

Dr. Plaxton Elementary School Council Meeting  
Minutes - May 15, 2024

1. Jan Davies called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Land Acknowledgment
3. Welcome/Introductions  
Present - Jan Davies, Jaelyn Belisle, Heather Hoover, Maria Lindsay, Jennifer Gordon, Caylee Low, Jennie Low, Brenda Entz, Jen McKay, Jessica Kaupp, Paige Olsen, Allison Stewart, Andy Tyslau (Principal), Lois Van Roon (Vice Principal), Tom Scott (Learning Support Teacher)
4. Additions to Agenda:  
N/A
5. Approval of Agenda: Caylee Low motioned, 2nd - Jessica Kaupp
6. Approval of the Minutes from Jan. 17, 2023: Jennifer Gordon, 2nd - Maria Lindsay
7. Trustee Report (Andrea Andreachuk could not attend -did not send update)
8. School Report (Andy Tyslau):
  - Staffing update: 2 available positions (Grade 2 & Grade 3 teachers). Also working through support staff needs for each grade. By the end of May, hope to know staff for 2024-25 school year.
  - May 20; begin Grades 1-3 numeracy & literacy assessments (at risk students only receive this assessment). \*If you want to know results, you can connect with your child's teacher.
    - : Teachers have not let parents know if their child is being assessed. Andy will give teachers feedback that this info would be valuable.
  - Guest speakers in Fine Arts classes this month:
    - : guest ringer for handbells
    - : drawing - local artist
    - : Fine Arts residency - New West; last week of May. Showcase last Friday in May. Parents are welcome to come and watch.
  - Registration for returning students - please complete this if you have not Already!
  - Welcome to Kindergarten = June 13

- Grade 5 Farewell - Date TBD.

#### 9. Teacher Report (Tom Scott)

- Learning Support Teacher role
  - : support students, parents and teacher navigate the school experience. This can look many different ways; literacy groups, in class supports, organize meetings for more complete students. Tom also support teachers in release time so they can meet (Andy and Lois also support this release time) Tom is mostly in the gym.
  - : Explained some of the games he teaches/plays in the gym. E.g. “Elemental” level 1-5. Scaffolding - one step at a time, adding layers/complexities when the students/class is ready.
  - : Looking at building executive functioning into the lessons.

#### 10. District School Council Report (Andy Tyslau)

- Jamie Wahlburger unable to attend tonight; she was unable to attend most recent district school council meeting, she emailed for minutes but did not receive by this meeting time. Andy shared what he knew.

- Parent Info: Q & A for ARAO policy (how committee formed; how policy was formed by committee; feedback good/bad; many voices heard & very open & productive conversation.
- Minutes for school council: Will be organized on website differently - previous years - one button, then sequential. Current year - each month available. 7 year rotation.
- Budget feedback welcome. You can fill out survey [here](#)
- May 21 Budget presentation - can attend or stream online. Find info [here](#)
- ASCA Conference: 1 member from Lethbridge school division attended. 13 hours in 1 day - reported it was long but good. Said everyone should go once.
- Budget = status quo basically. Transportation funding has not increased however the # of students qualifying has expanded hugely. Waiting to hear how this will be funded.

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 unable to attend - provided info to Jaelyn)

- Opening Balance: \$9572.44

- Income (hot lunch) \$605.40
- Expenses (pizza for p/t interviews) \$350
- Closing balance: \$10007.84

## 12. Committee Report

12.1 - Hot Lunch (Jennie Low): Doing well. Lots of volunteers.

: Little Caesars April 30 = \$345.01

: Taco Del Mar May 13 = \$260.39

12.2 - Running Club (Jennie Low):

: Going well - it's warm now!

: Approximately 100 signed up.

: Last one is coming up soon - May 28.

- Tim Horton's donating 100 donuts.

- Caylee Low doing sour soother medals (like last year).

