

# Connaught School Council Minutes

Meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 7:00PM

Executive in attendance: Gisèle Salazar (secretary), Andrea Villeneuve (treasurer), Sabrina Sengupta (fundraising coordinator)

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

The meeting was convened at 7:02pm and began with a land recognition and adoption of the October agenda. Nominations having been received for the executive positions not filled during the previous month's election, motions were moved to acclaim those nominated to their respective positions. Those motions were passed and the fully constituted school council executive for 2020-21 is as follows:

- Chair: Julie Mayrand
- Vice Chair: Zoe Lomer
- Secretary: Gisele Salazar
- Treasurer: Andrea Villeneuve
- Fundraising Co-Coordinator: Sabrina Sengupta and Sarah King

## **Principal's Report**

### *Learning and Well-being*

- Empower Reading program serving 24 students in grades 1 to 6 to support reading; very fortunate to have two trained staff (14 primary, 10 junior, 14 Reg, 10 FI)
- Art of Play - support for early social play skills - EAs and LST are trained
- Art of Conversation - support for junior aged students with social skills development - EAs and LST just received training last week and will be getting this new program off the ground soon
- Zones of Regulation (Green, Yellow, Red, Blue) - continue to learn as a staff to help students to co-regulate and self-regulate
- Third Path learning continues for all staff - this staff meeting we had a focus on co-regulation and the difference between compliance and self-regulation
- IEPs go home on Oct 22 via email
- Progress reports/Initial Kinder Communications go home on Nov 4 (via email)
- Parent-Teacher Interviews - Nov 10 and Nov 12 - more information to follow closer to the date

### *Operations*

- Transportation - Bus 150 route which had been cancelled was reinstated on October 12
- Opening Documentation - review of board policies and procedures, etc. for all staff - professional responsibility to review prior to the end of October
- Fire Drills - we have had two of three fall fire drills; modified due to COVID Health and Safety protocols - staggered drills based on different zones
- Concussion training - all staff received 30 min of concussion training at the Oct staff meeting and will have another 30 min at the November meeting
  
- Epi Pen training - all staff received training at October staff meeting (annually)
- Staff Wishlists - general wishlist items shared, Kim will follow up with a list for the executive shortly. As an overview, the staff wishlist includes tech requests and kinder requests. The big gym is to be

repainted and then a mural artist will need to put Connaught signature on walls - \$1,500-\$3,000. This latter item might be this year or next

## **Q&A**

The following are some of the questions raised at this month's meeting:

- *Extra-Curriculars* - questions around greater freedom for our kids to engage in physical activity (similar to Louise Arbour where students seem to be running during gym class through the area) was asked and questions around leadership club and other virtual clubs. School-based activities require teachers on location and currently staff don't have much bandwidth but it might be an option later in the year (post-Xmas). In the interim, parents are directed to other resources such as the Boys and Girls Club (<https://www.bgcottawa.org>)
- *Dogs on Connaught Property* - a good discussion was had on addressing the problem of dog fouling and the resultant temporary closure of parts of the fields to kids. It was agreed that some sort of signage (Zoe suggested the very catchy: 'dog mess; kids play less'. Discussing with Facilities to remind people that we have artificial turf might be the next step.
- *Spirit Wear* - Connaught Colts wear/gear sales was discussed. There were COVID related challenges last year but this item is on the agenda for the executive to discuss further.
- *Gardening* - a discussion on beautifying the front yard (including adopting a bed at the front of the school and uprooting and replanting bushes that are partially obscuring the mural was discussed).
- PPE for Staff - A question was raised about PPE for staff. Last year the school council did provide reimbursement for goggles (\$30 for those staff who needed that support).

## **Teacher's Report**

Michelle provided an update on the school's gardening activities, the pocket forest initiative and the Good Food Red Box initiative which raised \$2000 last year with donations being accepted online at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/53180>. A reminder about the upcoming school spirit week (week of October 25-29) was also provided.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Andrea provided a brief Treasurer's report for the preceding month. No targeted fundraisers have been held to date and no budget/committed funding allocated yet. Passive fundraisers like Mabel's Labels are ongoing as is the Chapters/Indigo fundraiser with proceeds from the latter ear-marked for the Literacy and Numeracy book room.

Full Treasurer's report:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15plcwyTDdpWRVZPMtKZ-LO9Q\\_jGmVz06EgZA-QmdSrc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15plcwyTDdpWRVZPMtKZ-LO9Q_jGmVz06EgZA-QmdSrc/edit?usp=sharing)

## **Discussion**

It was agreed that a separate meeting should be held to discuss school council priorities for the upcoming year.

## **AOB**

- **Rapid Testing Initiative** – Parents have spearheaded a rapid testing initiative which is independent of/outside the scope of the school and the OCDSB. 34 volunteer families are participating in rapid asymptomatic tests with Connaught parents having secured enough kits to have 1 test per week for each family for 4 weeks. Although there is not a perfectly even split across the home rooms, the feedback on results will still be informative and any positive test results may be shared back to the parents' organizing the initiative. The OCDSB continues to follow guidance as provided by OPH.
- **Appropriate Use of Technology** – The OCDSB has requested feedback from parents and school councils on their Appropriate Use of Technology policy. A request for feedback will be circulated through school messenger to the wider school population and Andrea's husband, Matthew Villeneuve, who has a technical background, will also review.
- **Principal's Profile** – each year a job description for the principal has to be provided by the school council. The version for this year is ready for submission.
- **Annual report** - the School Council annual report has to be submitted to the OCDSB by the end of October. Gisele and Cynthia as outgoing chairs will review the draft report and assist in finalizing this deliverable.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm. The next school council meeting is scheduled to be held at 7pm on November 16, 2021 via Google Meet.