

Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 14th 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), Janet Lo (member-at-large)

Principal: Kim Simpson; Vice-Principal: Mayelle Joachim-Hivert; Louisa Batistelli (Teacher's Representative)

Attendance: 10 attendees (in person and virtual attendees).

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
<p>The meeting was called to order at 4:22pm and began with a land acknowledgement. September minutes and November Agenda were both approved.</p> <p>Three priorities for this year as determined at the priorities setting meeting in October are supporting the school, building community (eg. Winter Feast) and planning for the future (eg. Big Yard renewal and SC succession)</p>	Chair

Principal/Vice Principal Report

Principal/Vice-Principal

Principal Kim indicated that since our last council meeting the following have occurred:

- Meet the Staff at the end of September
- Terry Fox Run
- Various Field Trips
- Cross Country Meet and Soccer Tournament
- Student Lunch Monitors started in October
- October 6 and November 3 PA Days - Provincial priorities
- Dental Screening
- Picture Day
- IEPs were sent home
- Celebrations - including Halloween Parade
- Three Fire Drills and a Lockdown/Secure School practice
- EQAO - results sent home to individual families in October
- Remembrance Day ceremony last week
- Enrollment numbers up to 397 students as of Monday this week (at the end of September, we had 378 students)
- Red Food Box Campaign

The following are upcoming events/activities for the school:

- Progress Reports and Initial Communication of Learning go home on Thursday this week at 3:30 pm
- P-T Interviews are evening of November 23 and morning of November 24
- PA Day on Nov 24
- Scholastic Book Fair

- Chickadee Swim
- Clifford Bowey, every second week
- Previously shared their mini-bus to support; looking for alternatives

Play Structure Updates

- \$80 000 to \$100 000 for structure and ground preparation (if using the same footprint)
- 3 to 5 year window from when we are first told that structure is declining; we can wait for that (piece by piece) or go ahead and start the process
- Likely \$25 000 available from the OCDSB
- Grant might be available from the city for \$7500 - usually given in this situation
- The rest would be fundraising efforts and potential nearby developers
- Board shared potential designs and pricing
- Suggest student involvement in selecting features, etc.
- Previously, schools would need to have funding organised for March for a summer install; now timing is more like have funding ready for December for a summer installation
- Suggest forming a committee and directing fundraising efforts as a first step

Learning Commons Tech Updates (Mayelle)

- Purchased and received: Sphero Minis, Beebots, Snap circuit kits, K8 Kits & Climate Action Kits
- Staff have begun receiving coaching from OCDSB Tech Coach (how to integrate these items into their programming, will return to support in-class lesson)

- Learning Commons wall will be painted green (for green screening purchases)

over the next two weeks

- Still need to purchase 3 tripods, a portable green screen curtain (easy to hang or assemble), green screen mat for the floor (ex. turn into sea, boat), microphones. Can this be purchased by the school council directly?

\$80-100K for new replacement big kids structure - 3-5 year window for replacement from point of assessment of decline. \$25k may be available through OCDSB. \$7.5k from source. Rest would be self-funded or with community support (eg. builders). Must have funds in school board account in December for summer build. Should consider putting together a committee for fundraising and deciding on which structure and features to select. Will look to maintain the existing footprint which is the most cost effective. Build is usually over the summer closure.

Q - kinder yard renewal?

A - kindergarten and certain class rooms are part of potential third party daycare space so separate consideration that is looked into each year.

Tech Update

16 spherical robots with some coaching of at least one teacher on how to use.

12 Bbots with coaching set up to follow.

K8 modular cars

Climate action kits for grade 5-6.

Going to paint the back wall of learning commons as a green screen. Considering a portal green screen cover.

Mayelle will provide costing to school council

Teachers' Report

Teacher Representative

The kinders had a Halloween parade which parents were able to watch/attend. Books were read to commemorate Diwali and there have been Rosemont library visits. Underwater themed learning centre in one of the K classes.

The Parkdale food centre and food delivery is being supported by students at Connaught. Point card system for meal planning knowledge will be shared (Grade 5). Michelle Richardson still supporting Parkdale since retirement from teaching at Connaught.

Grade 5s and 6s assisted with Remembrance Day activities including performing/singing.

Grade 6s have an ongoing biodiversity study. Aim is to the children investing time in planting some plants. One visit with a master gardener who helped identify invasive species.

Coding week planned (last year Grade 6s focussed workshops which engaged peer-to-peer learning). December 4-10th.

