January 22, 2019