

Dr. Plaxton Elementary School Council Meeting
Minutes - January 18th, 2023

1. Jan Davies (Chair) called meeting to order 7:09 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgment
3. Welcome/Introductions
Cheryl Gillmore - Superintendent, Lethbridge School Division
4. Additions to Agenda
5. Approval of Agenda: Jenn Giles, 2nd - Jennifer Gordon.
6. Approval of the Minutes from Oct. 19, 2022: Jennifer Gordon, 2nd - Jenn Giles
7. School Report (Erin Hurkett):
E.A.s hired: Brooklyn Sander (Div 2), Brianna Evenson (mostly Div 2.). There have been lots of changes this year and E.A. turnover. Hoping this is the last of the changes.

Student Achievement; Director of Curriculum

Reviewed with Cheryl Gillmore (Superintendent)

Students at school are doing quite well overall in literacy and numeracy.

“Data Conversations” - use the data to determine next steps, and identify areas of strength and growth.

Areas for growth: individual levels of growth.

Cheryl Gillmore added: Plaxton is very purposeful with use of time. Results are great. Plaxton is a model of how to use these results to move forward.

School events:

-Winter Wonderland (Dec. 8) - Excellent turnout. Really fun evening.

-Halloween Event (October 27) - very well attended and families also had lots of fun.

-Gr. 5 Volleyball (ended in December). Wrap up tournament was at Plaxton and went well. All students who wanted to be on a team were. Great coaches and experience for all.

-Gr. 5 Basketball (now). Going well. Plaxton is also hosting the year end tournament. Andy Tyslau organized the league for the city.

-This week: Celebrating Chinese New Year at school. Community members

offered to teach Mandarin to the students and share information about Chinese New Year. Posters on Doors etc. Started the week with Lion Dance at assembly that was very well received by all. Positive feedback from students, teachers and parents.

Look forward to:

-Maker Space/Learning Commons (Update shared by Andy Tyslau): Winter activities including Circuitry, magnetism, etc. for all grades to explore. Mars month after February break (until end of March) - there will be guest speaker from NASA! Other ideas include: book making, kindness activities. There is a Learning Commons committee as well as Libby Leusink who have been working hard on creating fun activities for all grades.

-January 27: Professional Learning Day - No students. This day will focus on Teachers learning about numeracy. "Math Up" Resource (Learning content, how to use it properly). This is the main resource used to help students learn about curriculum outcomes.

8. Teacher Report (Brandon Morrissey)

Grade 5s have been doing some chemistry and hands on learning. Brandon shared Ooblech (term created by Dr. Seuss). This substance behaves as a liquid and a solid. The kids really enjoyed this experiment and creating the ooblech.

Tom Scott: Learning Support Teacher. His role entails supporting students, teachers and parents to navigate the school experience. His role includes Building support plans, organize ISP and other meetings, connect to supports (SLP, OT, PT, etc), work with students in the classroom, and much more.

9. District School Council Report (Cheryl Gillmore provided information as no parents present attended district school council)

January 16, 2023 Meeting: Parent learning session: How to welcome newcomers to school and how council can support and engage newcomers. For next year: School council email accounts created by the division for communication. This way, when the chair changes, then the history also goes with it via email. (Would be confusing to introduce this mid-year so will be rolling out next school year.)

Please see this link for Division [Parent Learning](#) site:

<https://lethsdcommunityengagement.schoolsites.ca/parent-learning>

You can check the Division School Council minutes for deadlines and other important information. They can be found [here](#):

<https://www.lethsd.ab.ca/parents/district-school-council/meetings>

The Division website will also have information regarding SAPDC Learning opportunities for parents. There will be a Literacy Learning Pamphlet with how to work on literacy at home. There will also be sessions on social media awareness and numeracy as well.

Reminder for Division Council meetings: Parent Learning Sessions 6:30-7:00 (In person or can also do through TEAMS). All parents welcome (e.g. how to support literacy at home) District meeting follows at 7:00.

