

Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	
1	<p>Quorum was reached at 7:02pm and the meeting was called to order. The November Minutes and December Agenda were approved.</p>	Chair	
2	<p>Principal's Report</p> <p>A summary of continuing teacher learning was provided. The staff lunch supported by the school council will take place on Thursday. \$1500 in gift cards from the school was provided to families, as well as a large gift donation for two families was provided by Manulife Securities.</p> <p>The staff meeting this afternoon covered the following: Board Improvement Plan BIEP and SIP Goal Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All families must feel welcomed at OCDSB schools • Reading in the Early Years • Building capacity in math processes and concepts • Destreamed Pathways for secondary students • Inclusion of students with different learning profiles <p>Translating BIP and SIP Goals to the Classroom level - the instructional core and foundational planning for effective instruction, look fors in the classroom Social and Emotional Skills Study - OECD recording: https://youtu.be/6Srx42Es7Jo (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) Outcome: Wellness FOR achievement - dependent on relationship with educators. Ottawa was one of 10 cities internationally to participate in this study; children (ages 10 and 15), parents, teachers and principals surveyed. Additional information on the study can be found at the OECD Survey on Social and Emotional Skills website.</p> <p>All of this work guides the Annual Learning Plans that each teacher is responsible to share and discuss with the principal (professional goals). Staff also talked a bit about wellness and taking the time to unplug over the break.</p> <p>Kindergarten Information Night - Thursday, January 27 at 6 pm via Google Meet. This will be a night focussed on Board messaging regarding kindergarten program and</p>	Principal	

	<p>programs in general in the OCDSB, initial contact with the OCDSB. Conversely, the Spring meeting is school-based (video vs. in-person) so it may be better to have school council representation and presentation for the Spring session instead.</p> <p>Rapid Antigen Test Kits will go home on Thursday, Dec 16 with all students. It is a provincial initiative.</p> <p>Other. Staff and students asked to take personal belongings home.</p>		
3	<p>Teachers' Report</p> <p>A general update was provided on students initiatives and course updates. Coding activities at various levels of the school, kinders created virtual museums and volcanoes. STEM challenges were undertaken. Virtual field trips, presentations and workshops planned.</p> <p>Final virtual school assembly will be on Thursday.</p>	Teacher Representative	
4	<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2380 has been raised from Coffee and Wreath fundraiser. • There were a lot of expenditures/outgoings (\$9300 approx) for sales for coffee and wreath as well as \$500 for R.E. Wilson school's gift cards • School Council also contributed \$250 to the staff lunch 	Treasurer	
5	<p>Discussion - Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities were considered by the school council executive at the November 4th meeting. We have been dipping into reserves due to COVID because pizza lunches and other popular fundraisers have not been possible. \$5k of the \$12k in our account is earmarked for school yard renewal and music garden (both projects are on hold for now). Renewal of library to be converted into library commons • Online fundraisers continue to be strong passive income sources. • Will have Plantables in the Spring again and maple syrup. • Spirit wear will be a new fundraiser for this year. • \$500 for parent involvement grant (combined with last year) is \$1000 - earmarked for in person 	Treasurer	

event TBD depending on COVID regulations. Open to suggestions for engaging parent community.

- Lawn It for Connaught raised \$7000 in 2019 but we cannot say for certain whether we will be able to run this this year.
- HEDC might be an avenue for sports purchases.

Commitment

- \$1700 earmarked for teacher's expenses (up to \$100 per teacher)
- \$500 dollar for staff appreciation
- Sponsoring of graduation - typically \$600 towards an in person event.
- Sports related expenses - \$500 to be allocated to soccer balls and mini frisbees. Will aim to get support for the HEDC on this.
- Technology requests - 6 iPads would equate to \$3000 so we have elected not to support this request this year, particularly given we purchased iPads last year. If Lawn it for Connaught can run, we will revisit this request.
- Document cameras - previous document camera have been a hit. We are waiting on approval from Board for a \$10 a piece alternative solution.
- 20 headsets for Chromebooks - will be close to \$490 as we are aiming to buy better quality.
- \$340 towards Kinder items (Sumblox, sensory bins etc)
- **Big Gym Mural** would be priced at around \$3000 but we are deferring this unless Lawn it For Connaught proceeds in which we would have funding to support this.
- **Nature Education Center and Yard:** chalkboard installation request to go ahead and a **bulletin board** for parents to be installed. Requests to be placed in the Spring. For the garden, in front and in the nature education center, have put aside \$100 for beautification and \$100 for shed improvements. Seed planter squares (will budget another 5). Altogether \$3000 to be invested in the yard.
- Outdoor/recess equipment (\$600). Only kinders made requests - shovels, sleds, storage bins, mini-figurines, cookie cutters, materials to paint snow and building materials.
- We will not be supporting any special events (eg. Love 2 Groove) however we will apply \$1000

	<p>towards Paying it Forward (ie. supporting/partnering with another school in the community. School council has already given \$500 to support R.E. Wilson's Xmas gift card giving. Will support Cambridge Street PS with another \$500 with some of that funding coming from Spirit Wear sales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions to field trips and clubs has been put on hold due to COVID. • Supporting more inclusive books. <p>Operating Costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banking fees are higher this year (approx \$300 which includes purchase of cheques) and Hot Lunches costs \$250 per year. <p>Overall we have committed virtually all of our accumulated funds which is in line with Board recommendations that funds be dispersed in the year that they were raised.</p> <p>Other</p> <p>-public attention to the need for new library materials. To have a discussion in the New Year on advancing support to the library We currently have about \$1000 to put towards this initiative. Some of the book need can be met through the school's operating budget which means that it may still be more beneficial to support other items (eg. staff lunches) that school does not have budget for.</p> <p>- music enhancement to be considered for future years.</p> <p>The budget was ratified.</p>		
6	<p>Fundraising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Xmas Wreath/Bridgehead Coffee sales - sales have wrapped up. Next fundraiser will be in February/March. - Spiritwear will be launched after the Christmas break. Our aim is to have the spiritwear available for next spirit week in February. We are hoping to have donations in \$2 increments to support children in need. - Lawn it For Connaught - update from Cynthia Shelswell on this initiative which has been conducted entirely separate from school (hosted at Elmdale Lawn Bowling Club). Currently the 	Fundraising Coordinator	

	<p>planners are considering a date in June if this event can go ahead. The format involves a fee being charged for lawn bowling with volunteers providing lessons. Vendors sold food and attendees could also buy drinks (we had a liquor license). There was also a silent auction. Main funding was from sponsors (eg. Susan Chell - realtor; Alan Murray dentist; East India Company - restaurant provided a donation as well).</p>		
7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on garden group planning walk-about took place. Intention is to focus on planters in the Spring with 'specimen shrubs' to enhance as combination of sourcing from community and purchases. Some ground cover in front of the mural at the front will be attempted. - Pocket forest project is progressing but on a five year trajectory so in its infancy at this stage. - There is an outstanding grant for replacing trees which needs discussion. - A discussion about exterior art: leveraging the blank retaining wall around the kinder yard or the elements in the school's existing brickwork that could frame new art installations. It was suggested that artists who were former students might be interested in contributing. It was suggested this could be explored in future years. 	Chair	
8	<p>Upcoming Dates Reminder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting - January 18, 2022 	Chair	