

## Connaught School Council Meeting – Draft Minutes

**Date and Time:** November 19, 2019, 7:00 pm

**Location:** Connaught Public School Library

### In Attendance:

<b>Staff:</b>	Caretta Williams DeAveiro, Principal; Minou Morley, Vice Principal; Michelle Richardson, Teacher Representative.
<b>Parents:</b>	Sophia Wong, Chair; Laura Hurst, Treasurer; Andrea Villeneuve, Treasurer (in training); Melissa Black, Secretary; Kerry Barnes, Heather Hammond, Jennifer Joliffe, Lindsay Machinski, Sejal Mehra, Karen Monaghan, Danica Rogers, Mark Scrivens, Matt Villeneuve.
<b>Other:</b>	

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

- Draft agenda – **Approved**
- Minutes from October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting – **Approved**

### 2. Principal's Report (Caretta Williams DeAveiro)

- **School Learning and Wellbeing Plan**
  - The plan provides a school-wide focus to improve student achievement levels by enhancing the way curriculum is delivered, specifically creating the learning conditions and making strategic moves to target specific learning goals and curriculum strands in mathematics. It is developed from sources such as EQAO, report cards, teacher observation and classwork.
  - Our students continue to struggle with cross-strands or a cross disciplinary achievement of thinking and application. Two additional support resources have been provided to classes to help close the gaps.
- **Safe Arrival**
  - The board's new SafeArrival absence management system started today. Parents are now able to use a mobile app, a website, or an interactive toll-free phone line to report student absences. Schools are also able to better verify unreported absences to ensure student safety.
  - The first day went well with several parents successfully reporting their children's absences. During the transition, staff will also continue to accept absences reported by phone.
- **Adopt a School**

- [Robert E. Wilson Public School](#) has been identified a school in our superintendency which would benefit from school council support. The school is home to the *Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre* and to Ontario's first Inuit kindergarten class.
- Matching criteria included the school's RAISE status and its capacity, at the school council level, to raise funds.
- An area in which the school has requested support is with transportation and admission fees for outdoor learning activities.
- **Lead in the Pipes:**
  - Recent media reports on water quality in the province raised concerns about the levels of lead in the water systems at schools. The board issued a response to say that all of its elementary schools are currently in compliance with the requirements of Ontario's *Safe Drinking Water Act*.
  - Connaught's [2018 Lead sampling results](#) identified only one area, a water fountain in the unused daycare area on first floor, where levels indicated the need for weekly flushing. In this instance, results during testing showed standing levels of 0.0038 mg/L and levels of 0.001 mg/L after flushing. A total maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) of 0.005 mg/L is proposed for total lead in drinking water (Health Canada).
- **Labour Relations**
  - The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF) are in a legal strike position and will be starting a "Work to Rule" campaign on November 26, 2019.
  - At the elementary level, the work to Rule campaign is Phase 1 of the strike action. During this phase, there will be no impact on children or the quality of their learning environment. However, some administrative activities, such as participating in ministry and Board led professional development activities will be withdrawn.
  - No information has been released yet on Phase II of the strike action.
- **Teachers' Wish List**
  - Staff prepared a wish list of items identified for potential council support. Items included Connaught team shirts, DVD players, support for Scientists in Schools, and Active Learning Wobble Stools.
  - Discussion:
    - Team shirts:
      - It was pointed out that Connaught's existing team shirts are worn out and that with the school's Swag Fundraiser taking place, it would be a good time to purchase new ones. Both "quality" and "quantity" of shirts was discussed. It was

agreed that there should be enough shirts for two teams of boys or girls.

- **Ask:** 50 Connaught Colt T-shirts (dry weave) – **Approved**
- DVD players:
  - Staff explained that the board’s new IT platform requires that all equipment, tools, devices and applications in schools support Windows 10. Any technology that does not support Windows 10 will be removed from schools by the end of 2019. This will impact teachers as many trusted teaching aides are only available in DVD format and will no longer be supported. As a mitigation measure, it was suggested that staff use DVD player attachments on overhead projectors. These will need to be sourced and purchased.
  - **Ask:** 2-3 DVD player attachments - **Approved**
- Next steps: School council executive will meet in early December to review the list in detail and finalize spending priorities

