

Connaught School Council Meeting – Draft Minutes

Date and Time: January 21, 2020, 7:00 pm

Location: Connaught Public School Library

In Attendance:

Staff:	Kim Simpson, Principal, Minou Morley, Vice Principal. <i>Note: Michelle Richardson, Teacher Representative, was absent due to ETFO strike action.</i>
Parents:	Karen Monaghan (replacing Sophia Wong, Chair); Laura Hurst, Treasurer; Andrea Villeneuve, Treasurer (in training); Melissa Black, Secretary; Kerry Barnes, Elizabeth Eagen, Heather Hammond, Jennifer Joliffe, Lindsay Machinski, Francis Otorola, Catherine Pirie, Karina Roman
Other:	

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

- Draft agenda – **Approved**
- Minutes from December 17th meeting – **Approved**

2. Principal's Report (Kim Simpson)

- **Transition and school updates**
 - Kim, now on day 12 of her new role, thanked everyone for being so helpful and welcoming, particularly Minou and Ida.
 - Items identified on the agenda were addressed as well as a number of follow up items from the December meeting. The following updates were provided:
 - Current enrolment is at 386; Six new students started in January.
 - Connaught Swag is in, thank you for your generosity! The items will be distributed on Thursday; call out for parent volunteers to help Marie-Douce.
 - The Board's Planning and Learning Department has indicated that Connaught will receive funding for teacher release for its Renewed Math Strategy in March/April.
 - A call out will be going out to parents regarding an opportunity for a casual lunch monitor position.

- Following a recent visit from the Fire Marshal, custodial staff is being asked to remove certain items from the school's mechanical room. The school council resource room has been identified as an alternative storage space. Francis Otorola and Jennifer Joliffe offered to help organize the room so as to make space.
- **Labour Relations Update**
 - The ETFO and OSSTF "work to rule" service withdrawals are now in effect; all OCDSB elementary schools school were closed on January 15th and 20th as a result of rotating strike action. Everyone has been very professional and respectful throughout the process. Parents who are looking for information and updates on the strike action are encouraged to check the [OCDSB](#) webpage.
 - Teachers are no longer collecting money or forms from students; this task is now being done by the administration team. The milk program registration form will be sent home on January 23rd; on line orders are encouraged.
 - Discussion: Staff confirmed that parent volunteers are able to help, and would be appreciated, during the strike action. A question was asked regarding the province's parent reimbursement program and whether parents could donate it back to the school. It was suggested that the best place for parents to donate their reimbursements, for the benefit of the school, would be to school council. It was also confirmed that:
 - Sports team intramurals would be happening but the tournament will probably not take place because staff cannot work outside of the regular school day.
 - Council-related events can still be run in the evenings as long as they do not take place on a Strike Day.
- **Kindergarten Information Night**
 - An open house will take place on the evening of the 30th at 6pm in the Library. Minou and Kim will present general information about Connaught's Kinder program. Andrea and Lindsay will do a small presentation on council activities including how new parents can volunteer.
 - It was noted that nine kinder students are registered so far for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - The next Kinder Night, where families can tour classes, is scheduled for May 7. The intent is to have it take place at the same time as the students' Vernissage event.
- **Black History Month**

- A company from Montreal will be coming to Connaught on March 13th (Friday before March Break) to give a presentation. They will explore black history and culture in Canada using an interactive approach, tailored to the elementary level.
- **Discussion**
 - **Green screens:**
 - Kim mentioned that green screens are currently being used as creative learning tools in other schools (e.g. Barrhaven) and that if there was an interest in having one at Connaught, the custodial team could prepare one for us.
 - Next Steps: Staff, with support from the ABC committee, to explore possible locations for a green screen (i.e. a space that is large and relatively uninterrupted). Kim to provide committee with copy of Connaught's floor plan.
 - **Learning Commons:**
 - Staff mentioned that this approach was currently being explored for our library, which is in need of a refresh. The approach focuses on the creation of a common or shared space to better support connectivity, collaboration and well-being so as to move students towards a greater level of engagement in learning.
 - Elizabeth informed the group that she had been contacted by Burovision, a Montreal-based office design and interior construction company. As part of their "[Get Inspired](#)" program, they are looking for a school in Ottawa in which they can plan and furnish the library space in support of the Learning Commons approach. Schools are required to submit an application for the program; applications will be accepted in February.
 - Next Steps: Elizabeth to share her information with Kim and Minou.

