

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

1. Jan Davies called meeting to order 7:02 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgment
3. Welcome/Introductions
Present - Andrea Andreachuk (Trustee), Jan Davies, Jaelyn Belisle, Caylee Low, Jennifer Gordon, Jennie Low, Maria Lindsay, Allison Stewart, Jamie Walburger, Becca Olson, Sarah Orr, Paige Olson, Natalie Bevans, Genny Steed, Andy Tyslau (Acting Principal), Lois Van Roon (Acting Vice Principal), Melissa Herbst (Grade 2 Teacher)

Andrea gave some background on herself including 39 years experience teaching in Lethbridge school division. Grade 3 for 1 year, Grade 1 for 10 years, Kindergarten for 27 years at General Stewart.

4. Additions to Agenda:
 - New Business: Jenn Giles (Use funds for pizza for teachers for Parent/Teacher interviews Oct. 25)
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 (Andrea Andreachuk)
 - Sept 26 was Board meeting:
 - Recent ground breaking for new school on the west side. First two storey school since Senator Buchanan.
 - Recycling program has been going well across the division. (At Plaxton, only confusion is on green bins and what can/can't go in. Andy has visual handout to help kids/teachers know).
 - The board is looking to streamline the testing that occurs in the spring.
 - As of September 15 - the division is up 300 students.
 - There is a new Associate Superintendent of Human Resources: Robbie Charlebois.
 - The board continues to advocate to Alberta Education to have funds match the number of students in the division
 - New Superintendent = Mike Nightingale

Multicultural calendar is available on division website to see significant holidays from different cultures. (Find it [HERE](#)).

LCI Choir is going to Italy (Bucca)

Teacher Kristi Legge is taking a dance group from GS Lakie to Hollywood.

The board proposed having a parent on the advisory council.

The division is piloting having vape detectors at 4 schools.

Board proposed to go to Medicine Hat to see play & learn program - the intention behind this is to help Kindergarten parents to get kids to & from school. In Medicine Hat, they have childcare before & after school. Lethbridge will be exploring partnerships for kindergarten & childcare. (K is not mandatory, enrollment is down across the division for kindergarten - many factors/reasons possibly).

Division Highlights:

Truth & Reconciliation events

Terry Fox events.

Boundary Alignment night is coming up. Affects the west side more at this time (due to new school), but they appreciate feedback from every side of the city.

8. School Report (Andy Tyslau):

Grade 2, 3 & 5 teachers have done A LOT of government assessments, and then quick turn around into report card time.

-Assessments include LeNS & Castle; Numeracy Alberta Ed.

Fountas & Pinnell can be discussed at interviews

Grade 4 & 5 - if identified as "at risk" in spring, then ax'd this fall, but not ALL students.

Grade 2 & 3 - All completed testing.

Grade 1 - in January, will do Fountas & Pinnell

October 25: Parent/Teacher Interviews; in person or on Teams.

Also Oct. 25 - data collection and what to do regarding all this testing (next steps).

October 31: 9:45 a.m. Halloween Parade. Parents can come in and watch if you would like.

Nov. 9 - Remembrance Day Assembly

Nov. 10 - Non operational Day

Nov. 13 - Division wide PD Day

Handbells are up and running - they have requested team shirts like sports team.

Jr. Choir will be starting soon.

Successful Terry Fox walk in September; it was a warm day and they raised approximately \$200.

Book fair is next week. Preview is this week and then sale next week. Open during interviews.

Andy is finalizing school fundraising. He will share more when finalized.

Today was first Farm to Table; 40lbs of potatoes from Vauxhall.

Last week; prepped fries & chips, then today they cooked and served them.

Will be doing follow up survey to see if students liked what they ate.

9. Teacher Report (Melissa Herbst)

Teacher professional learning.

Focus = new curriculum.

K-3 = science

4-6 = literacy.

Lots of time looking at resources and ideas for how to make it fun, critical, engaging, etc.

The science curriculum is very open ended. Organization is that each has a unit on physics, chemistry, biology, earth sciences and that each year it would be growing.

Math; How to build foundations. "Fact Fluency" - a lot of stuff to cover and working to figure out how it flows through the grades.

When you shift a curriculum, there are sometimes gaps when you are in say grade 2 or higher, because you didn't get the first foundations that the new information/curriculum you are supposed to be learning was built upon. Hard to make sure every grade gets what they need for that grade level, but also go back and teach those foundations they missed out on.

