

Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19th 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: Mayelle Joachim-Hivert; Astrid Johnson (Teacher's Representative); Suzanne Nash (trustee)

Attendance: 16 attendees (in person and virtual attendees).

| <i>Agenda Item</i> | <i>Speaker</i> |
|---|----------------|
| The meeting was called to order at 4:20pm and chaired by the current chair. The September Agenda was ratified after modifications from Chair, Vice-Chair and other attendees. The June 2023 meeting minutes were also approved.. | Chair |
| <p>Elections</p> <p>- All outgoing executive members reaffirmed for 2023-24 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chair (returning): Julie Mayrand● Vice-chair (returning): Zoe Lomer● Secretary (returning): Gisele Salazar● Treasurer (returning): Andrea Villeneuve● Member-at-Large: Sabrina Sengupta● Member-at-Large: Janet Lo <p>The members-at-large are new positions for 2023 to provide greater support and coverage to meet School Council's needs.</p> | |

Principal's Report

Principal

Shout out to Staff and Students and Families - thank you for your support of new routines, patience, flexibility, perseverance, and positivity

Thank you to the executive for all of their hard work. It is very much appreciated by our school staff and our school community in general.

Great start to the school year!

Vice-Principal

Enrollment:

- 379 students
- 18 homerooms
 - 4 kinders (Penguins, Bees, Chameleons, Dinosaurs)
 - 1 semi-DD specialized class (Chickadees)
 - R12, R23, R45, R56 (English)
 - EF1A, EF1B, EF2A, EF2B, EF3A, EF34A, EF45A, EF5A, EF6A (Early French Immersion)
 - Staff of 48 (not including our ELAs in EDP and nurse) = over 50
 - 24 teachers
 - 1 Designated occasional teacher (DOT)
 - 8 ECEs + 1 half time ECE that works 2:45 to 6:15 in EDP
 - 5 EAs (2 in SPC, 1 + 2 half time EAs in general pop)
 - 3 custodial staff (Mr. Josh and evening staff)
 - 2 LTM/BM
 - 2 office staff (1.5)
 - 2 administrator (1.5)
 - 1 library tech (0.5)

Extra-curriculars and Upcoming Events

- First Assembly - Friday, September 9 - Welcome back - introduced each class and all of our staff/ favourite book
- Cross country running practices started on Monday, September 18
- Terry Fox Run - Friday, September 22
- Meet the Staff event - Thursday, September 28 from 4 to 6 pm
- Ribbon Cutting @ 5 pm same day
- Observance of National Truth and Reconciliation Day (Orange Shirt Day) - September 30 (schools recognizing on September 29) - somber day, important to respect the time and space for mourning, not a spirit day, not a day for an assembly/social media posting - intention needs to match impact
- PA Day on Friday, Oct 6 - Literacy focus
- Dental Screening - Tuesday, Oct 24 and Wednesday, Oct 25
- Picture Day - Wednesday, Oct 25
- IEPs go home on October 16
- Progress Reports go home on November 16
- PT Interviews on November 23 and 24

Professional Learning

- Promoting a Safe and Positive School Climate
 - Developing relationships
 - Ensuring students feel represented
 - Communicating with families
 - Ongoing work

- Foundational Literacy
 - Right to Read - recognition that literacy is a basic and essential human right
 - Recognition that many students require systematic, explicit reading instruction to unlock the key to decoding
 - Foundational Literacy- shift in assessment tools and pedagogical practices that correspond with targeted skills
 - Ongoing work to support teacher capacity and student success

Snack Program (in partnership with Ottawa Network for Education (ONFE)) - Mayelle

- Classroom bin model
- Non-stigmatizing and does not single out or turn away students
- All children have the opportunity to participate
- parents/guardians are always welcome to contribute to the program through financial contributions in the form of cheque or grocery store gift cards; increase in the cost of food this year

Updates:

- Transportation - Province-wide shortage of drivers continues; looking at long-term sustainability in the system
- Cost Recovery - Field Trips/Scientists in Schools

Community Connections

- Parkdale - filling the food cupboard - school initiative again this year
- Neighbourhood interactions

Request for Funding

- MASC Performance - Hoop Dancers (\$1000 approx) for spring 2024

Snack program is running again with bins provided in class rooms for both nutrition breaks. Would welcome donations of gift cards and cash contributions but cash is preferred for delivery service. Preference for Metro, Superstore and other major supermarkets.