3. Teachers' Report (Minou Morley)

Primary and Junior:

- **Land-based Learning** (Gr 1-2) – The highlight this month was finding a variety of animal tracks in the Nature Education Centre.
- **Scientists in Schools** – (Gr 3-4) Workshop taking place on January 22nd to focus on "Strong and Stable Structures".
- **MASC Dance Workshop** – (Gr. 3-4) A workshop focusing on Latin American Dances (with Daniela Pueyo) took place on January 21st.

Extra-curricular:

- **Mindfulness** – On January 13th, “21 Days of Mindfulness with Rebecca” started.
- **Greenelicious** – Kale chips continue to sell well on Fridays with 100% of the harvest coming from Connaught’s indoor garden tower.

4. Treasurer’s Report (Laura Hurst & Andrea Villeneuve)

- Laura provided an overview of projected sources and uses of funds for the remainder of the school year and distributed a draft document for discussion purposes.
- Sources of funds: **~\$33,097** (includes the balance as of January 21, 2020 + remaining fundraising projections for the year).
- Projected expenses: **~\$26,072** (includes items discussed in the December meeting). For example:
 - IT-related (toner, chromebooks, dvd players, etc.):~\$5812
 - Workshops (e.g. Scientists for Schools): ~\$3250
 - Yard-related: ~\$3136
 - Library-related : ~\$3000
 - Art-related (MASC, painting carts, supplies):~\$2250
 - Classroom expenses (up to \$100/FT teacher): ~\$2000
 - Kinder Purchases (various): ~\$1353
 - Sports related (jerseys, balls, etc): ~\$1300
 - Adopted School:~\$800
 - Administration (e.g. bank fees, Hotlunches.net fees): ~\$320
- During the discussion, it was mentioned that some adjustments are expected as a result of the cancellation of events due to strike actions (e.g. \$200 deposit for the grade 6 field trip to MacSkimming and \$800 commitment to RE Wilson for field trip bus transportation). It was also mentioned that a downward adjustment had been made to the Movie Night projections to reflect a possible profit sharing arrangement with the Leadership Club.

5. Committee Updates

- **School Renewal Projects (Kerry Barnes/Melissa Black)**
 - **Art Beautification Committee (ABC)** – Lindsay Machinski, Elizabeth Eagan, Catherine Pirie
 - Lindsay presented the committee’s ideas for art projects including the installation of vinyl art in the first floor corridor, front entry, floors and stairs. Ideas included digital and drawn images (e.g. children’s hand prints) and text art (e.g. positive affirmations and reference to Connaught’s values). She also presented ideas to

6. Club Updates

- **Leadership Club (Michelle Richardson)**
 - Students are currently creating a large "Leadership Club" sign (with confetti gathered at WE Day!) and are beginning to plan for the "Wonderful Week of WE" in May.
- **Environment Club (Marie-Eve Larocque, Sophie Desmarais)**
 - Students are enjoying Enviro Club; which is comprised of a group of 25 very committed grades 2 & 3 students. New grades 2&3 members will have the opportunity to join in February. Students will continue with their marker recycling program and with encouraging students to bring reusable plates on pizza days. Their next area of focus will be seed saving, starting with tomatoes.
- **Indigenous Ally Alliance (Minou Morley)**
 - Students finished making their medicine pouches and have started learning about and painting thunder and clap sticks.
- **Scratch Club – (Sophie Desmarais)**
 - Cohort 2 started in December and will end in February. Students are hoping to organize a Scratch/Tech Fair in the spring with the Tech Club.
- **Tech Club – (Matt Villeneuve, Parent)**
 - Tech Club is a huge success. Students are always looking forward to attending and have very positive comments. Cohort 2, comprised of 11 grade 4&5 students started the first week of January.
 - It was mentioned at the meeting that the club was cancelled on Tuesday February 21st as a result of an internet outage. The current cohort will be extended by one week to make up for the missed session.

7. Key Dates

- Next Meeting : February 18, 2020