

Connaught School Council Minutes

From meeting on Tuesday, December 1st, 2020

Google meet: <https://meet.google.com/cmr-rrqp-ouj>

7:00PM - 8:30 PM

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

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

Call to Order, Approval of November's Minutes, Approval of December's Agenda, Co-Chairs' Report

- Cynthia: Approval of minutes: Allison moves and Cynthia seconds.
- Cynthia: Approval of Agenda: Allison moves and Cynthia seconds.

Co-chair's report: Cynthia

- Every Thursday the council will issue a Thankful Thursday recognition via social media
- Last one was an ode to Pizza days.
- Gifts for teachers and staff: working with Kim and Minou to figure it out and will communicate soon.

Principal's report: Kim

- Ways to connect as a school community: lots of effort
 - Monday Nov 30 we had virtual assembly and silly sock day.
 - We are using art to depict what 1 meter apart looks like and decorating the hallways with the art, continued work on physical distancing.
 - Kudos to kids and staff regarding how hard everyone is working to keep safe. Very diligent and so far so good for the school.
 - IEP and learning needs in the virtual schools: Teachers in this program teaching both in school and remote learning. This is still very new to everyone and everyone is doing very well.
 - Leveled literacy groups up and running and have started some math initiatives: number talks and math games.
 - At home reading back up running with certain covid parameters in place.
 - Breakfast club: Getting a lot more use. Now it's a bin system which is being used by lots more students, looking to ensure all kids can take part, no stigma attached to asking for food during the day. The result is higher costs. School council will help out by asking for a couple of volunteers to help submit applications for some funding grants. Parents are welcome to send money or grocery gift cards to help offset the costs.
 - There is still the need for the school to be prepared to pivot to remote learning, staff can make the move very quickly if needed.
 - Question re air exchange and ventilation: with the changing weather will windows remain windows? No, windows are now closed to help regulate the temperature. School has a good filtration system which is frequently monitored and filters changed.

Teacher's Report:

- Amazing the number of virtual learning opportunities: storytellers opportunities including through public library, scientists in the schools, Ottawa storytellers festival, etc.
- Some of the classes made cards for veterans and for seniors at Grace Manor.

Fundraising: Laura/Sabrina

- Wreath fundraiser: Overall a great response, although, due to so much demand the fundraiser closed early.
- Coffee fundraiser: Also did very well. In 2 weeks we raised \$400. Funds allowed us to buy a tablet. We will run this fundraiser again in the new year. Elmdale runs it 4 times a year.

Proposed Logo Refresh: Allison

- It was proposed that we refresh the school logo through a community contest beginning in the New Year.
- Some parents reminded the council that the logo was only created in 2014 in association with the centennial.
- Lots of good discussion around whether it was the right time to undertake this kind of initiative.
- While there was some feeling that the logo should stay the same, Kim reminded the council that there were lots of families that did not take part in the last creation of the school logo and that things did need to evolve.
- Kim will be discussing this proposed refresh with teachers as to how they felt about this initiative.
- Sabrina and Allison will continue to think through the process. More to come in the new year.

Fundraising committee: Sabrina

- New fundraising committee is now up and running and will be meeting in the next few weeks.
- Expectations are fairly minimal but want to start thinking through some new ideas.
- Will begin with a good overview of what has been done in the past and what has been successful.
- Starting now will help us think big for next year.

Treasurer's report: Andrea

- Wreath fundraiser: Approx \$1,000 raised
- Coffee fundraiser: Approx \$430 raised
- Money went towards 5 iPads

Any other business

- As of New Year we will move meetings to the 3rd Tuesday of every month.
- Justine Bell, school board trustee, met with co-chairs and will attend and speak at the January session of school council.

The meeting was adjourned at [8:30pm]. Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 19th, 2021.**