10. Treasurer Report (Jenn Giles)

November: \$5907.34

December: \$6201.44

January 16: \$6706.27

11. Committee Report

No one present to report.

12. Old Business

12.1 Robin Bright Literacy Evening (Erin Hurkett) Rescheduled from November to March 15. Robin will present at 7:00 with council meeting to follow.

13. New Business

13.1 Feedback on Winter Wonderland Evening:

Positive feedback overall. Enjoyed the format, the activities and connecting with other families (and the treats!)

13.2 Funds for Gr. 4/5 Ski Trip (Tom Scott & Brandon Morrisey)

There is interest in taking grades 4 & 5 to Castle Mountain for the day March 2 (tentatively booked). The classes have been fundraising, and \$1490.88 raised so far. Expecting to raise \$500-\$600 more in next canteen.

Funds needed for:

Buses, Rental Equipment, Day Passes, Lessons. (Not all students would need all of these if they have season pass, their own equipment, etc.)

If a student needed EVERYTHING cost would be \$155 per student.

Requesting Parent council provide funds to offset costs not covered by

fundraising. Approximately \$2000-2500.

The hope is to build this ski trip into Plaxton tradition. Every other year the grade 4/5 classes would go on the ski trip and the off year they would fundraise for the trip. This way every student would get to attend in either grade 4 or 5. They have not had as long to fundraise for this inaugural trip, which is why they are requesting funds from council.

The ski trip would include: Whole Day Lesson, supervised all day. Built in lunch break. Will be in groups based on skill. Instructors will be provided for all experience levels. These instructors are provided by Castle Mountain.

Parent group discussion regarding whether the grade 4 free ski passes could be used to cover students who do not have season pass. Mr. Scott clarified that the WOW pass does not cover the ski trip due to the format of lessons and instructor provided etc.

Jennifer Gordon motioned that School Council provide between \$2000-2500 to the grade 4/5 Ski Trip. 2nd: Jenn Giles. Vote: PASSED.

13.3 February Town Hall Representatives (Erin Hurkett/Cheryl Gillmore)

Tuesday February 7 @ Victoria Park School (THIS IS A RECENT LOCATION CHANGE). This year's Town Hall will focus on these two questions: 1. In what ways are we successfully supporting students to help them grow as learners? 2. Where do you see room for improvement in supporting students as learners?

-Cheryl noted location change for meeting from LCI to Victoria Park School gym.

-Would like 4 reps from Plaxton.

Reps = Jan Davies, Jaelyn Belisle

-Jan Davies will contact some other possible reps and follow up with Erin.

13.4 Potential "Parent Learning" option - Blanket Exercise (It builds a better understanding of the past, present, and future of Indigenous worldviews, histories, cultures, language, perspectives and experiences.) (Cheryl Gillmore)

- Is there interest? If so, how many?

- No date yet.

- It would be in the evening.

- Division is trying to get an estimate of interest.

- End of next week deadline for numbers from schools.

Action Item: Jan Davies to send email for Blanket exercise #s and possible Town Hall reps to Erin. (Erin will pass along to division).

13.5 Funds for Teacher Appreciation Week (Jan Davies)

Discussion regarding when Teacher Appreciation week is. Confirmed that May 8-12 is Teacher Appreciation week. February is Substitute appreciation.

Jan wanted to ensure there are funds for council to do something special for teachers during this week. Approximately \$2500.

Jennifer Gordon discussed different options (potentially have option where parents could donate through school cash online) rather than just having school council provide all \$.

Options include providing dinner during Parent/Teacher Interview night. However, this would not allow support staff to be appreciated, and the next Parent Teacher Interviews at Plaxton are Celebration of Learning format, so this may not work.

Providing lunch to all staff one day during week of May 8-12 may be better option.

Group decided to park this item until March meeting. Carry forward on March agenda. Will review and discuss at this time.

14. Future Meeting Dates

Feb. 7 Town Hall, Mar. 15, Apr. 19, May 17, June 21

7:00 meeting start time.

15. Adjournment:

Jennifer Gordon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jenn Giles seconded.

Meeting adjourned 8:07 p.m.