

Dr. Plaxton Elementary School Council Meeting
Minutes - March 20, 2024

1. Jan Davies called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgment
3. Welcome/Introductions
Present - Jan Davies, Jaelyn Belisle, Heather Hoover, Jenn Giles, Jennifer Gordon, Caylee Low, Sarah Orr, Jennie Low, Brenda Entz, Andy Tyslau (Acting Principal), Lois Van Roon (Acting Vice Principal), Matt VandenDungen (Teacher & Parent)
4. Additions to Agenda:
Policy Review
5. Approval of Agenda: Caylee Low motioned, 2nd - Sarah Orr
6. Approval of the Minutes from Jan. 17, 2023: Jennifer Gordon, 2nd - Caylee Low
7. Trustee Report (Andrea Andreachuk could not attend - Andy Tyslau had update email from Andrea which he shared)
"February 2024 Board Meeting Highlights from Andrea Andreachuk
 - Calendar: Andrea moved that the Kindergarten Teachers have 2 days for Parent Teacher Interviews/Celebrations of Learning added back into the 2024-2025 Calendar. This motion passed.
 - Christine Lee reported that the ICE Scholarship Showcase is ready to go for March 20th at Chinook High School. There will be displays and prizes!
 - Work is continuing on the Boundary Review in relation to the new school opening on the westside. There will be an open house on Tuesday April 30th at G.S. Lakie for more feedback.
 - Morag Asquith reported that the Behaviour Support Team continues to move from School to School supporting needs.
 - Robbie Charlebois reported on addition staffing in the past month. 17 subs have been added to the sub list. Some teacher contracts were extended and there were additions to support staff.
 - A caretaking training manual is being developed as well.
 - Mike Nightingale reported that new curriculum in-services are happening. Wellness Nutrition Funding has increased.

- A Newcomer to Canada Guide is being developed by Carmen Carvalho and Saajan Sapkota at Aakaipookaiksi Education Centre.
- Schools highlighted this month were Lakeview where outdoor learning and collaboraiton for a Vibrant Community are key and Paterson where 70 students had just taken part in their Brothers Grimm production and one of their Grade 8 students Gracia Apsassin - Flamont - First Rider has been named the 2023-24 Junior Siksikaitsitapi Princess for the Province of Alberta. Gracia is an accomplished jingle dancer, singer and speaker.
- We were so happy with the turnout for the Division Town Hall and thank everyone for their feedback. We thank Division Staff for all of their help in organizing this important event. Katie Guccione did a beautiful job of displaying the wonderful student art work which really added to the event.
- Andrea was very happy to have the Grade Five student voice at the event and enjoyed talking with former Kindergarten Students who added some really great ideas!
- We very much reflected on the Town Hall Feedback when we were at our Board Retreat during which we worked on the Division Assurance Plan.
- So sorry I couldn't be there for your School Council Meeting! I was so happy to visit your school on Valentine's Day! Your students and staff are all so wonderful! Thanks for all you do!"

8. School Report (Andy Tyslau):

- Wrapped up basketball; great participation. Proud of sportsmanship of the Plaxton kids. Very gracious & conscientious of who they were playing.
- Pink Shirt Day in February - was great; focus on being kind; being a good friend.
- March: Mars Month; also lots of clubs up and running including; Animation club, 3D think club, Sign club, craft club
- Budge & Staffing: Delay in updates due to not knowing what budget is yet from the government. Admin teams are eager to get planning throughout division.
- Registration for returning students started this week.
- Kindergarten registration opened in February.
- New registrations being accepted (see website [here](#).)
- On Monday (March 25) families will receive an email from Andy regarding Student profile. This is an opportunity to share what type of learner your child is - what personality type you think would work well for your child in a teacher, or peer interactions that may be positive/negative. NOT specific teacher requests.

- In February: Fountas & Pinnell assessments (In grades 1-5 - division wide) - these help plan for the remainder of the year, and look at growth from previous assessment. These assessments also allow teachers/school to see trends long term. Teachers meet with each student 1:1 to complete. Can take anywhere from 7 minutes up to 15-20 minutes per student depending on how much they have progressed.
- Grade 5 parents: Registration for Gilbert Paterson - March 22- April 11. The window is small to be able to contact office if you have questions (due to Easter break beginning March 29). Options selection is separate from registration and will occur later next month.
- Teachers thank Parent Council for pizza on evening of celebration of learning night. They had approximately 30-45 minutes to connect as a staff and really enjoyed it.

9. Teacher Report (Matt VandenDungen)

- Teacher Professional Learning: January (Literacy)
 - : abundant resources from school.
 - : grade 4 focused on book clubs and how to use for new curriculum outcomes.
 - : different grade levels looking at different resources.
- March (Numeracy)
 - : look at resources and what the school/division have (did inventory) & draw connections between new curriculum and these resources.
 - : Deep dive into the resources - what, how & when will we use them.
- April 8 Professional Learning:
 - : ½ day Division Collaborative time. (Committees were selected in Sept)
 - : Matt = Numeracy Committee (Specifically MathUP Resources)
 - : Which topics need to be pulled from other places.
- Grade 4 Team: Foyer project - Celebration of Learning. (3rd year doing it)
 - : Simple Machines (levers, gears, pulleys, wheels & rollers); Carnival ride theme
 - : Start with draft → hands on learning → apply new learning to ride → 8 hours of building time for the projects that were displayed.
 - : Unfortunately; this is no longer part of the grade 4 curriculum so this was the last hurrah for this project.
- Project: Matt & Brandon Morrison:
 - : ½ time release time for project - working with Erin Hurkett.

