

Connaught School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

Virtual via Google meet; 7:30PM - 8:30 PM

Executive in attendance: Gisèle Salazar (co-chair), Cynthia Shelswell (co-chair), Andrea Villeneuve (treasurer), Sabrina Sengupta (fundraising chair), Allison MacLachlan (secretary).

Principal: Kim Simpson; Vice-Principal: Minou Morley

	<i>Item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	
1	<p>Call to Order, Approval of February's Minutes, Approval of March's Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cynthia calls to order ● Defer approval of February's minutes to allow for more review time ● Cynthia moves to approve agenda, Julie seconds 	Chair	
2	<p>Principal's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board policy review of safe schools and reviewed the lockdown, presentation ● Pilot recess equipment: Grade 2 EFI and will add the rest of that Zone soon; Grade 6 EFI will pilot it for their Zone. ● Green light to do community walks: grade 1 will be the first. Parental volunteers are not needed at this time. ● Staff absences continue to be a problem across the Board with many classrooms having to be closed due to absences impacting a system that was already stretched. Luckily Connaught has not been impacted directly. Where a replacement for a teacher needs to be found, the protocol is to figure out strategy on the morning which may involve calling on emergency tickets on record, Minou and Kim taking shifts. If more than 1 teacher will be absent, a plan is developed with the Superintendent for reallocations; something that is happening across the province. This is not new, but it is compounded by the Covid situation. And HR is always recruiting. ● New Designated Occasional Teacher "DOT": Mrs. Tang. The length of time that a DOT remains with a school really depends on the individual. It's not a job for everyone but it's a great way to learn and get to know a lot of different sites. ● 3rd Path bookclub: 5th session, will be done before June report cards. ● Planning is underway for next year, class allocations depend a lot on whether families select in person or OCV. Purchasing science equipment, and Kinder learning materials and recess equipment. ● Class Activities and Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Modified talent show: Mr S. organizing 	Kim + Minou	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michelle’s class It’s Like project: artists engage with the class to develop puppet shows. ○ Superhero day on March 31. ○ Mr S class working on a beading class and Craig Cardiff working with some of the classes. ○ Indigenous partner: ceremony, beading and math ○ Indigenous storyteller gave workshops at 4 classes, instruments and music and stories. ○ Virtual scientists in the school is ongoing initiative ○ Rock Paper Scissor Tournament: There is a face off to come and the staff engaged in the same thing. Learning opportunity, conversation around respectful competition. Also a good mediation tool on the school yard to carry on with the play and resolve disputes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff Support. At the end of the Principal’s report, questions were raised about how staff are managing with their heavy workload and morale and whether there were ways for SC to provide support. Kim mentioned that Connaught is lucky to have a super team and to date we’ve never had a single teacher say they couldn’t help. Staff are thanked a lot and attempts are made to shield staff from overwhelm. Everyone is looking forward to the Spring break. A COVID appropriate lunch for staff was recently ordered, which was well received and appreciated. A discussion around other initiatives from School Council were discussed such as personalized notes, small food/beverage related gift cards (eg. Bridgehead; Tim Hortons). Currently about 47 staff would need to be considered for this. 		
3	<p>Teachers’ Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This month’s teachers’ report was consolidated into the Principal’s report with contribution from Minou. 	Teacher Representative	
4	<p>Discussion</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report on Syrup/Coffee Orders. Sabrina provided a report on this Easter fundraiser and stated that there had been a lot of support. There were 54 orders: Sold over \$3200, cleared \$820.77. We also received free delivery with our maple syrup. ● Grade 6 Grad Gift Parents indicated that in the past graduates have enjoyed an overnight trip to McSkimming, leaving ceremony, ceremony with parents and certificates with valedictorian. In the past the citrus fundraiser to help offset costs of overnight trip, there’s been a \$600 annual grant from council towards 	Various	

graduation. Last year was an anomaly due to the strike and COVID. As a result, the overnight trip last year was cancelled and the fundraising proceeds (\$1200) were used to buy sweatshirts with the graduates' names, cookies and Merry Dairy. Videos from teaching staff and hosted event with the EFI class were part of last year's activities.

It was suggested that Grade 6 parents this year should be tasked with brainstorming ideas with a similar type/level of contribution from Council. Council would be happy to support and help make the experience as good as we can. The need to ensure that the 10 grade 6 students in OCV still be able to participate was noted so having an inclusive gift was discussed. Kim indicated that this year the graduation ceremony will be virtual. Pre-record and permission slips for everyone, live-streaming is likely not an option. OCV included with their home schools.

Cynthia put forward the idea of a grade-6 dedicated coffee fundraiser to which the grade 6 parents could help drive sales. School council could divert some of the fundraising that we've done this year as well.

It was suggested that grade 6 classes be polled directly on their ideas. Kim indicated that we need to hold off on that until we hear from the Board and until after April break. Andrea mentioned that there was \$600+\$800 from Easter breakfast for a total of \$1400 raised but we could also do a direct ask via Charitable Impact. In terms of sharing the cost with the school, Kim indicated that the school can help with some budget. Teachers are keen on the sweatshirt idea. Next steps: Laura to draft a note for Kim to share with grade 6 parents.

- **Books for Connaught.** The need to refresh materials in the literacy and Numeracy (LAN) bookroom was raised. The LAN contains picture books and novels that are used in classes. The Board as a whole is trying to build capacity to reflect diversity. Accordingly, a cull on materials that are not reflective of students or perspectives that are not of the 21 century needs to occur with supplements/replacement with more forward thinking materials.

Andrea mentioned the book fundraiser with Chapters which has raised \$256. Council could do a push on that with some targeted messaging. Minou and Kim said they would put a list of recommendations together. Exec agreed to work with Kim and Minou to work out the list and means to buy the books/donate money. Then we would report back to the community on the next steps. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this initiative.

- **Spring yard Clean-up.** Spring yard clean up was discussed. The Board Superintendent has indicated that they would like the principal to be onsite during the clean up as certain parameters need to be followed. Covid procedures mean it would have to be

	<p>afterhours and would have to be Friday after school to allow for 48 hours before students return. It was suggested that parents could just show up, sweep, plant, clean up and to be Covid friendly: create a spreadsheet and assign specific jobs. Kim mentioned that she would need to raise it with the Superintendent but different protocols would depend on whether cleaning the yard or the front. Sweeping would need to be left as clean up of this area could create problems/more work for the sweeper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School yard renewal work orders. A discussion was had on whether to proceed with outdoor projects including the planned notice board given limited access to the school yard. Kim indicated that at this point we know we will open under the same protocols next year, construction will be priority for touchless entry and filling stations, filtration. Things are moving but not at the pace we are used to seeing for construction, etc. Cynthia then proposed a motion to defer construction on school yard renewal items (music garden, notice board and chalk board) until COVID yard protocols are relaxed. ● Breakfast grant program. No new updates but the team will follow up with Costco and Farm Boy. Kim mentioned that there is no immediate need for this year. At least once a week parents come and drop off gift cards. 		
5	<p>Treasurer's Report See attached report</p>	Treasurer: Andrea	
7	<p>Reminder of upcoming dates and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Next School Council meeting – May 4, 2021 	Chair	

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.