

Dr. Plaxton Elementary School Council Meeting  
Minutes - May 17, 2023

1. Jan Davies called meeting to order 7:03 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgment
3. Welcome/Introductions  
Present - Jan Davies, Jaelyn Belisle, Maria Lindsay, Caylee Low, Jennifer Gordon, Andy Tyslau, Erin Hurkett,
4. Additions to Agenda:
  - Kona Ice for Sports Day in Junet (13.3) - Erin Hurkett
  - K, 1, 2 funds for movie mill field trip (13.4) - Erin Hurkett
  - Serving Piece for kitchen (13.5) - Andy Tyslau/Erin Hurkett
5. Approval of Agenda: Jennifer Gordon, 2nd - Caylee Low
6. Approval of the Minutes from April 19, 2023: Jennifer Gordon, 2nd - Caylee Low; Amend to update date on Minutes to April 19 (typo says April 1)
7. Trustee Report - No trustee present. Tabled.
8. School Report (Erin Hurkett):  
Thanked parent council on behalf of the teachers and staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. It worked really well to have breakfast provided Tues, and lunch provided on Friday before staff meeting. Majority of support staff were able to stay and enjoy on Friday afternoon, which was really great.

Staffing Update for 2023-24 school year (for the most part):

No more e-learning in elementary next year, due to low interest/registration. Sarah Brunner will be moving to LCI, and Candace Lozano will be staying at Plaxton.

Kindergarten: Full time Mrs. Baker; potential to increase 0.5 (another Tues/Thurs program diff teacher). Currently 42 students registered.

Grade 1: Three classes; Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Pirie, Mrs. Dejong → 17 kids/class

Grade 2: Three classes; Mrs. Lovett, Mrs. Herbst, **TBD** (Tacy Thomsen mat leave) → 22 kids/class

Grade 3: Two classes; Mrs. Goruk, Mrs. Kortt (although not sure if she is

returning at this time) → 23/class

Grade 4: Three classes; Mr. Vanden Dungen, Mrs. Lozano, **TBD** (Steph Murray mat leave) → 20/class

Grade 5: Three classes; Mr. Morrison, Mr. Firth, Mrs. McFarland → 20/class

\*all numbers based on current registration information, may change before school year begins.

Great class sizes for next year.

It will be communicated end of August who the student's next teacher will be (Teachers will send out post cards)

If you missed deadline to complete student profile re: class placement - you can email Erin if you have information about your child's needs. (No specific teacher requests).

Bell times for 2023-24 will be staying the same. There was some feedback from group regarding bell times; some parents do not like the times.

Run club has been going well - Tues/Weds/Friday. Little souls Marathon is May 31 @ Chinook High school.

All students have been preparing for Spring Gala (May 18) - afternoon and evening performances. There will be art gallery and performances.

No school May 22/23 (Professional Learning Day). Plaxton teachers will be attending along with 9 other elementaries for PL with Dr. Garfield Gini Newman. Critical Thinking & Engaging Learners. He is part of the Critical Thinking Consortium.

9. Teacher Report (Erin Hurkett)

- Learning Commons - Month on poetry, song writing, book making.

Poetry in Maker space.

Songwriters from Lethbridge: John Wort Hannam (won a Juno recently!)

Workshop style. Shaela Miller also came to perform and share.

10. District School Council Report (Caylee Low)

Presentation to Board re: Cell phones/technology use in school. Committee will be put together based on this (technology strategies for kids, making good

choices, etc.)

Anti-racism, anti-oppression survey -see in email from Division.

June 14 @ 4:30: Diversity & Inclusion parent table at Division office.

Provincial Election: Be better advocates - on division website, find advocacy information. Also information on forums that are available to attend.

ASCA; Outcomes of general meeting (go on the ASCA website for full details)

<https://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca/>

All resolutions passed except the Climate Change resolution.

June 12: District Council Meeting (CHANGED FROM 1st MONDAY) - Format might change; reviewing SOGI policy (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)

Reporting for school councils due in June. Jan will take care of this for our council.

Upcoming learning opportunities: Building the Adolescent Brain JUNE 6.

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.

#### 11. Treasurer Report

Jenn Giles not present - no totals to review at this time.

#### 12. Committee Report

11.1 - Hot Lunch - Jennie Low not present. Unable to review at this time.

Caylee shared that it is running smoothly and there have been lots of volunteers.

11.2 - Running Club (Jennie Low absent, so Erin Hurkett shared update):

Tuesday May 30 will be last day. Wondered if parent council would support sour soother medals (last year did these and pizza, wondering if donuts would work better this year being before school?)

Jennifer Gordon motioned to cover the cost of donuts and sour soother medals if not donated; Maria Lindsay seconded. Vote: passed.

#### 13. Old Business

### 13.1 - Teacher Appreciation Feedback (Jan Davies)

See positive feedback in teacher report (8) above.

Idea for future: In September, talk about Teacher Appreciation over the year/spread out rather than one time (e.g. could do 12 days of Christmas, doesn't necessarily all need to be food, catered lunch in May)

Other schools set up donations via school cash online (doesn't need to just be a parent council donation, parents could donate as much as they would like) - need a due date, and someone to organize/ensure all funds are used for teacher appreciation.

### 13.2 Fundraising Society Start Up (Jaelyn/Erin)

Erin shared that an ASCA rep to facilitate meeting was not able to attend tonight's meeting, but can come to our June 21 meeting at 7:00.

We will need 5 people to agree to be part of the society to get it established.

This will mean that June meeting will be: Society Establishment, followed by AGM meeting, followed by Parent Council meeting.

Erin will send email to all parents,

Parents who subscribe to parent council updates via school website are not getting put onto the list to receive emails. Action Item: Jan will follow up with Kristin at Division office to determine solution to this problem.

## 14. New Business

### 14.1 Sports Day - Kona Ice (Erin Hurkett)

Sports day is June 22; would like to provide kid size Kona ice for all students.

Last year parent council paid \$770 to supply this.

Jaelyn Belisle motioned to pay for Kona Ice for all students. Jennifer Gordon seconded. Vote: Passed.

### 14.2 - Lower Elementary Movie Mill Field Trip (Erin Hurkett)

Grades K, 1, 2 are going to the Movie Mill and requested \$275 to help offset costs (there is still cost to parents of these students)

Maria motioned to pay for the Movie Mill Field Trip. Caylee seconded. Vote:  
Passed.

#### 14.3 - Servery (Andy Tyslau/Erin Hurkett)

At this time, not sure about full details but wanted to start a discussion and get feedback/gauge interest.

Would like to use the servery in the school for meals/snack programs

Need permits to use servery and need permit for safe food handling.

One idea: Farm to School - eating locally grown foods. Offers grants; 2 years up to \$10 000.

Work with coalition for healthy foods at school.

“Try it Tuesday” - Farmer brings in a vegetable for all students to try.

Unsure at this time what other grants are available. Andy looking into this more.

Discussion:

Magrath - SASH (Southern Alberta Society for the Handicapped) run the cafeteria.

Possibly connect with the College Culinary students?

Positive feedback from parents present.

LMBA (basketball) June 9 @ Plaxton: running a canteen.

#### 14.4 - June dates (Jennifer Gordon)

June 15 - Welcome to Kindergarten

June 23 - Grade 5 Farewell

June 26 - afternoon - water fight/play grades K, 1, 2.

June 28 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Lots of field trips happening in month of June as well.

#### 14. Future Meeting Dates

June 21

7:00 meeting start time.

#### 15. Adjournment:

Caylee Low motioned to adjourn the meeting. Maria Lindsay seconded.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.