

Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Virtual via Google Meet at 7:00PM

Executive in attendance: Julie Mayrand (chair), Zoe Lomer (vice-chair) Gisèle Salazar (secretary), Andrea Villeneuve (treasurer), Sabrina Sengupta (fundraising coordinator).

Principal: Kim Simpson; Teacher's Representative: Michelle Richardson

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
The meeting was convened at 7pm. After land acknowledgement, the September and October 2021 meeting minutes and the October Agenda were approved.	Chair
<p>Somerset Community Health Centre</p> <p>Storywalks program: these are stories set up on notice boards and placed around the school yard. There are a variety of different themes and many stories include an active component to help encourage kids to move about- currently being offered in [St George School]. Kim to liaise with Meghan on whether the Storywalks will work for Connaught.</p> <p>Looking to support student and families - SCHC is available to help with needs (eg. Friends for Life program has been offered in a variety of schools - coping strategies for students to address anxiety).</p> <p>ECEs on staff trained in variety of development stages who can deliver topic intensive workshops (eg. screentime talks for parents; managing different behaviours)</p> <p>2 Dieticians on staff who can be consulted on healthy lunches and techniques for getting kids to eat more healthy foods.</p>	Meghan Macdonnell, Child and Youth Community Developer at SWCHC
<p>Principal's Report</p> <p>Highlights from the Principal Report are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● On November 4th progress reports went home● Parent teacher interviews took place last week● Veterans week, Indigenous Veterans and Remembrance Day were commemorated● Bus safety training was provided to the students (for current bus-users and all students for awareness for when field trips might resume)● Scholastic book fair ends on November 24th● The Third Path learning by staff continues with tools on Safety; Regulation; Belonging (vs exclusion); Positivity● Callout to staff for details of families in need for over the holidays. Will be offering gift cards. Already 12 students/families have been identified.	Principal

<p>Teachers' Report</p> <p>Mme Bond - Kinders - exploring dinosaurs and volcanos. [Matha]/number talks is assisting kinders with maths. All kinders are exploring mapping, building bird nest enquiry.</p> <p>Online event for Children's Day.</p> <p>Library is up and running - classrooms can sign books out for 3 week periods</p> <p>Garden has been put to rest for the season. But 'guerrilla gardeners' continue their efforts</p> <p>\$1920 raised by Connaught for Good Food Red Box. Link will be shut down at the end of the week.</p>	<p>Teacher's Representative</p>
<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holiday wreath and coffee fundraiser is ongoing. \$9000 worth of product sold so far - \$2300 in profit. Sale concludes at the end of the week. ● \$662 committed for purchase of Inclusive Books, funded by the Chapters Indigo sales and a directed donation from a student's grandparents. ● No budget given as spending has not been approved/costed out yet. Will follow agreement on priorities and committed spending. 	<p>Treasurer</p>
<p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Priorities - productive meeting from 2 weeks prior. Variety of ideas were collated and grouped on a miro board to determine priorities and order of prioritization. Priorities have been grouped into 4 themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student support (items for yard; in class support etc) ○ Beautification of school (eg. dedicated corner for butterfly garden; students design plantings to frame school sign). As part of this effort, 5 volunteers (the "guerilla gardeners") planted ~150 bulbs in early November in the public facing beds at the school. ○ Reconnecting as a community (once restrictions are lifted - hoping to organize an event) ○ Sponsoring Sister Schools - R.E.Wilson was identified in 2019 as a sister school to support. A possible idea is to put Spirit Wear sales towards assisting more disadvantaged schools. The concept of sister schools, while a newer initiative for Connaught, is not a new one for the board and historically involved more than just providing financial support. For this year, R.E. Wilson expressed an interest in receiving support in the form of gift cards for some of their families for the holidays. <p>Budget allocation will be shared in December meeting.</p>	<p>Chair</p>

<p>It was suggested that Student Council should engage in more staff appreciation (eg. sandwiches)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gardening - Damian has cleared shrubs and has been cleaning up the front plant beds. Has been engaging with local residents to donate plants (eg hydrangeas) - looking for low maintenance shrubs and perennials. Looking for more volunteers to assist - Damian has been volunteering a couple hours in the evenings to dig up and replant. ● Motion - \$500 for gift cards to R.E. Wilson families for support for the holidays. Motion was passed unanimously. Action for Andrea Villeneuve to connect with Kim Simpson to transfer funds. 	
<p><u>Fundraising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Xmas Wreath/Bridgehead Coffee sales</i> - call out for volunteers on Saturday, November 27th - - <i>Spiritwear</i> - lots of interest in this given there hasn't been a sale in at least 2 years. We will endeavour to organize the gear for January for a spirit wear sale in the New Year and will retain the same logo and tagline. <p>It was suggested to have additional gear to support children in need or even as gifts for school competitions. Would be good to have an option for parents to contribute to a shared pot. Potentially donation back to the school by parents of outgrown gear could be a good way to support other kids.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Other</i> - it was suggested that we should try to increase FlipGive and Indigo Chapters uptake. Indigo gives us a much bigger return on investment than FlipGive so we would likely focus on Indigo sales instead. 	Fundraising Coordinator
<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate Use of Technology Feedback - no feedback from parent community on this OCDSB policy. Julie and Andrea's husband, Matt [Villeneuve] reviewed and found the current policy still seemed relevant and appropriate. Nothing stood out as insufficient or missing. Julie will submit the feedback to the board on behalf of Council.. - Holiday card/gift giving within the school - no direction has been provided by the Board on the sharing of gift cards and cards at Xmas. 	Chair
<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Next council meeting will be on December 14th at 7pm.</p>	

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm