

Connaught School Council Meeting – Draft Minutes

Date and Time: December 17, 2019, 7:00 pm

Location: Connaught Public School Library

In Attendance:

Staff:	Caretta Williams DeAveiro, Outgoing Principal; Kim Simpson, Incoming Principal, Minou Morley, Vice Principal. <i>Note: Michelle Richardson, Teacher Representative, was absent due to strike protocol (Work-to-Rule Phase 2).</i>
Parents:	Sophia Wong, Chair; Laura Hurst, Treasurer; Andrea Villeneuve, Treasurer (in training); Melissa Black, Secretary; Kerry Barnes, Brian Cockburn, Elizabeth Eagan, Jennifer Joliffe, Lindsay Machinski, Catherine Pirie.
Other:	

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

- Draft agenda – **Approved**
- Minutes from November 19th meeting – **Approved**

2. Principal's Report (Caretta Williams DeAveiro)

- **Principal Transition**
 - On January 6, 2020, Caretta Williams DeAveiro will be moving to W.E. Gowling Public School; Kimberly Simpson, Vice Principal of Stonecrest Public School, will become the new principal at Connaught. Ms. Simpson (Kim) was in attendance for the meeting.
 - Members took the opportunity to welcome Kim to Connaught and wish Caretta well at her new school. A huge "Thank You" to Caretta for her support and commitment for the past three and a half years at Connaught.
- **Labour Update**
 - The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO) escalated its work-to-rule sanctions to Phase 2 on December 10, 2019. Protocol includes a partial withdrawal of services and requires that members do not participate in activities such as planning new field trips, attending

meetings outside of the instructional day and registering for Additional Qualification courses.

- It was mentioned that during the strike action, the Principal and Vice Principal would fill in for teachers as needed in extracurricular activities and clubs.
- **Schoolyard Safety Incident**
 - On December 11th, a student fell between a boulder and the fence surrounding the shade garden in the junior yard. Although there were no serious injuries, the yard supervisors took the precaution of calling 911 to make sure that the situation was handled correctly. As part of this process, the school was secured until the situation was assessed.
 - The board's Facilities Management group was informed of the incident and workers came the following day to adjust the position of the boulder.
 - It was questioned whether communications should have gone home to parents to explain the incident because different versions of the event were described by students. Staff explained that they only received one inquiry from a parent (the evening following the incident) and that they didn't feel that further communications were required.
- **Kinder Promotion Night (January 30th)**
 - An open house will take place on the evening of the 30th at 6pm in the Library. Council members are invited to attend to provide information on council-related priorities and activities. Note: Kinder registration period this year will be January 20-24.
- **Miscellaneous**
 - It was asked if the annual Spirit of Giving event was going to be held. Staff explained that it would not take place this year due to the retirement of key staff members and Phase II of the current ETFO labour action.

3. Teachers' Report (Extracted from shared document)

Week of Code - Students celebrated the week of code with special workshops from "Canada learning Code" and the *Ottawa U. Maker Mobile*. Kinders learned how to code stories using Scratch Jr. and became familiar with using beebots. Junior students benefited from an extra *Hour of Code Activities* and practiced their ability to code with blocks.

Kinders:

- **Literacy** - Students are learning reading behaviors including participation in small group reading circles.
- **Numeracy** - Students are playing various games to learn how to represent numbers and to practice making 10.

- ***Inquiries*** – Current inquiries are *Dinosaurs and Ancient Egypt*.

Primary and Junior:

- ***Entrepreneur Spotlight*** (Gr 3-4) – Pam from Westboro Granola Co. visited the school to talk business with the students behind Greenelicious. Pam shared her business story as well as samples of her granola.
- ***Author Visit*** – Jamaal Jackson Jones, slam poet, visited the school and read to students. The visit was organized through the Ottawa Public Library.

Extra-curricular:

- ***Skating*** – Students from several classes are getting geared up for skating outings starting in January.
- ***Bordenball (Remy Lachance & Alison Rowe)*** – Tournament to take place on December 19 at Ottawa U. Teams consist of boys and girls from grades 4 to 6.
- ***Greenelicious*** – The group recently sold out of kale chips made from the school garden. This week, they prepared their first batch of chips grown in the garden tower, and enjoyed a delicious meal of pesto pasta made with fresh basil from the garden tower.

4. Treasurer’s Report (Laura & Andrea)

- Laura provided an overview of consultations between council, staff and teachers to finalize the 2019-2020 wish list and spending priorities. She also provided updated balance sheets explaining the Council’s financial situation. As a summary:
 - Starting balance (December 2019): ~ **\$30,000**. From this amount:
 - ~ \$6,500 has been set aside for existing playground commitments (e.g. music garden flower, weather station)
 - ~ \$6,200 has been committed for recent 2019-2020 requests (e.g. Sports jerseys, DVD players, water fountain).
 - Projected remaining fundraising amounts for 2019-2020: ~ **\$12,000** (e.g. Lawn it for Connaught, Movie Nights, grants, etc.)
- Members discussed the remaining 2019-2020 spending requests submitted by teachers, staff and council members:
 - New items which were notionally approved during the meeting included:
 - Beebots (for Kinder classes): ~\$750
 - Scientists in Schools (Second session for Grade 1-6 classes): ~\$2,800
 - Chalkboard for NEC: ~\$1500
 - Wobble stools (8 to start): ~\$900
 - Chromebooks (10): ~\$4,200

