

Connaught School Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020

7:00PM - 8:30 PM

Executive in attendance: Gisèle Salazar (co-chair), Cynthia Shelswell (co-chair), Andrea Villeneuve (treasurer), Allison MacLachlan (secretary).

Principal: Kim Simpson; Vice-Principal: Minou Morley; Teacher rep: Michelle Richardson

- 1) Call to order, Gisèle Salaza, Chair, moves to approve minutes from last meeting, Andrea Villeneuve, Treasurer seconds. Minutes are approved.
- 2) Chair moves to approve agenda, Treasurer seconds. Agenda is approved.
- 3) Principal's Report: Kim Simpson
 - a) Current enrollment 308. Fluctuation is still more than normal: 37 JK, 32 Sk, 130 grds 1-3 109 grds 4-6. Down to 2 on the waitlist to move to OCV.
 - b) Covid: Recently received new parameters from OPH allowing some equipment for gym classes. Thanks to the School Council for the bins to transport and store equipment, which is regularly sanitized.
 - c) Covid: Further direction on the use of hooks and cubbies for winter gear is expected soon, including how individual schools can best support that and keep classrooms safe. Teachers had a brainstorm on what makes the most sense re cubbies and hooks for Connaught.
 - d) October: Conducted all 3 fire drills, which were modified to allow for physical distancing. All went well, timing got better and practice helped with physical distancing etc.
 - e) October: Individual Education Plans were sent home; Spirit Week was really great, helped to connect the school community and included a virtual assembly on Friday.
 - f) November: Staff PD opportunity with the OCDSB Trans and Gender Diversity support representative to help foster gender friendly school environments; Remembrance day will be entirely virtual and will show the OCDSB Board Ceremony; November 20 progress reports will be available on the parent portal; November 26 virtual Parent/Teacher interviews.
 - g) Tech: Thanks to Matt for the tech tubs. 40 new chrome books are expected thanks to the Board, 10 new overhead projectors are coming as well.
 - h) Instruction and improvement: OCDSB has a new strategic plan, Connaught will be working on a new school learning plan, which is being discussed with staff; Staff is working on launching a new staff book club, more on that to come.
 - i) Community: Information available on Sherwood Drive crosswalk safety assessment, as well as some safety concerns about McCormick Park.
 - j) Parent Question re Covid cases: No covid cases to date, Connaught posts its reports daily with the Board.
 - k) Parent Question What equipment is being used for gym: Mostly balls, and pool noodles for noodle tag, skipping ropes, etc.
- 4) Teachers' Report: Michelle Richardson
 - a) Halloween Plant fundraiser raised \$435. Virtual food box campaign raised \$2000 (CanadaHelps) for the Parkdale Foodbank. Final Terry Fox campaign raised \$755.
 - b) Outdoor learning is alive and well: Kinders planting tulips and daffodils.
 - c) Final harvest of potatoes (37) handed off to Parkdale Foodbank, thanks to the families that supported. Students planted garlic and put the beds to rest and tools in the shed for the winter.
 - d) Workshop held with Parkdale Foodbank on community food access and equity.
 - e) Parent Question: Is spirit week going to take place more than once: Discussions ongoing and are thinking about making them once a month at the same time as the virtual assemblies.

- 5) Fundraising and committees: Gisèle Salazar + Laura Hurst
 - a) Fundraising will look quite different this year as the community/businesses are dealing with Covid repercussions, etc. and will not be able to contribute as they have before.
 - b) More popular activities like movie night, pizza lunch, citrus sale etc. are not possible this year. School Council Exec is discussing what is possible and looking at other schools and what they are doing for some ideas. Exec will report back at a future meeting.
 - c) Always a need for fundraising: specifically the big yard play structure will need to be replaced in the next 2 to 5 years.
 - d) Wreath fundraiser: Partnership with Elmdale, Fisher and Connaught. Very attractive prices were negotiated, for an excellent and local product. Launching imminently. Wreaths and planters and centerpieces. Orders will be delivered in early December. Hoping to raise \$500 - \$1000. Please encourage neighbours, etc. to order.
 - e) Executive is recommending the appointment of a fundraising coordinator: Sabrina Sengupta will take on this role.