Teachers' Report

Teacher
Representative

- Chickadees – the Chickadees are in a new classroom for this year. Working on sequencing through making apple sauce
- Kinders – there are four kinder classes this year (Bees, Penguins, Dinosaurs and Chameleons) small groups than last year. Rosh Hashanah activities in the classroom (eg. Apples and Honey). Rosemount library visits recommence with story time and book browsing. New plasma cars for Kinders to use in the gym.
- Grade 1s – reading buddies has begun with grade 5 students. Les lettres literacy program.
- Grade 2 – paper quilt art project which will be displayed on Meet the Teacher event.
- M. Montagny – planting towers in use.

Terry Fox event on Friday so Grade 6 kids have been helping to organize this.

- First scholastic book fair will be the week of parent-teacher interviews – requests for volunteers will follow in 1-3 weeks.
- Cross-country running practice for Grades 3-6 in the early meeting in preparation for a meet at Mooney's Bay.
- Intramural soccer has begun.
- Request for support for MASC event – spirit of dance Indigenous hoop and powwow dance – an event that the entire school can attend (tentatively in April). May need some school council funding. A performance is roughly 50 minute and costs will be around \$1000 + HST.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer

Year in Recap

2022-23 - raised more than \$37k this year (roughly \$100 per student) which is over double the previous year. Spent \$39k for a closing balance of \$16k. \$11k of this is earmarked for Learning Commons. Annual objective is to spend as much of the funds raised in current year as possible to benefit the kids for whom funds were raised. Main fundraisers:

- \$10k raised through pizza sales with another \$1,600 for sponsor a slice.
- \$11k from sponsorship and sales for Lawn It for Connaught
- \$3k from movie nights
- Condolence fund raised \$4300 for bereaved Connaught child.

Unfortunately the Plantables fundraiser will not run in future as the program has been discontinued by company.

70% of what was spent went to the Learning Commons project (\$27k) replacing all furniture with height adjustable tables, storage seating, soft furnishings, new bookshelves.

School council bought 67 new headphones, document cameras and splitters. Kinder toys, sponsored Grade 6 MacSkimming overnight trip. Supported Chickadees with a new tricycle (sponsorship by HEDC) and other wishlist items.

Large Bluetooth speakers have also been purchased for the school.

Committed Spending

\$7k has been earmarked for spending on tech

To date \$21,000 in pizza purchases.

Discussion

All

- Priorities meeting/discussion to follow with request for school's wishlist along with Initial budget discussion.
- Tentative event calendar drafted in June will be provided.
 - o Pizza Day x 20
 - o Council meetings x5 (each month a meeting or event)
 - o Movie nights x 3
 - o December community event x 1
 - o Year end BBQ x 1
 - o Lawn it for Connaught x 1*

Funds from another Lawn it For Connaught will likely go towards fundraising for the big kid play structure replacement which has a 25 year life (our structure is from 2000) and the costs need to be covered by the School Council as the school/government will not fund.

Spirit wear – we will hold off for next year (every two years). The school could use a restock of water bottles with stickers.

End of year bbq dates were discussed with a Wednesday and a Friday considered however the Valley View farm visit is June 21st so the school's preference is to keep the event on Wednesday June 19th.

Walking School Bus – Sabrina provided an update on the WSB. There has been an informal continuation of parents agreeing to have the previous WSB leaders walk their kids to school after the formal program was discontinued for this school year. City is not willing to fund the program (roughly \$10k per year). OSTA is also unable to support. Previously, the WSB leaders were paid and had liability insurance. Suzanne Nash has put in a request to Jeff Leiber to raise with OSC - if Connaught can fund it, can the program run again. If not, insurance information from previous insurers would be helpful for a private version. Suzanne Nash and Sabrina Sengupta are spearheading this investigation. It is not sustainable for the school council to pay for this program.

AOB

Chair

- *Learning Commons ribbon cutting ceremony* - sponsors have confirmed attendance and Suzanne Nash will attend. To be positioned as a drop-in event given parent-teacher meetings will be ongoing at the same time.
- *Nature education center summer overview* – garden watering over the summer went well. Need feedback on what teachers want to do for nature education center given we will not have the Plantables starter kit.
- *Annual Report & Principal's profile* – Annual report is drafted. Will recycle last year's submission for the profile as there have been no major changes to the requirements. Annual report will be posted on the website.
- *Algonquin College Outreach* – Grade 4-6 outreach by Algonquin College regarding birds flying into windows.
- *Seats 4 Kids support* – looking for fundraising support (registered charity) – a 50/50 at movie night would be a good initiative or December open house. If a lottery situation, Kim will need to review the rules/carry out risk assessment.
- Meet the teacher night - school council to set up a welcome booth/desk.

Upcoming Dates

Chair

- Meet the Teachers & Learning Commons ribbon cutting – 5pm on September 28th
- IEP – October 16th
- Picture Day – October 25th
- Fall Movie Night – October 27th
- Next School Council meeting – November 14th

The meeting concluded at 5:45pm.