- Microphones/audio equip (2): ~\$750
- Transportation for Connaught's adopted school (R.E. Wilson): ~\$800
- Interior/exterior art projects: ~\$2,000
- Volleyballs (15): ~ \$627
- French readers for junior EFI classes (~\$200)
- Headphones and splitters for junior grades (6 classes) (~400)
- Additional mulch for junior and kinder yards: \$3,000 (up from previous \$1,000)
- Kids on the Block: ~\$450
- Items that were either removed or put on hold included smaller requests that members felt could be included in teachers' \$100 reimbursement expenses and requests for items which required further evaluation (e.g. IXL math / language arts app subscription for grade 5-6 students will be tested via a free 45 day trial before a final decision is made).
- Next Steps:
 - Members to proceed in purchasing certain items notionally approved during meeting (e.g. wobble stools).
 - Staff to look into whether there could be an HST rebate applied to any of the items if they were to be purchased by the board (as opposed to council).
 - Kerry and Melissa to work with Kim on playground items requiring Form 800 submissions (e.g. bulletin board, outdoor chalk board).

5. Committee Updates

- **School Renewal Projects (Kerry Barnes/Melissa Black)**
 - **Art in the School**
 - Committee being formed to focus on "Art Beautification" projects inside and outside of the school. New parent volunteers include Lindsay Machinski, Elizabeth Eagan and Catherine Pirie, welcome!!
 - Kerry provided an overview of the priorities discussed so far which include creating a mural in the nook area (located at the entrance to the schoolyard), refreshing the mural located in the first floor hallway, and painting the 2 fiberglass tulips donated by the city. Members' ideas for projects include the installation of vinyl art on the interior of the school and the use of the MASC grant for the exterior nook project.
 - The committee would also like to engage Connaught's adopted school, R.E. Wilson in the projects. It was suggested that a group

from R.E. Wilson come to Connaught to view the completed art projects to see if there would be interest in installing similar ones in their school.

- Next steps: Committee to meet in the New Year to finalize project plans.

- **Events and Fundraisers**

- **Pizza Day – Update**, Brian Cockburn & Lindsay Machinsky – Brian mentioned that he found additional volunteers by reaching out to parents who identified through the Hotlunches website. It was also mentioned that the next pizza round would be starting in January and that notices went home in the backpack express. A number of parents did not receive them so an additional call will go out on FB.
- **Recently held Events/Fundraisers**
 - **Citrus Fundraiser - Feedback**, Mark Scrivens (October 29 deadline) – Over \$1,200 was raised for the Grade 6 winter sleepover at MacSkimming and graduation event. Citrus was delicious, particularly the grapefruit! A few reimbursements had to be made due to items not being picked up. It was suggested for next year that orders be “checked off” when picked up and that follow ups be made on any orders not picked up on the delivery day.
 - **Multicultural Potluck/Winter Family Feast - Feedback**, Jennifer Joliffe and Heidi Feenstra (November 27) – The event went smoothly this year with lots of food on hand and help from the Environment Club in managing the waste. Not as many volunteers were recruited as hoped. Suggestions for next year include reaching out for volunteers using the HotLunches website and providing more advance notice of the event. It was also mentioned that additional tables could be booked through the board (coordinated through Kim or Minou).
 - **Wreath Fundraiser - Feedback**, Melissa Black (November 6-December 6th) – Over \$700 was raised for School Council-related priorities. The items (wreaths, planters, centerpieces and garlands) were high quality and the ordering and delivery process went smoothly. It was felt that aligning the fundraiser with the Winter Family Feast worked well and that the display tables added to the festiveness of the evening. Although similar Christmas décor items can be sourced at lower prices, many parents and community members expressed appreciation with the quality of the items from Carp Garden Services. Suggestions

for next year are to increase the prices of certain items (e.g. wreaths) and to try to spread the word more within the community.

- **Discussion** – a suggestion was made to document the how Connaught’s main events and fundraisers are run to support knowledge transfer and continuity from one year to the next. Once completed, documents would be placed in the school council’s Google folder. Andrea agreed to coordinate.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - **Pancake Breakfast**, Sophia – February 25, 2020
 - **Stone Soup** – March (Cancelled)
 - **Dance Night**, Kerry & Danica – April (TBD)
 - **Vernissage**, Minou – May
 - **Movie Night** - May
 - **End of Year BBQ**, Kirsten - June
 - **Lawn-it-for Connaught**, Cynthia & Darlene - June

6. Club Updates

- **Leadership Club (Michelle Richardson)**
 - WE Day took place on December 10th at the National Arts Centre. Sixteen students from grades 5 and 6 attended; Ben Aloia did an amazing job speaking on the stage about growing food, healthy eating and Connaught’s own school garden!
 - Students also presented during the December 16th school assembly. They spoke about education and what going to school looks like in different parts of the world.
- **Environment Club (Marie-Eve Larocque, Sophie Desmarais)**
 - Campaign to “bring your own plate” on Pizza Days is going well. Students also provided information to students on alternative gift ideas for the holidays and placed gifts, wrapped with recycled paper, under the Christmas tree in the lobby.
- **Indigenous Ally Alliance (Minou Morley)**
 - Students delivered lettuce, sage and basil to the Parkdale Food Centre.
- **Tech Club – (Matt Villeneuve, Parent)**
 - Cohort 2 to start on January 7th. In addition to the grade 6 students who participated in Cohort 1, eleven students from grades 4 & 5 will also participate. Program will be adjusted slightly to ensure cohesiveness for existing and new students.
 - Cohort 3 will start in February/March. There is already a waiting list for this group.

7. Key Dates

- Next Meeting : January 21, 2019