Q - how can the school council support the biodiversity study? Are there other gardening needs (\$200-300 has been earmarked for spend).

A - perhaps with removal of the invasive buckthorn and could also be useful to plant plants which have ROI (eg. raspberry bushes).

Q - e-waste initiative?

A - could be a good option for Grade 6 fundraising (sustainability journal - Moolah for Macros Fund and Quantum Fundraising). More information is available at the following links: <https://www.era.ca/electronic-waste-fundraiser/>; https://quantumlifecycle.com/en_CA/fundraising-collection-events/

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer

Spending/Outgoing

\$4,500 raised in the past two months.

Need to have a push to get more pizza ordered in the new year.

Movie night yielded \$1100 - money will be put towards pay it forward (assisting other schools).

Committed Spending - \$6,500+ towards learning commons from Lawn it For Connaught. MASC performance will be subsidized and will be less than \$900.

Sponsor a Slice - \$1520 collected to date. Program serves 23 students for 40 slices/5 pizzas each Pizza Day. Nearly 100 pizzas for the year. Program costs \$1100 so the extra raised can go to other initiatives.

Budget

Started year with roughly \$16,500 and projected year end is less than \$800 (excluding roughly \$6000 retained for school yard renewals) to meet the mandate to spend in the year raised. Discussing running Lawn it For Connaught again with funds towards school yard renewal.

Plantables fundraiser will no longer run so a replacement needs to be found or alternative fundraisers for smaller needs.

Lower uptake for chocolate and wreaths. Purdy's sale has been closed and should make around \$500.

HEDC grant funding to be discussed.

No grants have been identified for this school year to pursue.

Borden balls; soccer balls and nets - to be covered through HEDC grant

Committed Spending - \$25,000 intended for the year.

- Staff Appreciation/Staff Room Refresh - \$5000 being requested. Dishes and plants, cutlery. Will identify a subcommittee to work on this Graduation - same budget as last year (\$450)
- Grade 6 Overnight Trip Contribution - \$650.
- Kinder and Chickadee requests have been factored in as well as \$250 for STEM kits.
- Special events - about \$2500
- Some of the budget that was allocated for recess equipment (\$1000) that has been purchased by the school can be allocated instead to school trips. Additional \$500 to field trip fund but to be used for Chickadee transportation to swimming.
- Pay it forward - \$750 towards Queen Mary Street PS for helmets.
- Bulletin boards - two free but not in an ideal location - could put in a work order for a new one (approx \$500)
- Gift cards for custodians for winter feast clean-up support thank you?

<p>Fundraising</p> <p>October movie night netted \$1000.</p> <p>\$500 profit from Purdy's</p> <p>Coffee and wreath fundraiser has another two weeks - \$1200 in sales. Wreaths on track for point in the year. Looking like we will meet our targets.</p> <p>Spiritwear - Zoe provided an update on spiritwear and mockups from Spiritwear Canada. New relationship so not clear what to expect re: quality. T-Shirt: \$11.75 (pre-markup); \$32.75 for hoodie (pre-markup) - costs don't include tax or shipping. Minimum order required. Decision made not to pursue further and stick with Tuck Gear for now. If there is demand for specific age range and size (eg kinders) - could consider purchasing extra hats/t-shirts for sale at Council events in between Spirit Wear campaigns. Plan is to offer a campaign every other year.</p> <p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Winter Feast update: event is set for December 8th and is being organised by a separate committee (Heidi, Jen and Erica). Plan is to run the event similar to how it was run pre 2020. Savoury dishes will be set up in the big gym, along with a dance set up at the front. Small gym will be for desserts and a quieter activity. Bridgehead has agreed to donate coffee. ● Family directory - 169 students have been registered ● Walking school bus - OSC suggested \$5000 per leader for the remainder of the school year but would have required Council to organize the payments and administration. The parents involved have declined this option at this point. Participating community members continue to pool walk together with volunteers. The board has no transportation responsibilities. As such OSTA would normally be the point of engagement. Need to connect with our trustee/OSTA to consider options for next Sept. 	<p>All</p>
<p><u>Upcoming Dates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next School Council meeting – January 16, 2023 ● Parent/teacher interviews - November 23-24th ● PA day - November 23th ● Fundraisers pick up date - December 2nd ● Winter Family Feast - December 8th <p>The meeting concluded at 5:47pm.</p>	<p>Chair</p>