

Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 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 & Teacher's Rep: Minou Morley

Attendance: 9 attendees (in person and virtual attendees).

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
<p>The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm. The March Agenda was approved after land acknowledgement. Parent-coach event to be discussed as part of AOB on the agenda. Proposal to move the June meeting to late May.</p>	Vice-Chair
<p>Principal's Report</p> <p>Principal Kim gave a thank you to School Council Executive for ongoing support/hard work and to Vice-Principal, Minou for doing tonight's Teacher Report</p> <p>Staffing Update</p> <p>April - Mandy O'Reilly will be joining us as the staff representative</p> <p>June - Chantale Belleville and Marie-Eve Larocque will join us as staff reps (new date of June 6)</p> <p>Facilities Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nico and his team (Gladys and Fahmo - new evening custodians) were mentioned• March Break - flooring, painting, etc.; still awaiting blinds <p>April is Autism Awareness Month - 1 in 50 children and youth are currently diagnosed with ASD in Canada (last year's stats was 1 in 64). Prevalence has increased over 100% in the last 10 years and autism is now the fastest growing and</p>	Principal

most commonly diagnosed neurodevelopmental disorder in Canada - shared responsibility to develop our awareness, acceptance and inclusion

Watermelon Day - change in Spring Kindergarten event. Current year 1s host incoming year 1s and current grade 1s host incoming grade 1s. School Council welcome to join us to recruit incoming families

Planning for 2023-2024 -The planning process is underway

- enrollment projections are for 376 students (currently population is 374 students) - stable
- staffing process has started; staffing allocation will be based on projected enrollment
- class placements - communication shared with families regarding extenuating circumstances

Spring Wishlist - Staff were provided with an opportunity to contribute to a spring wishlist. Requests were as follows:

- Headphones and splitters
- Diverse books for the library
- Kinder - Plasma cars, building materials (wooden loose parts), outdoor kinder materials (animals, toy cars, etc.)
- Recess balls/equipment

Staff Professional Development - The focus on foundational literacy skills in the primary grades and ensuring we are targeting specific needs across all grades, is key in decreasing the number of students who require tier 2 and 3 interventions later in their school journey.

Other - No overnight for Grade 6 but will do an extended day and cookout; Love to Groove will be back on in June; Rock, Paper Scissors tournament was today.

Q&A

Q – is there a large number of Connaught students with autism?

A – We haven't collected information on this. We certainly have students with an ASD diagnosis in our school community.

Q – can School Council participate with a booth at watermelon day

A - yes - will confirm dates and logistics - likely in late May. Could look to recruit for School Council roles around this time too.

Q – IEPs were meant to be sent home in March.

<p>A – Yes they were sent but electronically.</p> <p>Q - what is full capacity for the school</p> <p>A - we are at that level already which is why we are a zero cap school (ie. no room to offer places).</p>	
<p>Teachers' Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chickadees - have been making smoothies and other food items. ● Kinders – discussing where garbage goes tied in with looking after the planet. ● Grade 1-4 have been skating at Tom Brown arena, which they very much enjoyed and the parent volunteers and SC support of skates has been very welcome. Grade 1s have been focusing on community this month. ● Grade 2 and Grade 4 have been having scientists in the school sessions. <p>Discussion around additional helmets or gear required to supplement - questions to be raised with staff. Might consider a sticker system to keep track of which kids have which equipment (useful to track for multiple skate visits).</p> <p>One identified skating challenge was in relation to helmets (eg. where a skater has a helmet that doesn't fit them properly) - however the school cannot control what helmets parents/guardians chose to send with their child (eg. bike helmets)</p>	<p>Teacher Representative</p>
<p><u>Treasurer's Report</u></p> <p><u>Committed Spending</u></p> <p>-soft furnishings at a cost of \$12,500 have arrived and will be paid for at the end of the school year. Additional \$5000 in materials is to come.</p> <p>Parked whether to support Grade 6 MacSkimming with an additional funds beyond already committed spending (\$650).</p> <p><u>Summary of Accounts</u></p> <p>Lots of movement into our account from movie night. Outgoings also for document cameras and movie night.</p> <p>Account has \$31000 currently but a lot will be allocated based on wishlist items and learning commons expenditures. .</p>	<p>Treasurer</p>

<p>Movie night netted \$720 but less than the \$1200 from the previous night - difference is based on having paid for our own food (rather than donations from Giant Tiger - hoping to ask Giant Tiger for support for the end of year BBQ).</p> <p>Easter bunny sale - \$820 (\$2k in chocolate sales). Coffee sales were down by more than ½. Next year we may not run coffee. Might consider different fundraisers next time.</p> <p>\$1,200 from pizza in the previous month. School board has given us \$500 for parent-engagement which will go to the year end bbq</p> <p>Year to date - \$14,000 raised.</p>	
<p><u>Fundraising and Events</u></p> <p>Plantables - ready to promote starting this week given Plantables has emailed previous purchasers offering produce on sale.</p> <p>March Movie Night – no negative feedback from the custodians on the state of the gym. The dance set up was very popular so we will duplicate for May movie night. Next movie night will be May 5th and we will maintain Star Wars tradition. To be promoted after Easter. Advance sales offer to volunteers.</p> <p>Easter Sale - Purdy's Chocolate and Bridgehead – Chocolate sorting party in advance of handouts at the school (March 31st - 3:15-6pm).</p>	<p>All</p>

AOB

Chair

- Lawn it for Connaught is going ahead and the committee will start planning soon. Estimating at least \$6k but will know by the second week in June how much has been raised.
- If we self-fund the technology purchases will we be close to clearing \$9000 meaning not too much of a surplus at the end of the year.
- For kinder request, may be able to use second hand toys (eg. tonka trucks) or solicit donations. We have already allocated \$150 for this.
- Garden - will need to follow up with staff involved in planting whether additional purchases are needed.
- Technology request is for 62 more headphones and 30 splitters (currently the school only has two). Need further information on the level of quality needed (\$4 headsets vs \$25 Logitech ones).
- Queen Mary school - skating helmet request - should we pay it forward by supporting them at this time? Helmets are priced at \$56.50 so it might be better to give them a cash donation which they can put towards helmet purchases next fall.

Subway - location owner has offered to provide lunches. Will ask the owner to come speak to the group about how it would work. To ask the community whether this would be of interest as a lunch option. To check whether schools within our school board are offering Subway (approved option?) either directly or through OCASC. Julie to follow up with the owner directly.

School Survey - seeking input on our events to date, events missing from our itinerary, are there barriers to attending meetings etc. Areas of interest for further events (eg. events parents have been at other sites). Julie to start drafting questions and will circulate for comment.

Furniture assembly - 3 or 4 volunteers needed to help with this after hours. Library techs will not be around to help unless Shelby is paid for an additional day. May need two sessions (eg on a PA day). Will seek volunteers and confirm assembly dates once the second unit arrives.

Upcoming Dates

Chair

- Next Movie Night – May 5th
- Purdy’s chocolate & Bridgehead pickup – March 31st.
- Next School Council meeting – April 18th.
- BBQ - June 21st
- Combined SC May-June meeting - June 6th.

The meeting was concluded at 8:35pm.