- 6) School yard renewal: Cyntia Shelswell + Kerry Barnes
 - a) Playgrounds and equipment are the responsibility of the school council to finance and require significant funding, in the low six figures.
 - b) Kinder yard renewal was a multi-year initiative:
 - i) School yard renewal committee attended an evergreen workshop series from the Board. Learning about the importance of outdoor play.
 - ii) Grant from TD Friends of the Environment helped pay for the pergola as an outdoor classroom. They were recognized at the opening ceremony, which helped to launch the bigger school yard renewal campaign.
 - iii) 3 year campaign raised \$120,000 for kinder yard renewal and \$70,000 for the sandbox and gates and shelving for the big yard, including the basketball court and log bench.
 - iv) Turf field cost \$60,000, which included 20% from the Board.
 - v) Most of the money was raised from grants, the Condo building gave \$35K, \$25K from the school board.
 - vi) Big yard play structure cost is estimated at \$120K
 - vii) Multi-year campaign will be necessary, including creative options for fundraising.
 - viii) There are ways to get things to moving faster with the Board and not everything has to go through the Board.
 - ix) We have a good relationship with the Board, which needs to be maintained.
 - x) Now is the time to start planning for the next phase of the school yard renewal. Those interested in taking part in the new school yard renewal committee should contact Cynthia.

- 7) Family directory: Information sent out in Principal's email, only 34 entries to date, last year we were able to leverage the hot lunch data. Suggest sending sign-up info to recipients from last year and include in the newsletter.
- 8) Virtual escape room has had 28 participants to date.

- 9) School council funding and budget: Andrea Villeneuve
 - a) Principal submitted wish list to Council Exec
 - b) Proposed budget was presented and discussed. See draft budget in Appendix A.
 - i) Currently have a large reserve
 - ii) Projections for fundraising are low
 - iii) We can reassess the budget in the Spring
 - iv) Hintonburg community association, can be tapped for funds, arts or sports programming. Council Exec to follow up.
 - v) Weather station has been installed, not a lot of uptake yet.
 - vi) Will need to plan for funds for clubs, etc for next year
 - vii) No art projects for this year

- viii) Chalk board installation will be in the Spring
- ix) Gym and author visits will be paid for by the school generated funds budget
- x) Mural improvement will take place through custodian

10) Treasurer's Report: Andrea Villeneuve

- a) Banking arrangements: everything is updated and e-transfers are now available
 - b) We are now using an online service called WaveApps for accounting and review
 - c) Summary of accounts to date: \$340 spent on bins etc, one stop order on a check and covid goggles for non-homeroom teachers
 - d) Annual Report has been reviewed and submitted
- 11) Other business: Show our support to local business, campaign to support them (Facebook and Twitter)

Appendix A: 2020-2021 Draft Budget

CONNAUGHT SCHOOL COUNCIL				
Sources and Uses of Funds for 2020-2021 School Year				
Starting balance Aug 6, 2020			\$ 16,363.74	
Less: Funds to be committed to Schoolyard Renewal*			\$ 5,000.00	
<i>Musical Flowers for music garden</i>			\$ 3,500.00	From grant funding, must remain allocated to this.
<i>Mulch (future annual spend)</i>			\$ -	Per Kim - School will pay.
<i>Future investment - Big Kid Structure</i>			\$ 1,500.00	
Less: Funds to be committed to Learning Commons			\$ 1,500.00	
Pro-forma current balance			\$ 9,863.74	
Pizza Day	\$ -		\$ -	
Mabels' Labels	\$ 150.00	\$160.99	-\$ 10.99	
Parent Involvement Grant (OCDSB)	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00	
Citrus Sales - All proceeds to Grade 6 class	\$ -		\$ -	Supplier not operating this year
Pancake Breakfast	\$ -		\$ -	
Movie Nights	\$ -		\$ -	
Hintonburg Economic Development Committee	\$ -		\$ -	
Wreath Fundraiser	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00	

