

Dr. Plaxton Elementary School Council Meeting
Minutes - September 20, 2023

1. Jan Davies called meeting to order 7:11 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgment
3. Welcome/Introductions
Present - Jan Davies, Jaelyn Belisle, Caylee Low, Jennifer Gordon, Jenn Giles, Heather Osmond Hoover, Jennie Low, Jana McFarland, Maria Lindsay, Allison Stewart, Jessica Kaupp, Trevor (last name?), Jamie Walburger, Becca Olson, Amy Steed, Jodie Goruk, Andy Tyslau (*may have missed documenting a few late comers)
4. Additions to Agenda:
 - New Business: additional school council roles (14.2)
5. Approval of Agenda: Caylee Low, 2nd - Jennie Low
6. Approval of the Minutes from June 14, 2023: Jen Gordon, 2nd - Caylee Low
7. Trustee Report - No trustee present. Tabled.
Andrea Andreachuck is trustee for Plaxton this year.
Allison Purcell = President of the Board
Kristine Light = Chair of the Board.
At this time they have designated committees.
8. School Report (Andy Tyslau):
Staffing Update - Erin Hurkett has taken a position of Director of Learning at Division Office. Andy Tyslau = Acting Principal. Lois Van Roon = Acting Vice Principal.
Michelle Court on leave until Christmas.
Calli McCorriston in grade 3
Megan Norton in grade 2
Added Cammie Mah as half time kindergarten teacher (additional Tues/Thurs kinder)
Support staff change/shuffle in the week before school began. Hoping for more support staff, and less change.

Alberta Education assessments starting. Grade 2 & 3 phonics and basic numeracy. Grade 1 will begin in November.
The information from these assessments will be used to determine “boost” groups (small group instruction).

MIPI Math assessment - grade 5's only

Fountas & Pinnell - grade 2 & 3 in October. Some 4 & 5's in October before Parent Teacher Interviews.

Terry Fox Run - September 21. If the students raise \$1500, Mr. Firth will dye his beard pink. You can [donate online](#) (check Plaxton website)

Run for Reconciliation (Throughout the division) September 18-29.
Week for Truth & Reconciliation.
Orange Shirt Day: September 28

October 11 Picture Day (October 12; T/TH Kindergarten)

Sr. Choir will be starting soon during nutrition break.

Plaxton received Nutrition Grant (\$5000). Targeted 1-3 year program. “Farm to school” program. Goal is for students to understand where food comes from. Increase vegetable consumption. Connect to curriculum when possible. Grade 4 & 5's prepare and cook and then all grades to eat the food prepared. Ideas = potatoes, pumpkin/squash.
Wellness committee at school met to discuss. If anyone is interested in supporting/helping this program - please contact Andy.

Won \$10 000 from KidDoodle. Will be used for iPads for new classrooms. \$3000 for books for Learning Commons. Podcasting equipment. 360 cameras so the students can create their own VR experiences.

9. Teacher Report (Jodie Goruk)

New curriculum; numeracy, literacy, physical fitness. Adding science this year. In the spring and now fall teachers have had opportunity to connect and learn from presenter: Garfield Gini Newman - Expanding thinking on student engagement. Each grade level took his information and put their spin on it. E.g. grade 3 science curriculum - “How will we know we are living in a harmonious way?” Outdoor education. Teachers are very excited about it.

10. District School Council Report

Have not met yet.

They meet the 1st Monday of the month. 6:30 = parent learning 7:00 meeting
(Can attend via Teams)

11. Treasurer Report (Jan Davies - treasurer position open)

June Closing Balance = \$7873.25

12. Committee Report

12.1 - Hot Lunch (Jennie Low): The same volunteers will continue. Working on dates and schedule. There have been some questions about possibility of vegetarian options. Approximately 15 families who are vegetarians.

Discussion: Would opening up vegetarian options lead to more questions about options for gluten free, dairy free, etc.? Unknown what options are available and cost. Would families choosing those options pay more?

12.2 - Running Club (Jennie Low): January start - can discuss more in December.

13. Old Business

13.1 Bike Racks (Andy Tyslau): On June 15 someone came to review and for 5 additional bike racks to go on side (near playground/basketball hoops) which hold 7 bikes each, it would be approximately \$3500. Unsure if concrete would be additional cost, or if install price is included.

Discussion: Unsure of when bike racks could be installed, given that it is mid September already and weather is cooling, would likely be looking at spring as earliest. Question about whether we could order 2 for now, and then more in the future if/when needed. Could the concrete for 5 be poured, but only 2 racks added, etc. Question about whether the installation could be a service project where families/group offers to take this on? Group decided that more details are needed before any decisions could be made. Andy to find out what he can regarding what the price includes and whether racks can be added in stages.
ADD TO OLD BUSINESS FOR OCTOBER MEETING AGENDA.

13.2 Grant Ideas: How to get more parents engaged/participating in Parent council? We cannot use grant money on food/snacks.

Discussion: Guest speakers? Things parents would like to learn more about? Group to think about and discuss further at next meeting. Possibility of parent education sessions? Could be at 6:30 before parent council meeting. Idea = Kaylee Low; Kids & Technology. Becca to reach out to Kaylee to find out possible months she is available (and \$ charge). Another idea: social media and kids?

ADD TO OLD BUSINESS FOR OCTOBER MEETING AGENDA.

13.3 Staff Appreciation Ideas: In the spring there was discussion about whether staff appreciation should/could happen over the year vs. just once a year. Other schools have option of school cash online donation for staff appreciation (for those who cannot contribute to pot lucks, or volunteer in other ways). There would need to be a specific timeline of when donations would be collected and transparency on how \$ used (meals, gift cards, etc.) Also discussed idea of providing meal for teachers during parent teacher interviews or on PD Day.

Jan questioned whether we need a committee for staff appreciation. No one volunteered.

Feedback from Jodie Goruk - earlier in the week would feed staff for the week (there were a lot of leftovers last year, and it was all very appreciated, so earlier in the week might work better).

REVISIT IN JANUARY.

13.4 Plaxton School Society Update: (Maria Lindsay) - Maria contacted Service Canada, currently applications from June 1 being reviewed now. Maria's cheque was deposited August 23, so this means they have the paperwork, but likely won't be reviewed for a while.

14. New Business

14.1 Fine Arts Fundraiser (Andy Tyslau): Trickster Theatre; each grade level. Plaxton did not get the grant they applied for, so the school is unable to do it this year. They will reapply next year.

Until Christmas; Remembrance Day performance, Handbell performance.

Would like to raise \$ for Fine Arts for reapplying and to cover difference (approx \$5000) even if they receive grant. Options suggested: Bacon fundraiser, Poinsettias, wreathes.

Question: Would there possibly be another honey supplier so that another honey fundraiser could be done like last year?

Other ideas = Tisha Elford; fruit fundraiser (in January would be citrus fundraiser).

Andy shared the idea would be to run two fundraisers per year for Fine Arts.

14.2 Additional School Council Roles (Andy Tyslau): District School Council rep?
Jamie Wahlburger volunteered to be rep.

15. Future Meeting Dates

October 18, Nov. 15, January 17, February (Town Hall), March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19.

7:00 meeting start time.

*Andy to check if a microphone could be borrowed to allow for Teams participation in Parent Council. Currently acoustics of room do not work for good experience when attending virtually.

16. Adjournment:

Caylee Low motioned to adjourn the meeting. Heather Hoover 2nd.

Meeting adjourned 8:09 p.m.