

Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
1	Having reached quorum at 7:02pm, the meeting was called to order. After Land Acknowledgement the March Agenda was approved.	Chair
2	<p>Principal's Report</p> <p>This week saw change in recess cohorting and masking mandates; messaging continues to be that this is a thoughtful and gradual process that considers the various comfort levels of our community of staff and students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April is autism awareness month so there will be activities in the school, including raising the Autism flag in the foyer, to raise awareness. ● Staff continue to engage in various professional development initiatives and will be exploring some shared learning opportunities across the rest of the school year. ● School climate survey will take place in April - this is an in-class initiative for Grades 4 through 12 and there will be an opportunity for parents to participate. ● School library is back in use after being closed for over 2 years. ● Library Learning Commons - Kim has followed up with the Facilities about the removal of the circulation desk, new flooring and blinds. It is anticipated that over the summer flooring and other aspects will start to be worked on. Vendor has come in to measure, plan and quote on costing for the school (not expected to come from school council's funding). Next step is to set up a Learning Commons Committee to help with decision making (e.g. around furniture ordering) and we will need volunteers to assist with boxing books for storage while renovations take place. Considering different zones, room for special events, quiet spaces, guided reading area and mounted projector all to facilitate learning. Teachers, other staff and students will be asked for their views. ● Planning for 2022-23 - Planning for 2022-23 has started. Enrollment projections for 2022/23 are about 365 students are projected for next year (net increase of 5). Staff have been asked to confirm their teaching preferences for the next academic year. Staffing allocation will be based on projected enrollment. For class placements, communication has been shared with families regarding extenuating circumstances. ● COVID <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>The Mask mandate</i> has been removed for schools but roughly 75% of Connaught students are still choosing to use 	Principal

	<p>them. OPH parameters to be followed for those testing positive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Cohorting</i> has been removed which means more outdoor time as the full yard can be used and use doesn't need to be staggered (eg. soccer between grades).. However, more triple recess continues. ○ <i>Talent show/graduation/reading buddies/clubs etc</i> will happen in time but questions have already been raised. ○ Rapid tests - can be requested on as needed basis. Currently the school is handing out a few on a daily basis with the primary use being symptomatic at school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Budget. There is a central budget and maintenance budget over which we have no control. The central budget covers a variety of costs including salaried employees, collective agreement absences, utilities, maintenance and cleaning supplies, snow removal, grass cutting, alarms systems, capital repairs/maintenance and building insurance. School Budget is based on school enrollment and is allotted annually to cover absence costs for school based decision absences and PVP absences, printing and photocopying, books/learning materials, furniture and equipment, additional technology, general school supplies, some maintenance projects, breakfast programs, subject-specific materials. The 2021/22 budget was about \$26 000 plus a carry forward from 2020-21 due to lower than average spending during COVID closure. As part of the operating budget, we receive annual grants for school supplies and the breakfast program that must be spent during the current year. <p>Student directed/school raised funds (eg. from sales of milk) have to be used for student benefit (eg. Zoo Crew and Scientists in the School). Operating budget has more flexibility and is being used at a run rate of 10% per month under normal circumstances. Currently assessing wishlists from teachers - sports equipment and French and English reading materials.</p> <p>Q&A - COVID-Related.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staffing issues due to COVID - daily staffing issues remain an issue but this is a matter that applies across the School Board but this is not a COVID-specific issue. EAs are the hardest roles to fill. ● Daily screening still mandatory? The obligation to screen is needed but the verification and manual review is no longer required. No certainty around when the daily screening will be dropped. ● School ventilation updates? Kim will followup. Connaught has an enhanced filtration system but we are expecting new filters soon. 	
3	<p>Teachers' Report</p> <p>Michelle provided an update on workshops, experiential opportunities and other learning initiatives being undertaken by different levels of the school. First field trips (Kitchissippi winter trail for skiing) took place just prior to March</p>	Teacher Representative

	<p>break and volunteers/non-school staff are being welcomed back into the school. Next rock paper scissors competition will take place in the upcoming week.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spiritwear - goal was \$1000 but so far we have exceeded this. Funds will go towards paying it forward to Cambridge Street School and R.E.Wilson. ● Plantables - close to \$250 have been spent in plant purchases. A \$300 spend will entitle us to a plant kit for the school.. ● Chapters - Approximately \$950 has been raised so far from this passive fundraiser. ● Mabel's Labels - we have just reached the threshold of \$50+ to receive a cheque/payout. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School council is waiting for the school to make certain purchases (eg. inclusiveness book purchases) ● Sensory toys have been arriving to the school ● Parent involvement grant (\$1000) has been received and is a grant aimed at engaging with parents at an event. Council is considering what would be a good event to spend this on. 	<p>Treasurer</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spiritwear - delivered on March 7. We raised \$300 in donations to enable us to purchase t-shirts for students in need. T-shirts should arrive on Thursday. Would like a Spirit Day or Spirit Week (staff preference is for a single day instead of a full week). Possibility of a Spirit Day encouraging wear of spirit wear. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was agreed that we might consider another sale in the Fall or next Spring. Future sale could include accessories like Connaught branded water bottles. ● Plantables - this fundraiser will continue to be promoted until mid-April. Slow burn sales so far but we have received promotion from Jeff Leiper and Hintonburg Community Center. Expected that more people will buy, however, Jeff Leiper also announced plantables sale on behalf of Churchill Alternative who are raising funds for their yard which means we have some competition for sales. ● Easter Breakfast Sale - started this week until April 1st with delivery on April 9th. Already had 16 orders putting us at \$250 in profit which puts us halfway to free delivery for the maple syrup. ● Pizza Day - has been set up with 7 pizza days to run over the last 15 weeks of school. Funds will go to the library commons project. We have already received \$450 worth of orders. Ideally would have 4 volunteers with two per session. ● Lawn It For Connaught - Cynthia is starting to look into logistics for this. Will determine what to do with funds raised from this initiative. 	<p>Fundraising Coordinator</p>

<p>7</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community use of schools - the new COVID protocols will be reviewed by Principal to give an update on reintroducing volunteers in the school (eg. pizza day has been approved) but ultimately student benefit is the focus ● Grade 6 Leaving Ceremony - covered in new protocols - it is hoped that this can occur in coming weeks. ● Clubs - reopening of clubs within the school will be considered once more details are known from the most recent protocols shared by the Board. ● Requests for chalkboard and bulletin board - The Principal will follow-up once more details are known about requirements and logistics. ● Gardening committee will have a meeting in the next few weeks to plan gardening for Connaught for Spring. Anyone interested in joining or donating compost/supplies is welcome. 	<p>Chair</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Upcoming Dates Reminder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next meeting - April 19, 2022 	<p>Chair</p>