- Juice boxes

- Streamers

: Carter (Lois' son) has been awesome!

: For Little Souls race: School shirts are available to purchase (but not all same colour.)

## 13. Old Business

### 13.1 Bike Rack

: Andy spoke to Daniel from maintenance (April 30). Costs have increased. \$10 000 for 4 racks & concrete to do it. At least \$2800 for the racks and at least \$5000 for concrete work.

: There is room to park bikes in front of the school. (Discussion that encouraging their kids to park in front and walk to their school door is better option than that much \$ for more racks by playground.)

: ACTION ITEM: Heather Hoover to look into whether there are any grants available to fund bike racks since they would technically be on city property. Lethbridge Healthy Living? Community Activity grant? University Partnership?

: ACTION ITEM: Tabled until June agenda.

### 13.2 Parent Library Update (ASCA grant):

- Where will books be housed? In room behind moss wall behind where Mrs. Manderville sits in the office. Bottom shelf.

- On website: parent library in the parent council page of website. Check it out [here](#).

- Will not have official “sign out” process. If you are interested in checking out a book - stop by the office.

## 14. New Business

### 14.1 Parent Communication & Conferences 2024-25

: Andy & Lois shared preliminary draft documents outlining changes. Lots of discussion, and not all captured here.

: This is in response to the ongoing question/quest “How to meaningfully engage families in the learning progress and growth of their children through the school year”

: Based on data - only approximately 50% of report cards are being opened/read.

: Report card comments take MANY hours (sometimes 30+ hours)

: “The Hive Handbook” (Pilot)

: Combination of “hive nights” and parent teacher conferences and true Celebration of learning.

: In new system - there will be no comments on report cards Term 1 or 2 Because teacher will have touched base at hive nights and conferences.

: Hive nights would be optional, but hope that most families would come.

: Hosting these different days of week and times of day because they want Every family to have the opportunity to attend.

: Following direction of Dr. Gerald Probe school (west Lethbridge).

: Continuums - hoping to be very visual, with common language, “golden thread” See where your child was, where they go next - comparison for average students for that grade.

: Open to feedback and will review in 1 year.

: Division report card template is also changing/being updated - will be more specific.

:Traffic flow considerations still being worked out (e.g. encourage last names A-L first hour if possible and M-Z second hour; then switch for next hive night)

:Some comments/concerns shared including: will there be accountability for teachers to communicate with parents, not just when things are going well?

: Written comments = better memory for the areas need to focus on compared to hearing in discussion.

: Some parents like reading comments from teachers to their child. Very positive experience

: Discussion & Questions - Andy hopes to send out "Hive Handbook" first Week of June. Lots of room for feedback, tweaking

#### 14.2 Handbook update re: e-scooters and e-bikes

: Updated and added information from Insurer.

: Parents must provide informed consent that they acknowledge that their child can operate these to and from school.

: Can find handbook [here](#). (Update for 2024-25 school year)

#### 14.3 Division 1 Field Trip Request

: Kristy Walker requested \$250 for Movie Mill field trip for K-2 for snack packs for the kids.

: Jen Gordon motioned to spend \$250 for Div. 1 field trip. 2nd Caylee Low.

Voted: Passed.

#### 14.4 Music - Handbells

: Sarah Harmon would like to purchase a 3rd Octave of Handbells.

Handbells have been very popular.

: Received \$7000 grant to put towards purchase (approximately \$14000 total cost.)

: Requesting additional financial support from parent council. Mrs. Harmon did not specify amount. Discussion - approximately \$5000?

: Fundraising again this fall for this (poinsettias) which raised approx \$2500 last year.

: ACTION ITEM: Tabled to June (add to June agenda).

#### 15. Future Meeting Dates:

June 19, September 18 (AGM)?

7:00 meeting start time.

#### 16. Adjournment:

Jen Gordon motioned to adjourn the meeting. Heather Hoover 2nd.

Jan Davies adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.