10. District School Council Report (Jamie Wahlburger)

Many people attended the first meeting.

Shelley Roust is the chair again.

Any are welcome to come to community engagement meetings.

Jamie can get you put on a list to attend meetings if interested (just let her know).

School calendar committee; If you have feedback regarding the school calendar, you can share your feedback. Caylee Low from our school is on this committee.

Question asked: Do we think it is valuable to be part of ASCA?

If we are a member, the chair of parent council gets a login for website and access to all their documents, etc.

School Council engagement grant = \$500, +\$250 for parent learning.

Next parent learning session - What ASCA is.

Mike Nightingale is new Superintendent and he discussed importance of authentic relationships, individualized learning, culture of care and culture of empathy.

***Digital Wellness Parent Evening November 15, 7:00 p.m. @ the Yates. There will be panel including member of police, psychologist, parents and middle school admin. Ability for parents to ask questions to the panel regarding digital wellness.

\$300 000 Nutrition grant - wellness report.

Requested superintendent research the public forum processes. Currently there is rule that you may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes, with a total of 15 minutes max total for public to speak (therefore max of 3 people to speak).

Every month the Board has 2-3 Trustees available for feedback, visits, etc. See the division website for more details.

Parent Idea: appoint staff appreciation person in each council.

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

11. Treasurer Report (treasurer position open)

Jenn Giles willing to fill treasurer position. She was unable to attend tonight.

June Closing Balance = \$7873.25 (did not include outstanding invoices)

****September/October balance \$6544.00 (all invoices paid)**

12. Committee Report

12.1 - Hot Lunch (Jennie Low): Taco Time; canceled due to e Coli. Bit of a hassle because Angela had to go through and refund all purchases. Options this year:

Taco Del Mar

A & W

Hotdogs & Booster Juice

Little Caesars

Tim Hortons

Subway

Not doing sides/juice boxes this year.

Volunteer sign up online will be available soon.

13. Old Business

13.1 Vice Chair & Treasurer Positions:

Treasurer = Jenn Giles

Vice Chair = Paige Olson

13.2 Bike Racks (Andy Tyslau):

Confirmed they can install on existing asphalt (need to be mindful of possible portables down the line for placement of bike racks - would be closer to grade 5 doors)

Timeline would be hopeful for spring/summer.

Tabled for next meeting; Andy to follow up for confirmation on cost with different options.

13.3 ASCA Grant Ideas:

Kaylee Low (Intentional with Tech). Kaylee is available Nov. 8. It would be \$300; 1 hour presentation approx with 30 minutes for questions.

Discussion regarding whether timing is appropriate given the November 15 Digital Wellness Evening put on by Division with no cost to our council/school. Concerns regarding whether it was doubling up with back to back weeks - would people attend both?

Genny shared maybe it can be used to promote the digital wellness division night

Caylee Low shared info on Digital Wellness - The 2 person team are going primarily to middle and high schools. Really good information and presenters. Question for future: Could digital wellness team come to present at Plaxton?

Becca Olson motioned to have Kaylee Low present on November 8 with cost of \$300. 2nd by Sarah Orr.

Becca will organize. Will use Nov. 8 to promote November 15 Division digital wellness.

14. New Business

14.1 Hot Lunch Vendors: See list above in 12.1

14.2 Possible Meeting change for November to accommodate Division Digital Wellness Presentation.

Jennie Low motioned to change the meeting to November 29 at 7:00 p.m. Kaitlyn Krogman 2nd.

14.3 Bylaws Review (Jan Davies)

Please peruse these on your own time.

Keep in mind our mission is learning that is enhancing our kids as a collective, not specific kids.

If there are concerns for your child; please go to their teacher first, and then to admin.

We want meetings to be productive.

14.4 Dr. Plaxton School Council Mission Statement

Please start thinking about for January meeting.

Jan shared Lakeview's parent council mission statement:

The mission of the Lakeview Elementary School Council is to fulfill the objectives that are stated in our bylaws and:

to advocate for our children's needs in the school

to facilitate communication among all stakeholders

to encourage full parental involvement and support in the governance and delivery of our children's education

to actively promote Lakeview Elementary School

Jan would like to create one together as a parent council.

15. Future Meeting Dates

Nov. 29, January 17, February (Town Hall), March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19.
7:00 meeting start time.

16. Adjournment:

Sarah Orr motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jennie Low 2nd.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.