Lawn It for Connaught	\$ -		\$ -	
BBQ	\$ -		\$ -	
TOTAL FUNDRAISING PROJECTIONS	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 160.99	\$ 989.01	
Classroom Expenses (up to \$100 per homeroom)	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00	
COVID Goggle Reimbursement (ECEs, EAs, Overlay)	\$ 480.00	\$ 71.28	\$ 408.72	Committed
Grade 6 graduation	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00	Reduce to \$600 - consistent with other years from council directly
Sports-related expenses	\$ 339.49	\$ 339.49	\$ -	
<i>Bins for gym equipment</i>	\$ 249.54	\$ 249.54	\$ -	
<i>Pool Noodles</i>	\$ 89.95	\$ 89.95	\$ -	
<i>Jerseys</i>	\$ 1,300.00			
<i>Outdoor balls</i>	\$ 228.92			
<i>Volleyballs</i>	\$ 627.00			
IT-related	\$ 3,109.54	\$ -	\$ 3,109.54	
<i>Chromebooks x 0</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	40 coming from the board. May purchase more later in the year if fundraising can support it
<i>Replacement Power Cords x 3</i>	\$ 135.60	\$ -	\$ 135.60	To be ordered
<i>Tech Tubs</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Current capacity is additional 24 Chromebooks
<i>iPads x 5</i>	\$ 2,254.35	\$ -	\$ 2,254.35	
<i>iPad Cases x5</i>	\$ 175.15		\$ 175.15	OtterBox cases - \$100 each, look for cheaper alternative

<i>iTunes gift cards (to purchase apps?)</i>			\$ -	Use Classroom Funds for each homeroom
<i>iPad Stand</i>	\$ 41.80		\$ 41.80	
<i>iPad Charger and Cord</i>	\$ 45.00		\$ 45.00	
<i>iPad Lightning Digital AV Adapter for HDMI</i>	\$ 75.70		\$ 75.70	
<i>Microphone (in classroom) x 2</i>		\$ -	\$ -	Deprioritized. Removed.
<i>Document Camera</i>	\$ 381.94	\$ -	\$ 381.94	To be ordered
<i>Toner for printer</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Can we skip this year? Is less being printed? Per Kim - school will pay.
Art-related (MASC / Mural project, other)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<i>MASC/Mural</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Deferred to next year
<i>Interior Mural Improvement</i>				Reconsider in the spring
Yard-related (bulletin board, chalkboard, miscellaneous yard)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
<i>Chalkboard</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	
<i>Bulletin Board</i>				Deferred to next year, \$1200 - Consider for installation in summer 2021
Outdoor Equipment (Recess toys, etc.)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1695 to be shifted to School Generated Funds
<i>Kinders</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$500 + HST
<i>Primary</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$500 + HST
<i>Juniors</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$500 + HST
Special events (Author visit, virtual event, etc.)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1695 to be shifted to School Generated Funds
<i>Kinders</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$500 + HST
<i>Primary</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$500 + HST
<i>Juniors</i>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$500 + HST
Contribution to Field Trip School Bus Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	

Bank Fees	\$ 120.00	\$ 20.00	\$ 121.00	
Hot Lunches.net	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
Adopt a School - RE Wilson	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No requests have been made
Winter Feast	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
School Clubs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Deferred to next year
Meatball Club	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Chess Club	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Tech Club	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Other miscellaneous expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 8,349.02	\$ 430.77	\$ 7,939.26	
Actual balance			\$ 16,093.96	
Projected Funds available (net of Schoolyard Renewal set aside)			\$ 2,643.72	