

Connaught School Council Minutes

From meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021

7:30PM - 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

- Gisèle Salazar and Allison MacLachlan pass motion to accept minutes from previous meeting
- School Council issued a survey to get a feel on the fundraising initiatives. Some parents are feeling fatigued from the number of initiatives. We're thinking of maybe doing two more fundraising initiatives this year. We'll hold off on the more ambitious things.
- The Parent Council had also planned to have Justine Bell come and speak to us. We will invite her to attend a later session and speak to her role as trustee.
- Principal's report
 - Kinder registration: lots of success with 56 kinders registered for next year
 - Student transfer: Connaught received 6 request, which were all declined as Connaught has a 'zero cap' so does not accept out of zone transfers
 - Middle French Immersion: 1 student moving from OCV next year
 - Tech updates: deployed 75 chrome books and 70 returned with a few to follow up, still a few to come back from the Spring as well, and we will have some replacements to make. Thanks to School Council for the cords purchased and for the iPads that arrived last week.
 - Last fall glass was found on the turf. It appears that it was a pane of glass from the condo. Company was hired to deal with the glass and clean the turf. Risk management dealt with condo to cover the cost and inspection to prevent this from happening in the future.
 - Need crossing guards in three spots, Kim will share more info if anyone is interested.
 - Q: Did the Condo advise the board?
 - A: We don't know if it was a window, etc. or patio furniture. It will be more clear when they inspect the field and building in the Spring.
 - Q: Who pays for the clean up?
 - A: OCDSB paid and is asking the condo to pay.
 - Q: Board had given Connaught 40 chrome books, did we receive them?
 - A: Yes we did and are in the process of redistributing them.
 - Q: Has there been any talk about more funding from Federal Government and how that might be used.
 - A: We don't know specifically, but it will likely be used for things like touchless taps, filling stations, etc. Definitely a Covid related focus.
 - Q: Will other construction projects be delayed?
 - A: Some projects will go ahead, for example there will be doors that prop open in the gym. No other projects for now as we already have a high-level filtration system. We will still put our small yard projects forward and hope that those can be finished this year.
 - Q: Provincial announcements about enhanced protocols, test 2% of students, should we expect to see additional changes, tests, etc?
 - A: Public health nurse visits every 3 to 4 weeks and is scheduled to come in the next little while. Connaught is not a priority site as we have been free of cases. Other sites will be given priority.
 - Q: Is there any concern about types of masks being worn or any advice on types of masks, etc.?
 - A: Kim will take that back to the public health nurse. Will let us know if there are any changes and updates.

- Teacher's report
 - Outdoor education centers' staff have been putting together modules for students where students can send in their questions with follow up video and snowshoeing with staff in a virtual environment.
- Sabrina Sengupta: Fundraising
 - 54 results in the fundraising poll, it was very helpful. Overall the feedback was positive, most said they wanted the fundraising to be minimal and slow down on the communications.
 - Two more initiatives this year:
 - Pre-easter food sale: maple syrup and Bridgehead Coffee
 - Drive in Movie night: will need volunteers, more to come
 - Mabel's labels and FlipGive operating in the background
 - Q: Should we consider doing a do nothing call out for donations?
 - A: Parents did mention that this would be an idea, minimal effort. Something that we could use for school yard renewal, but not for this year.
 - Q: We have done two direct asks of parents so far this school year, any feedback?
 - A: This was a success for the breakfast program.
 - Generosity for the breakfast club is amazing and appreciated
 - Grants will be helpful. Farmboy and Costco provide grants, and give gifts cards and money to support the breakfast club.
 - No urgent need, happy to take it, grants will help make it sustainable.
- Andrea: Treasurer's update
 - See attached report
- Suggestion made by Cynthia Shelswell to skip the April meeting and move to May and June. Parents in attendance said this was acceptable.
- Next meeting on April 23, 2021