

Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Virtual via Google Meet and in-person at Connaught School in the Library

Executive in attendance: Julie Mayrand (Chair), Zoe Lomer (Vice-Chair) Gisèle Salazar (Secretary) , Andrea Villeneuve (Treasurer),

Principal: Kim Simpson; Vice-Principal: Minou Morley; Teacher's Representative: Sophie DesMarais

Number of Attendees: 11

<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm. The October Minutes and the November Agenda were approved after the land acknowledgement</p>	Chair
<p>Principal's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Remembrance Day ceremony took place last week· Progress Reports and Initial Communication of Learning go home on Thursday this week; new platform - steep tech learning curve for staff· P-T Interviews are evening of November 24 and morning of November 25· PA Day on Nov 25· Scholastic Book Fair· Grade 6 trip - green light (January 18 and 19)· Girls on the Run event on Saturday, Nov 26· An update on outdoor installations was provided. Pricing is being reviewed again and likely in the range of \$5-7k. Blackboard is \$2650, the sign board will be likely around the same and then mobilization for both is \$1500.<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Blinds in progress - library and Room 214 over winter break● Menstrual Equity Initiative is taking place in the school● EQAO - results will be going home to individual families next week	Principal

<p>Q&A</p> <p>Q – how much can we learn about the EQAO results?</p> <p>A – the results will be public this Fall for Grades 3 and 6. Format has changed in the past few years so may be difficult to assess against previous years.</p> <p>Q – should parents expect to hear from teachers for booking sessions with teachers?</p> <p>A – yes – teachers will request interviews around the time that reports go out.</p> <p>Q – will Kinders have a winter concert?</p> <p>A – this hasn't been confirmed yet.</p>	
<p>Teachers' Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinders celebrated 'take me outside day' (annual event focusing on teaching outdoors). Halloween parade and Halloween activities relay. Storywalk. Library visits continue. • Grade 1 – Halloween costumes were a big draw. Class wreath and school wide assembly for Remembrance Day. • Grade 3 – grandparents & parents volunteering in classes. Swim to survive initiative for Grade 3's • Grade 4-5 – energy consumption presentation re: school and OCDSB. Inuit presentation and Inuit art activity. Visits to food/grocery programs. • Grade 5-6 – class president and assistant which changes every two weeks (mini election, ballots and participation). • Grade 6 – grades 5 and 6 performed songs for Remembrance Day. 	<p>Teacher Representative</p>
<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p><u>Fundraising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movie night - \$1200 net proceeds from the fall movie night (thanks to GT) • Wreaths and coffee - [\$2500] sales to date for wreaths. Less traction than last year – could be due to greater competition with other schools promoting theirs through our councilor's newsletter. • Purdy's chocolates – this fundraiser is for Grade 6 graduation and overnight trip. \$1000+ will result in 25% profit share. Aiming for \$2000 	<p>Treasurer</p>

<p>but this may be far more than needed. Overnight trip will only cost around \$650 (including transportation) and roughly \$250 for the leaving ceremony. Surplus can be channeled to other school initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pizza day – orders have gone up to 64 pizzas/pizza day for the upcoming month (\$400-450 per month of profit). We get additional discounts over the year. Will exceed the anticipated \$8000 of profit. · Chapters Indigo - \$40 less than full total due to original cheque lost. <p><u>Committed Spending</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Notice board/chalkboard – there is a significant increase in estimated cost so these items will need further discussion. Later in the meeting, it was agreed that we would remove these items from the budget as our needs have changed. <p><u>Summary of Accounts</u> – there has been a lot of ingoing and outgoing sums due to pizza day, learning commons reimbursement of school and the wreath fundraiser. Cash float of \$300 will be kept out of the bank to avoid 2% handling fee.</p>	
<p>Budget/Priorities Discussion</p> <p>A budget/priorities meeting was held on November 8th. Out of that meeting we have selected priorities for the remainder of the school year 2022-23 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Finishing learning commons · Events – school council will need to downscale some of our planned events for this year due to the lack of volunteer support and no dedicated volunteer coordinator. As a result we will not offer pancake breakfast or cookie exchange/winter feast. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will run another movie night in Spring (March) and small gym will be a dance party. ○ Will have another movie night for May the 4th (or 5th). Kim to check with Ida on details of parents who may have issues ordering events online. ○ End of year BBQ · Spiritwear – funds to stay in house (eg. proceeds of sale intended towards the Chickadees to cover \$500 trike and \$200 for a discretionary fund for the EAs supporting that class). Aiming to raise \$700 for this class. School council commits to purchase the trike. Could potentially request Hintonburg Economic Development Committee to fund the \$500 trike. We have \$90 worth of funds from last spirit wear sale which will be applied to buy 10 water bottles for the school. 	<p>All</p>

There being no objections to the proposed priorities, the priorities were approved.

Council started with \$18,000 in bank account but realistically we only have \$5000 available. \$36,000-47,000 is needed to complete learning commons project. We spent \$9000 already for this project. Overall, we are aiming for [\$28,000] for fundraising for 2022-23 year but that includes a Best Buy grant being awarded to us. If not, we will need to do a direct donation drive to make up the additional \$9700 if we wish to complete the technology components wish list this school year.

Our fundraisers are netting less profit than previously. We are therefore considering new, low commitment fundraisers (eg. Poppa Jacks popcorn fundraiser)

Currently we are approximately \$2000 over budget. May need to trim some expense but not staff appreciation, teacher reimbursement etc. No funding has gone towards school bus fund or school clubs. School has budget to cover school field trips (bus). School clubs don't need school council support as school can support.

Music garden – this initiative is a legacy item from the School Yard Renewal project and may not longer be suitable as originally envisaged. Need to check document drive to revisit the history of this project, the status of a grant that was intended for it as there is no immediate need being raised by teachers nor adequate space in the yard.

Chromebooks – staff would like more but they are not a priority given cost and short lifespan.

Outdoor Installations: Bulletin board/Chalkboard – given increase in pricing, will need to review given the increased cost (total roughly: \$5-7000). Aim was to have an alternative method to communicate with parent community. Would also need volunteers to maintain. May wish to save funds for completing library commons and/or the big play structure revamping. If we remove this item, it balances the budget. Agreed to shelve both of these initiatives. Principal to ask teachers what alternatives would assist with learning in the nature educational center.

Gardening – Council to review in the Spring the needs for school gardening (eg. Proceeds from Plantables).

Kinder items (eg. pails and shovels) will be purchased in the Spring.

Lawn it for Connaught – not expecting this event necessarily to run this summer. TBD in the spring.

AOB

Skate sharpening and solution for breathable storage (to allow for skates to dry after use, so that they don't become rusty) needs to be found. Guards are needed for transporting the skates. Expired and damaged helmets and old skates that are

Chair

<p>not in good condition will be thrown out. May need to have community volunteers to help with sewing skate guards.</p>	
<p><u>Upcoming Dates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wreath sale – delivery/collection from school on December 4th • Spiritwear sale slated for closing on November 26th but will see if we can get a longer period. Need to commit to 100 bottles. Site will go live. <p>School council will reconvene in January (January 17, 2022)</p>	<p>Chair</p>
<p>The meeting was concluded at 8:33pm.</p>	