

Prueter Public School Council Meeting Minutes
September 28th, 2015

Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Crits
Erin Lunn

Parents in Attendance:

Angela Wenderoth
Lauren Haddow
Jen Sharpe
Emily Schraud

Michelle Bishop
Annette Angst
Becky Jarvis
Kerry Cressman

Patty Kuntz
Heather Richardson
Don Snider
Heather Noble

7:06 pm Meeting Open
Teacher Representative (Kathy Dunnett) not in attendance

7:07 pm Approval of last meeting's minutes (Jen, Lauren)

7:08 pm Approval of Agenda (Lauren, Don)
Request to add New Business at the end

7:09 pm Tools For Life

- Introduction of Erin Lunn, from Carizon
- Erin runs the Tools For Life program, which runs for 8 weeks and is working with mostly JK/SK right now
- Erin spends a half day each week at Prueter – Wednesday mornings
- Hoping to expand to working with Junior/Senior groups of children, possibly working in small groups and targeting specific behaviours
- May be available for Parent Nights or Coffee Connections, can help find family resources
- Erin works in conjunction with our CYW (Child Youth Worker)

7:18 pm Principal's Report
Welcome to new parents

7:20 pm By-laws

- Our school By-laws are based on the Ministry of Education, and have been tweaked for Prueter
- Prueter School Council's Mission Statement and Purpose read and the focus on student learning was emphasized:

Mission Statement: *“Our aim is to promote the involvement of caregivers in the education of our children. The school Council intends to provide the support*

needed to achieve these ends by fostering a strong base for open communication between students, staff, caregivers and the community of Prueter Public School.”

Purpose: *“The purpose of Council is to work cooperatively with the school administration, teaching staff, and parent community to **improve student learning**. The purpose of School Council is to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents through the active participation of parents and caregivers. The Council will organize parent/community volunteer activities in support of the school and promote a safe, enjoyable learning environment for our students. The Council will work together to improve the financial resources of our school to support the Ontario Curriculum.”*

- As a School Council, we must ensure that all issues and decisions are in line with our Mission and Purpose.
- The Executive Members:
 - Chair and Co-chair:
 - these two members must come together and run as a team
 - Angela Wenderoth and Lauren Haddow acclaimed as Co-chairs
 - Secretary:
 - take and distribute minutes, etc
 - Michelle Bishop acclaimed as secretary
 - Parent Members:
 - 9-15 voting members, committed to coming to most meetings.
 - A list was started for people who wish to be a Parent member:

Tina Flood, Becky Jarvis, Kerry Cressman, Heather Richardson, Don Snider, Jen Sharpe, Emily Schraud
 - General Parent Members:
 - provide input and discussion, non-voting
 - Community Members:
 - members of the community who do not have a child enrolled.
 - Several options available, none confirmed (Patti, Mona, Connie, Donna)
- Who must be present for a School Council Meeting?
 - the Principal and a Quorum (9 members including at least one Executive Member)
 - Noted that even though our by-laws state that the School Council “shall be composed of” various members, not all members necessarily must be present for each meeting (ie. Community Members)

7:34 pm Voting

- All relevant information must be given out 2 weeks prior to voting on an issue, if an issue is raised at one Council Meeting, it will likely be voted on at the next Council Meeting
- Voting procedures to be more formal
- If there are more than 15 people who would like to be a voting Parent Member, then the whole council will vote a maximum of 15 people into those roles.
- If a voting Parent Member is unavailable to attend and vote on an issue, they may hand in their vote prior to the Council meeting
- The Principal would like to thank the By-law Committee for all of their hard work on tailoring the by-laws to suit our School community

