

# Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

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; Shelby McEachern (Teacher's Representative):

Attendance: 11 attendees (in person and virtual attendees).

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm and chaired by the Vice-Chair. The February Agenda were approved after land acknowledgement.	Vice-Chair
<p><b>Principal's Report</b></p> <p>A warm welcome was provided to Shelby, the new library technician. A thank you from the grade 3s for skating trips and school council's maintenance and support of the equipment (helmets, skates and skate guards) was shared at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Learning Commons</b> improvements are coming along well. Soft furnishings have been a big hit with the kids.</p> <p><b>Toonie Tuesday</b> – has raised over \$300 but the school anticipates more in the final tally given contributions continue to trickle in.</p> <p>Tomorrow, February 22<sup>nd</sup> is <b>pink shirt day (anti-bullying)</b> where kids are encouraged to wear pink and think about kindness.</p> <p>February 2<sup>nd</sup> was <b>Kinder info night</b>. There was a good turn out and registration for kindergarten is at 25 students so far.</p> <p><b>IEPs</b> go home on March 1<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>Staff changes -</p>	Principal

- Alex Skadina replaced Sara Lethbridge in our semi-DD, Kathryn
- Farrell replaced Danielle Debelle (ETFI grades 2 and 3), new DOT behind Sarah
- Finlay is replaced by Presley Casselman

**Cross-boundary transfers** - transfer cap of zero; we have had a few requests from families outside of our catchment area

**Student choices:**

- Middle French Immersion - 3 students
- Grade 1 Intentions complete - 9 English and 33 EFI
- Grade 7 Intentions complete - mostly Fisher Park

**Professional Development** - Emotionally Focused School Support (Feb. staff mtg)

**On-going professional learning** - Foundational Literacy (March staff mtg)

**Pay it Forward** - request to consider: Helmets for Queen Mary PS so that they can use their outdoor rink

**Q&A**

Q – Toonie Tuesday – do the numbers include online?

A – Yes, and the numbers may be higher when in-person count is made. This fund directly benefits Connaught families.

Q – kinder numbers – will we go back to 4 classes?

A - Would need 28+ in each class.

Q – staff turnover – is this a typical amount?

A – Variable with no specific trackable trends

<p><b>Teachers' Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kinders – field trips to Rosemount and Lunar New Year focused activities (dragon dance)</li> <li>• Grade 2 – skating trip</li> <li>• Grade 3-4 – visual art projects; skating was a novel and exciting activity for many in these classes.</li> <li>• Grade 4-5 – skating was also a big draw.</li> <li>• Learning Commons – kids excited to engage in the new space.</li> </ul>	<p>Teacher Representative</p>
<p><b><u>Treasurer's Report</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spirit Wear</b> – final numbers \$431 (less than half last year's figures which means we need to consider whether to run it annually or once every two years). To check whether there are other options than Tuck Gear. To request Brian Chow to ask at OCASC next meeting. Safety House (CHEO supplier) might be an option.</li> <li>• <b>Pizza day</b> – has raised \$4000 dollars this year already. This Thursday is the next pizza day.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Committed Spending</u></b></p> <p>-soft furnishings at a cost of \$12,500 have arrived. Additional \$5000 in materials is to come. Classroom expenses, hockey helmets, Hot Lunches license fee and document cameras have been purchased this past month.</p> <p>School council's chequing account and cash on hand are both in good standing.</p>	<p>Treasurer</p>

<p>Fundraising and Events</p> <p><b>Movie Night</b> – There is a maximum seated capacity in the big gym of 235 which is a restriction for movie night. March 3<sup>rd</sup> movie night tickets have sold out. 20 tickets have been set aside for families without access online. Message to teachers first this week. Check with Jason on set up for movie night. Sufficient volunteers for movie night. 4:30pm volunteer gathering. Pizza for 5:30pm. No water being sold. Parent reminder. Blankets and plates; indoor shoes only. There will be a well-equipped dance party. OPH still recommending masking – reminder to parents could be provided on this point.</p> <p><b>Easter Sale - Purdy's Chocolate and Bridgehead</b> – we will promote the Easter sale later this week through SC's various channels. The chocolate and coffee have to be ordered through different systems but to be promoted at the same time. Need bridgehead pricing for specialty blends. Purdy's must close by the 11<sup>th</sup>. Wants to make the products available for pickup in the school (March 31<sup>st</sup>). Students' names ideally to be added for chocolates. To determine whether to publicize the sale which would impact other schools. Jeff Leiper newsletter and QR code</p> <p><b>Lawn it for Connaught</b> – will be run again this summer. June 9<sup>th</sup> is the proposed date. Not clear what to put the money towards – suggestion to use funds to complete learning commons technology component. Potentially could reserve excess for big kids' yard renewal which will be coming in future.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>AOB</p> <p><b>Learning Commons Update</b> – Elizabeth provided an update to the meeting. Soft furnishings and bookshelves have arrived (multiple units – minor flaw results in an extra unit valued at \$5000). Missing 3 or 4 cylinders of soft seating to come and 2 triangular pieces.</p> <p><b>Best Buy grant update</b> – we were not selected out of the 800 schools that applied.</p> <p><b>PRO (parents reaching out) grant</b> – specific themes (eg. Food security; racism/minorities interest). Applications were due yesterday. Potentially a survey in the Fall to determine what people would be interested in. Minou mentioned a reconciliation event from 4 years ago which was inexpensive and well attended. Decided to defer applying this year and reconsider options next year with possible tie in to the learning commons.</p> <p><b>Speaker suggestion</b> – Shelby raised the possibility of having a local author, Rachel Eugster make an hour long presentation grades 2-3 centered around her picture book, The Pocket Mommy which aims to help kids cope with anxiety and find joy and celebration. Comfort objects welcome. \$300 – School Council to review proposa..</p>	<p>Chair</p>

<p><b>Fostering Diversity Webinar</b> – keynote speaker and a panel of 3 discussing engagement with the parent community. Keynote speaker presented tips for engagement/communication with a diverse crowd. Second half was focused on increasing attendance at council meetings and examples of community engagement. One presenter spoke on the benefits of school gardens. Another talked specifically about increasing engagement with their community. Examples of things that worked for their community: (1) In-person communication to drum up community engagement, (2) Lots of notice for meetings. (3) Focus on one specific community interest topic for lobbying (eg. OSTA bus cancellations). (4) translation to increase accessibility for specific linguistic groups within their catchment. While many of the suggestions are already in place at Connaught there is always room for improvement. Potential barriers to increased Connaught community engagement were discussed: lack of babysitting during meetings, date/time of meetings, lack of awareness about the meetings. Consider advertising school council in home room newsletters. Consider adverts on days of events to drum up support.</p>	
<p><b><u>Upcoming Dates</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Movie Night – March 3rd</li> <li>• Purdy’s chocolate sale closes – March 11<sup>th</sup> with March 31<sup>st</sup>.</li> <li>• Next School Council meeting – March 21<sup>st</sup>.</li> </ul>	Chair
<p>The meeting was concluded at 8:35pm.</p>	