

Dr. Plaxton Elementary School Council Meeting
Minutes - April 19, 2023

1. Jenn Giles (Acting chair) called meeting to order 7:02 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgment
3. Welcome/Introductions
Present - Jenn Giles, Jaelyn Belisle, Maria Lindsay, Caylee Low, Jennifer Gordon, Leslie Lebeau, Sarah Orr, Andy Tyslau, Erin Hurkett, Tyler Demers (Trustee)
4. Additions to Agenda:
 - Purchasing Request (13.1) - Andy Tyslau
 - Trustee Update (13.2)
5. Approval of Agenda: Caylee Low, 2nd - Maria Lindsay.
6. Approval of the Minutes from Jan. 18, 2023: Jennifer Gordon, 2nd - Caylee Low; Amend to update change to 13.3 - Jennifer Gordon offered to write bylaws, not grants as written.
7. School Report (Erin Hurkett):
Staffing Update:
Steph Murray on mat leave now (grade 4). Cali Harris (just had name change updated today - Cali McCorriston) now teaching grade 4. Had been in grade 1 before, so is familiar with the school.
Mrs. Walker now back in grade 1.

Erin is currently working on 2023-24 staffing. Working with HR on number of teachers and support staff for each grade. This is based on enrolment and student need. Mike from HR coming Friday, so staffing for 2023-24 should be confirmed Friday.

In most recent Buzz Newsletter, parents can fill out student profile form re: class placement - NOT requesting specific teacher, but info about students. Opportunity to fill this out closes on May 1st.

School events:
 - Parent/Teacher interviews (by request only) & Celebration of Learning.

Positive feedback, parents liked the set up, and liked seeing their own children's stuff, along with stuff created/completed by other grades/students.

- Mars Month; Erin thanked Andy for all he did for the Mars month activities, etc. Lots of positive experiences for the kids.
- Running Club; Jennie Low organized; big thanks to her (she was absent from this meeting), It has not been great weather, but the kids are enjoying it.
- Dare to Care art gala at the Galt Museum (auction/fundraiser). Brandon Morrison & grade 5s, in conjunction with grade 4s and grade 2s. (smashed clay pots, painted, then put back together, and put plants with soil and seeds from Mars month activities.
- 2 Professional Learning Days (March 17 and April 17). Numeracy Focus. Resource - Math Up (Marion Small - Canadian). Digital in nature. Awesome resource. (Sharing more in Teacher Report)

8. Teacher Report (Erin Hurkett)

- Math Up Resource demonstration; Erin showed how the resource can be used for different grades/topics.
- Digital textbook; can keep updated without having to buy new textbooks.
- Interactive resource; choose grade, can access all for differentiated learning.
- Full class, small group, partner & individual/independent pieces to it.
- Lots of games and activities.
- There are currently 1 or 2 other schools in the division also using this resource.
- MathUp has committed to changing the back end if/when curriculum changes due to government, etc.
- The resource is responsive to changing needs.
- Only teacher resource, not parent resource/access
- QR codes for activities/games are good for 2 weeks; these could possibly be shared home, for use in that 2 week period.
- Most teachers at Plaxton are using at least pieces of it, maybe not all.

9. District School Council Report (Caylee Low)

Steps to becoming a member of ASCA; go through chair (to get profile/password). Lots of information on website if you want access.
Option: Print off info & organize in binder, so parents could access information without profile.
ASCA Conference coming up April 21-23; deadline to register was April 14.

Online learning sessions: many coming up. Check division website for details.

Hot lunch discussion around different options & figuring out best options for your school. LOTS of different things happening.

Some options included: Subway, Boston Pizza, Edo Japan, Busters, Jugo Juice, Little Caesars, Booster Juice, Stellas Diner, Coras, Tim Hortons Truck (Andy has emailed this one!)

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)

Closing balance: \$6744.95 (Does not reflect March 28 hot lunch, but does reflect donation for ski trip).

11. Committee Report

11.1 - Hot Lunch (Jenn Giles shared as Jennie Low absent): April 3 Hot lunch: \$349.31

11.2 - Running Club (Erin Hurkett): Going well, weather has not been great. Tues, Weds and Friday mornings starting at 8:15 a.m.

12. Old Business

12.1 - Teacher Appreciation Week May 8-12.

Jenn Giles Idea; Cater a breakfast as lunch is not a time the staff can all be together (staggered lunch times) OR lunch for staff meeting (May 5) however: not all support staff will be there Friday at noon.

Monday/Thursday would be better - ready by 8:00 would be good.

Catering = easier.

Jennifer Gordon shared some parents like to participate by making/sending something.

Discussion that what works for some parents does not work for all (some would rather contribute money, some would rather make something and drop off, etc.)

Andy shared that their staff enjoys Bootsma bakery goods as well.

Jenn motioned to do a sign up sheet for lunch items for staff meeting Friday May

5. Seconded; Leslie. Voted = passed unanimously.

Jenn motioned to do small Bootsma breakfast during appreciation week paid for

by parent council. Seconded by Caylee. Vote = passed.

*Jennifer Gordon will create sign up sheet for lunch 11:00 drop off May 5.

*Jenn Giles & Jaelyn Belisle will coordinate to organize Bootsma breakfast treats with coffee/juice and fruit tray as well. Will share date with Erin/Andy.

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.

12.2 Fundraising Society Start Up (Jaelyn Belisle)

Group agreed that discussion would occur tonight, with plans to form at next meeting.

Steps = form, name (name gets approved), write bylaws (Jennifer Gordon volunteered to complete this step).

Jaelyn shared information from OnBrand, Jamie Petrone (local branding company) who could run fundraiser that would cost school/council nothing, but would raise money from any apparel or "swag" with Plaxton logo on it. Jaelyn will send more information to Erin/Andy to look into.

Erin suggested we hold a meeting after council to officially create a Society.

Erin will contact ASCA for rep to walk through the process.

Following next school council meeting there will be an establishment meeting.

Erin to send email to all parents informing them about this plan, and asking them to reach out to parent council email if they are interested but cannot attend establishment meeting.

13. New Business

13.1 Purchasing Request (Andy Tyslau)

3D Printer is being used by all classes. There is also 3D print club.

The current 3D printer they have is running all the time. They are also using personal printers of staff to keep up with demands.

Andy would like to purchase a duplicate Printer - Creality Ender 5 Plus 3D. Maker Space has some \$ in budget. Andy proposed parent council split the cost (approx. \$400).

Discussion: How much does it cost to run the printer? Approx \$30 per spool. Andy has not run out in a school year yet with his budget from school, plus budget from the budget from 3D print club (they pay to be part of this club).

Jenn Giles motioned for parent council to provide \$400 to Andy/Makers Space for 2nd 3D printer. Leslie LeBeau seconded. Vote: unanimously passed.

13.2 Trustee Update (Tyler Demers):

Hiring new Superintendent; short timeline. The Board of Trustees have not reviewed applications or created short list, but are currently working on this. Tyler asked if parents from Plaxton provided feedback on what they were looking for in a superintendent (opportunity was on division website). Some parents present sent in information/suggestions.

14. Future Meeting Dates

May 17, June 21

7:00 meeting start time.

15. Adjournment:

Jenn Giles motioned to adjourn the meeting. Caylee Low seconded.

Meeting adjourned 8:17 p.m.