7:37 pm Updates to Our School

- We have had a great start to our school year, especially in light of labour relations and the teacher's job action. We don't know where the labour dispute is going, but we will be updated as developments arise. Everyone seems to be settling in for a great year
- New blinds have been installed, eventually all classrooms will have new blinds
- New furniture has been ordered for classrooms and offices
- Staff room: needs painting, furniture and sprucing up. We will be calling on volunteers to help with painting closer to the date
- Front Hallway: will have the Principal's Award, the portraits of Mr. Prueter and Luke, and be made into a School History wall
- New Teachers have been hired
- Reading charts and tables, carpets have been ordered.
- School Grounds: weeds have been removed, Back Wing has been repainted, grills have been removed from windows and replaced with shatter-proof glass
- Grade 6 coat racks need to be installed
- Prueter glasses and teacher school shirts ordered
- Our school colours have been upgraded from maroon to purple and grey
- Air conditioning is only in a few classrooms, not every room is ventilated properly for A/C. It will be done room by room by board approved installers

Boys' Basketball

- Grade 5/6: Mike Rutledge from Northside Community Church is coming in again this year to run the boys' basketball games at break times. It's 40 minutes long, and includes some strategies from our Tools for Life Program (conflict resolution, good communication). There will be a letter coming home shortly about this program

Strong Start

- Tammy Blanchard, a former Prueter parent is running the program again this

- year.
- Strong Start is a reading program for grades 1 and 2.
- They are looking for more volunteers so that they can accommodate more students.
- Volunteers will need training, but there are flexible hours (half an hour per child for 10 weeks)

Dot Art in the Entrance

- Students have learned about an artist that makes art with dots, and have read *Be Happy!* by Monica Sheehan.
- Each class has made their own dot art, where the dots represent making good choices (behaviours, etc) to make a beautiful school

7:50 pm

Kindergarten Playground

- Fence is falling down, unsafe; will be replaced with a wrought-iron looking fence along the front and black chain link along the sides
- Kindergarten area will be enlarged, extended to include the two big pine trees
- Possibly moving the Ant and Caterpillar into the kindergarten playground
- Grass is requested by the teachers
- Natural playground with logs and rocks discussed
- Grant applications are big and time consuming, Mrs. Lambert is looking into TD Greening grant
- Parents are unable to volunteer with most of the work, work must be done by board approved vendors, parents may be able to do gardening/sodding
- Board to advise on outdoor play space

7:55 pm

Fund raising

- Bake Sale Fundraiser discussed, date to be set
- Magazine and Cookie Dough fundraiser looks good and should be in time for the holidays. Even though Margaret Ave is also selling magazines, we should not be overly concerned, we should move forward and see what happens. There will be prizes for magazine sales.
- No Terry Fox run this year, instead we are doing Jump Rope for Heart in June. Jump Rope gives money back to the school through Wintergreen to buy classroom supplies
- This year's fund raising plan has been set, feel free to find and propose ideas for next year
- Pizza is for profit, milk is a service (we don't make a lot of money on it). Pizza and milk money need to be in ziplocks or envelopes with the child's name. Parent volunteers are needed for milk and pizza. If you order pizza and your child is not

at school, it will be donated to another child unless you wish to come pick it up

8:16 pm Chair's Report

- Meet the Teacher Night is on hold (and likely won't happen this year) due to the teacher's job action
- There is a possibility of a rolling strike, but nothing is known at the moment. We'll be notified if this happens. We are unsure if the Extended Day program will be affected.

Fund raising schedule:

- Year Round: Pizza and Milk
- October: Magazines and Cookie Dough
- November: Poinsettias, Christmas Bazaar
- December: Bake Sale
- January: Dance-athon
- February: Chocolate
- March: Cake Raffle
- May: Flowers & Hanging Baskets, Plant Night
- June: Jump Rope for Heart
- Date of Next School Council Meeting is likely October 26th

8:18 pm New Business

- Concern was raised over classroom management, especially in the area of different learning levels. Some parents are concerned that children of the same grade are not learning the same things as some other children in another teacher's class.
- Different skill sets, learning styles, teaching styles, behavioural issues and learning disabilities were mentioned.
- Class composition and how children are placed in classes was mentioned.
- If you have a personal concern with these issues, the principal may be able to better deal with them in a personal meeting, and a possible Coffee Connections meeting could address the issue to a larger audience.

8:35 pm Meeting Closed