

Prueter Public School Council Meeting Minutes
October 26th, 2015

Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Crits

Parents in Attendance:

Angela Wenderoth
Michelle Bishop
Don Snider
Emily Schraud

Kerry Cressman
Lauren Haddow
Heather Noble
Stephanie Miller

Becky Jarvis
Joanna Schmidt
Tina Flood

7:03 pm Meeting Open and Welcome
Teacher Representative not in attendance

7:04 pm Introduction of Diane McGregor from KW Counselling

- Diane is able to come to future Coffee Connections and give presentations on a range of parenting topics and specific issues; lead small group discussions; Q&A; discuss skills and strategies.
- These meetings will be more conversation-oriented rather than presentation-oriented, and parents would be encouraged to learn from each other to create community and connections.
- KW Counselling uses “Parenting with Passion”, similar to our “Tools for Life”.
- The cost is typically \$400 for a 2-hour presentation, but this can be tailored to our school's needs, and there may be community grants available.
- Meetings will take place in the Library, from approx. 9:15-10:15am.
- It's possible that the Grade 6 class could offer a planned child care program, in the Community Hub (room 15), as a part of their curriculum, and to meet our childcare needs.
- Hot topics could include: handling big emotions; defiance; navigating relationships; discipline. Potty training was mentioned as a possible topic, Diane recommends that we contact the Early Years Centre, as they are better equipped to help us, and are also free. Our Place was also mentioned as another community resource that is available.

7:20 pm Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes (Lauren, Don)

7:21 pm Approval of Agenda (Emily, Don)

7:22 pm

Chair's Report

- Parent volunteers have been active in the school, putting new paper up on bulletin boards, cleaning and organizing rooms around the school. Thank you to our volunteers!
- The Community Hub (Room 15) is a shared space in our school, which houses the Extended Day program, Strong Start, Milk, Nutrition for Learning, Home Reading, Fundraising, etc. It is also being used by some of our Room 10 students as a lunch room. We have made progress in organizing this room, but there is still more to be done. Possibly leaving out a bowl of extra NFL (Nutrition for Learning) snacks was mentioned.
- The Resource Room (Room 19) has been put on hold for now. This room is typically kept locked, but is being used by a variety of people and classes (Room 2 students, speech pathology, etc).
- The Math Room is currently being used by our kindergarten students for small group instruction. EIEI is also using the room for small groups.

7:30 pm

Principal's Report

- Our Spec-Ed team has been working to organize Coffee Connections topics and dates. The first meetings will cover: head lice; toilet training; speech pathology tools and how parents can help; Tools for Life; and creating children's work spaces in the home. Dates to be announced.
- NFL (Nutrition for Learning) is up and running smoothly.
- Milk and Pizza are also on the go. There are many parents that are willing to help with Pizza -- thank you to our volunteers!
- Home Reading Program is up and running. We are looking for parent volunteers to come in and help -- either half an hour after drop-off, or half an hour near the end of the day -- to help monitor students, track books and help in book selection. A few parents volunteered to do so, if you are also wanting to help, contact the Principal or a Council Member.
- Mrs. Bateman has requested that a parent volunteer make playdough for her classroom. Angela Wenderoth volunteered to do so.
- The Spec-Ed teachers have been advocating strongly for our students who have special learning needs, so that they will get the proper support.

7:37 pm

Labour Relations

- We understand that there is frustration all around, while trying to deal with head lice and job action from custodians and teachers. We need to be patient and look for ways that we can help each other. We don't know what the coming weeks will look like.
- On October 28th, the teachers will be withdrawing all extra-curricular activities. Remembrance Day activities will be unaffected. The Christmas Concert is tentative but possible, as the teachers are waiting for direction. It may possibly happen during the day. The Bake Sale will go on regardless, scheduled for December 8th and 9th.
- The Ontario Premier and the Minister of Education have announced that as of November 1st, one of two things must happen:
 1. A tentative agreement must be reached and all job action must stop
 2. All job action must stop while labour discussions continue
- If one of those things does not happen, the School Board will have the power to respond to job action (possibly docking teacher's pay, etc).

7:48 pm

Dogs on School Grounds

- Prueter will have a new policy of no dogs on the school grounds during school hours, including before and after school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Signs have been ordered and will be placed on our school grounds, announcements will be made in the school, and a newsletter will go home to inform parents.
- Thank you for your cooperation.

7:51 pm

Upgrades Continuing

- Outdoor Bulletin Board still wanted, but is currently on hold.
- Grade 6 coat racks have been installed
- Shelves have been moved from the Math Room to the Resource Room.

7:53 pm

Outdoor Classroom Proposed

- A parent proposed that Prueter could raise money for an Outdoor Classroom, and has a friend who is drawing up sketches of what that could look like on our property.

- They feel it could not only increase the space we have for our students, but could also act as a community pavillion.
- If we were go to ahead on this matter, it could be done in stages. Board approval, funding, and community grants were mentioned.

8:00 pm School Photos

- A school wide photo was taken on the hill at the back of our school
- Some class pictures have not turned out well, some retakes will happen
- Ordering pictures and spirit wear from Pegasus was mentioned

8:04 pm Head Lice

- Head lice has been a big issue -- education and support is needed
- A "Lice Squad" has been proposed. It would be composed of parent volunteers who would go into each classroom and check the heads of all of our students once a month until the issue is under control.
- Volunteers are needed, and everything must be kept confidential.
- School Council is to buy 3 lice combs that can be lent out to families. Upon return, the combs will be sanitized. Tina offered to buy them, cost is estimated at \$30 each.

8:15 pm Next Meeting is scheduled for November 23rd, 7-8pm

8:16 pm Meeting Closed