- : Resource - Continuum for Opinion Writing.
- : Collect writing samples from across the division.
- : Look at earliest form → excellent example (grade 5)
- : Use exemplars to develop descriptors to then assess students.
- : Resource like this helps to have concrete example of what is meant by the skills needed for that type of writing.

10. District School Council Report (Andy Tyslau)

-Jamie Wahlburger unable to attend tonight so Andy shared with the group.

- ICE Scholarships
- Town Hall
- No budget/planning yet.
- Genny Steed; shared update on ARAO - development of committee and roles/progress: Remove barriers and address bias. (2018 = request for committee, 2021= committee created, 2023 = June - Policy in place.
- > 160 policies as a board - this is too many policies. Bringing in outside organization to audit/review.
- Learning session - feedback on report card & timing of report card (stems from shift in curriculum that report card does not reflect new curriculum.) Questions about comments, personal growth and how best to scale. There will be parent feedback/input
- School cash; some issues w/ timing on payments, etc. Is there another option?
- SPEND SCHOOL COUNCIL GRANT \$\$\$!
- Parent Education: Jessie went over how to access report cards on powerschool.

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 (Jenn Giles)

- Closing balance: \$9637.79

12. Committee Report

12.1 - Hot Lunch (Jennie Low): Overall going well.

- : Subway January 15 = \$239.25
- : Tim Hortons January 30 = \$236.82
- : Taco Del Mar Feb. 15 = \$204.23
- : Little Caesars Feb. 27 = \$338.25

: Booster Juice March 11 = \$397.51

12.2 - Running Club (Jennie Low):

: Has started - Tues, Weds, Friday mornings 8:15

: Carter (Lois' son) is great! He is doing stretches and giving them great/relatable names for kids.

: Many kids and parents attending. More than last year.

Approximately 75ish kids/families/teachers.

: Question about whether pinnies from the school could be used for marathon so that all the students from Plaxton would look the same. Andy to look into options.

: School shirts are available to purchase (but not all same colour.)

13. Old Business

13.1 Remaining ASCA funds (\$200 remaining):

- Jenn Giles shared titles on literacy, autism, executive functioning for potential parent library:

: Sometimes Reading is Hard - Dr. Robbin Gibb

: Uniquely Human - Dr. Barry Prizant

: Explosive Child - Dr. Ross Greene

: Smart but Scattered - Peg Dawson (also some other titles by Peg Dawson - Smart But Stuck)

: Building Better Brains - author?

- Discussion over where these parent library titles could be housed/checked out. (Likely checked out through Libby in library or Angela in office; could be housed on shelf in main hallway to foyer by Mamta's office).
- Jenn Gordon motioned that Jenn Giles can spend \$200 on parent library books (and decide which books) Vote: Passed.

13.2 ASCA Membership - gained access to members only website section.

- If you would like to see Members only section, please email Jan at: plaxtonschoolcouncil@gmail.com

13.3 Plaxton Society membership update (Maria Lindsay unable to attend, so Jaelyn Belisle shared update).

- We are officially a Society!

- Many questions including: Need a bank for Society - any suggestions, you can email Jaelyn (jaelyn.belisle@gmail.com) Can we become a charity/charitable organization so that we can provide tax receipts.
- Would like to try and do one fundraiser this year before end of school year.
- **First official meeting following April 17 Parent Council meeting.**

14. New Business

14.1 Discussion on parent-teacher communication and involvement (Andy)

- : Exploring as a staff - want to communicate more with parents.
- : Balance of interviews (1:1 convos) & Celebration of learning.
- : Is there a different way to do it? To do both?
- : Open house idea? What could it look like?
- : Caylee - parents want to be involved.
- : Heather - increased sense of community; kids more excited to come.
- : Jaelyn - opportunity to SEE what kids are learning, versus just get the kids version/explanation.
- : Jen G - Parent teacher interviews are not all created the same.
 - Writers workshops - seeing the kids actual work (publishing party)
- : If meeting with parents - is there need for lengthy comments on the report cards.
- : Matt - Report cards take a lot of time, and they are worth it if they are meaningful. What are the important parts? As a teacher - want to focus on the most meaningful ways to communicate with families whatever that may be.
- : @ April 17 meeting - Andy can hopefully provide direction based on survey/feedback.
- : Caylee - Powerschool report cards → lots of good #s but less and less comments/personalized information.
- : Teachers/schools have a legal obligation to provide parents with report cards/share learning.

14.2 Alberta School Council's Association (ASCA) General Conference & AGM April 26-28.

- : Does anyone want to go? Reach out to Jan if you want to attend.
- : If no one going - \$ could potentially be transferred to other school in division to support/supplement their attendance.

14.3 Policy Review

: School based Decision making policy # 600.2

: School year calendar policy # 601.2.1

: Can provide feedback on link on webpage ([Policy Feedback](#))

15. Future Meeting Dates:

April 17, May 15, June 19.

7:00 meeting start time.

16. Adjournment:

Heather Hoover motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sarah Orr 2nd.

Jan Davies adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.