### 3. Teachers’ Report

#### Kinders:

- **Writing** - Students are continuing to develop their writing skills using pictures and words
- **Math** - Students are playing various games (e.g. Drops in the Bucket, Tenzies) to practice making 10.
- **Inquiries** – Current enquiries are *Ancient Egypt* (Beavers) and *Bottom of the Ocean* (Cardinals).
- **Outdoor Learning** - Students have been enjoying snow painting, winter circle games and nature walks.
- **Drama Workshop** – Students will participate in a workshop with Kate from Skeleton Key Theatre group on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Primary and Junior:

- **Projects (Writing and Seasons)** (Gr 1) – Students are beginning their second BIG writing project. They will also be beginning their final project on “Seasons” and will be decorating the halls over the next few weeks to show off their knowledge!
- **Dancing** (Gr 1&2) – Students from several classes learned the Macarena and did a flash mob during a recess break!

- ***Persuasive Writing Skills Project*** (Gr 5/6) – Students prepared letters and information (including a scale area map) to present to school council and school board to advocate for ways to reduce the crowded conditions in their classroom. One idea presented was the purchase of active learning wobble stools.
- ***Republic of Childhood*** (Gr 3/4 English Gr 6 EFI) – Showcase event took place on November 20<sup>th</sup> at Fisher Park / Summit Alternative School and the Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre.

#### **Extra-curricular:**

- ***Visits to Grace Manor*** – Kinder students will be visiting Grace Manor on November 28<sup>th</sup> to sing to the residents.
- ***Nepean High School Play*** – Students will enjoy the play “Woodland Animals” presented by Nepean High School on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- ***Book Fair*** – Was immensely enjoyed by students again this year. “It was fun to see them trying to figure out their money and the cost of things.... As well as their selection of books, their interests.”
- ***Remembrance Day Ceremony*** (Gr 3&6) – Students from 2 classes partnered to sing *A Wish for Peace*, *Si Fragile* and *Thank you* as part of the Remembrance Day Ceremony. The event was attended by Connaught students and staff, parents and community members including Jeff Leiper, city councillor for Kitchissippi Ward.
- ***Sports Teams:***
  - **Bordenball** – Sign ups began last week. Students will start off by playing Intramural games. At the end of the session, a team will be selected to represent the school in a final tournament.

#### **4. Treasurer’s Report (Laura & Andrea)**

- **Highlights for the month:**
  - **Revenues:**
    - Pizza Days continue to track favorably to last year’s trend of \$2,400 net (for the first round).
    - Citrus fundraiser generated \$1,213.94 for the Grade 6 trip to MacSkimming and graduation.
    - Movie (Trolls) generated \$1,032.51 for Council-related priorities.
  - **Spending:**
    - \$1,500 contribution to water fountain/bottle refilling station – **Pending invoice**
    - \$300 contribution to new outdoor balls – **Invoice received at meeting for \$228.92 (below \$300 estimate)**

- \$63.52 contribution to art project (fiberglass tulips) and garden improvements - **Paid**
- **Other:**
  - A suggestion was made to forecast an annual amount (approx. \$1,500) for replacement mulch for the Kinder Yard. Note: Mulch needs to be CSA approved and supplied by the board.
  - A question was also asked about costs for installing shelves in the garden shed and whether this would be a council expense or something that that would be supplied by the board. Caretta to follow up with the board.

## 5. Committee Updates

- **Schoolyard Renewal (Kerry Barnes/Melissa Black)**
  - **Junior Play Structure**
    - The board confirmed that the play structure (P-259-01) was installed in 2001. Based on preliminary assessment, it will need to be replaced anywhere between 2023 and 2028 - dependent on annual inspections.
    - The average replacement costs for junior play structures, which includes site preparation and mulch surfacing, is \$80,000. Grants of up to \$15,000 are available to schools/school councils to support them in their efforts to replace play structures (e.g. City of Ottawa Community Partnership Minor Capital Grant Program).
  - **Art Committee**
    - Discussion took place around creating a committee to focus on "Art Beautification" projects inside and outside of the school. Projects planned so far include the creation of new interior and exterior murals and historic picture collage, and the painting/installation of fiberglass tulips (donated by the City).
    - A suggestion was made to reach out to parents in the Family Directory who agreed to allow Council to contact them regarding volunteer roles.
    - Next steps: Andrea to send Kerry and Melissa the list of names of potential volunteers.
- **Events and Fundraisers**
  - **Halloween Movie Night – Feedback**, Karen Monaghan (October 25<sup>th</sup>) – The movie Trolls was shown, which was a lot of fun for the

younger students. The event generated roughly the same amount of revenue as previous movie nights geared towards older students.

- **Discussion:** Due to the success of movie night events, it was proposed that a second event take place in the Spring.

Suggestions included another movie, to target older students, or a dance party. An informal survey of students (e.g. Dotmocracy vote) will take place to inform the decision.

- **Citrus Fundraiser - Feedback**, Mark Scrivens (October 29 deadline) – Over \$1,200 was raised for the Grade 6 winter sleepover at MacSkimming and graduation event. Fruit to be delivered on November 20<sup>th</sup>; grade 6 students and parents to help unload and distribute fruit.
- **Scholastic Book Fair - Feedback**, Laura Hurst (November 13-15) – Over \$6,000 worth of Scholastic products were sold which translated into over \$3,600 of credits from Scholastic to spend on books for the library! One comment was made regarding “Last Copy” markers. It was observed that the last copies of some books were sold which may have prevented some students from ordering their preferred books during the event. Suggestions for next year include the development of a procedures checklist for new volunteers.
- **Multicultural Potluck/Winter Family Feast**, Jennifer Joliffe and Heidi Feenstra (November 27 or 28) – More volunteers are needed. The suggestion was made to reach out to parents through the Family Directory and by Facebook. Due to the tendency for food to run out during this event, families are being encouraged to bring “Family sized” portions.
- **Wreath Fundraiser**, Melissa Black (November 6-29<sup>th</sup>) – Wreaths and Christmas décor items (planters, centerpieces and garlands) sourced from the Carp Garden Centre are available again this year for purchase. Proceeds of the event to go to various Council-related priorities. Order forms went out in the back pack express and were posted on Facebook; orders can be made through the HotLunches website or submitted by paper form. Sample items, displayed at the Scholastic Book Fair, were donated to the school by Carp Garden Centre. It was decided that they be offered as raffle items during the Winter Feast event.
- **Family Directory**, Andrea Villeneuve – the 2019-20 on-line directory was launched on November Nov 13<sup>th</sup> using information gathered (with permission) from the HotLunches registration page. A large majority of Connaught families are included in the directory which is an increase from previous years. The directory was created as a living

document which means that when new families are added, or existing details changed, there is no need to reissue it. For security purposes, the ability to download, print or copy the document was disabled.

## 6. Club Updates

- **Leadership Club (Michelle Richardson)**
  - Good Food Red Box Campaign – 465 food items and \$137 were collected! Food was delivered to Parkdale Food Centre on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Students will set up an Information Table at the Winter Feast event.
  - WE Day to take place on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
- **Environment Club (Marie-Eve Larocque, Sophie Desmarais)**
  - Students will be making “litterless lunch” presentations to classes. They will also be leading a new campaign to “bring your own plate” on Pizza Days to reduce paper and napkin waste.
  - Students will support waste management initiatives at the Winter Family Feast event on November 27<sup>th</sup>.
- **Indigenous School Alliance (Minou Morley)**
  - Students made awareness posters for Halloween. They are now making Medicine pouches.
- **Scratch Club (Sophie Desmarais)**
  - Participants include two groups of about 16 students each. Group 1 started in October and group 2 will start in November. Each group will have 8 sessions. Students meet during 25 minute recess breaks to learn and practice their coding skills.
- **Tech Club – (Matt Villeneuve, Parent)**
  - Extension to Scratch Club. Participants include a group of ten grade 6 students, who were former Scratch Club members. The club goes deeper into programming than the Scratch Club with the use of Micro:bit. Students are also using more advanced logic and are experimenting with If/Then loop statements. The intent is for them to create their own game and to present it to other students and/or parents. The club meets on Tuesdays at 3pm in the school library.
  - Next steps: Matt to follow up with S. Desmarais to coordinate the end of session presentations. For future sessions, the use of other programs (potentially Lego Mindstorm) will be explored.
- **Heart of the City Piano Program (Pam Jones)**
  - Program consists of 5 teachers and 12 students; lessons are now on-going. All students have a piano already in place at home or have borrowed one from the program for practice. The December 16<sup>th</sup> assembly may be used as the first mini recital.

## **7. Key Dates**

- Next Meeting : December 17, 2019