

ARCHBISHOP JORDON CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

School Council Meeting

MINUTES

Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 6:30pm (ABJ Library)

ATTENDEES:

8 Parents

Admin: Brett Cox, Principal

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Tracy Lockhart opened the meeting at 6:35 pm.

2. OPENING PRAYER – Tracy Lockhart

Prayer used was the traditional “Slow Me Down Lord” – a good reminder in our busy lives.

3. STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT – provided by Abby and Lexis

- Dodgeball tournament – annual event – started after Spring Break and continues for the month of April
- Scotties Awards – in May – variety of categories; nominees are student nominated; 3 top people make the ballot list and then student vote – annual anticipated event
- Shakespeare’s birthday – to be celebrated tomorrow (April 22) – another annual event at ABJ
- Alzheimer’s Awareness Day was celebrated last week - sold t-shirts, wristbands, ribbons; every fourth person coming in was stamped to represent the 25% of people suffering from Alzheimer’s
- May 4-5-6 – will be Star Wars themed activities
- With final exams just around the corner they are looking at creative ways for the students to let off some steam (pop balloons, or bubble wrap), or if required a quiet and dark room to destress after a tough exam

4. REVIEW OF MINUTES from February 2, 2015 meeting

- Question from minutes on the Attendance Reporting Software; the use of the new system was reviewed – *response to the question has been added here – even though this was received following the April meeting. This information was provided to Mr. Cox by our school district IT. Synvoice confirmed that they comply with the Canadian Privacy Policy – which can be provided to parents if they are interested.*
 - *Synvoice is the company that the school district has partnered with for sending out mass communications, both automated and manually initiated, for approximately 7 years. As part of our contract with them we own the phone numbers and other data shared with them - they collect the bare minimum needed to perform the service we*

require and have no rights to share it with third parties for marketing purposes - or indeed for any purpose. They also have no rights to use it themselves for any purpose beyond what we have contracted with them.

- *The new attendance module is with the same company, and uses the same data that we already maintain to perform the service. There is no additional exposure beyond what we've had for many years - we've simply given them permission to use the same phone numbers for an additional service, the safe arrival service.*

- Minutes approved by Le-Ann Ewaskiw and seconded by Leta Shannon; the motion carried by vote

5. 1:1 TECHNOLOGY PLAN for 2016-2017 school year – discussion by Brett Cox

- Brett reviewed the overall discussion and themes from the Tuesday evening presentation that had been held at St Theresa's school
- Parents present had an opportunity to ask questions

6. ADMIN / PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Brett Cox

- Leadership Retreat was just held in April – although that was two for this year, admin will now meet annually in April instead of September in order to allow for planning to be reflected for the school year upcoming versus planning in October –November for the current school year – much better process
- Course selections process is 3 weeks ahead...
 - Goal is to get timetables in the hands of students before June 1
 - Grade 11 (going into Grade 12) would have the first week of June to make adjustments
 - Grade 10 (going into Grade 11) would have the second week of June to make adjustments
 - Grade 9 (going into Grade 10) - third week of June to make adjustments
 - New registrants in June
 - Current numbers: Grade 9 = 316; Grade 10 = 335; Grade 11 = 300; Grade 12 = 311 for a total of 1262
- Teacher to classes is completed (fluid ever-changing process)
 - First step was to have all teachers share their passion areas to increase student engagement opportunities
 - Second step was Coordinator placing of teachers in each section and course
 - Placing of teachers to number of sections created as a result of the Career Cruising course selection process
 - Reviewed by Coordinators; make adjustments as needed – fluid process matching teacher passion to class sizes and needs

- Overall school is heavy on math and sciences; light on humanities
- Staffing
 - 3 retirements in June
 - 3 maternity leave returnees
 - Divisional positions will be next priorities, then posting of temporary positions in about mid-May
- Choir in Banff; Band performed at Open House; Band currently headed to Kelowna; Japanese exchange students for two weeks (our students to Japan in July); Europe trips over Spring Break; outdoor education trip to Jasper
- Badminton, handball, rugby, soccer, track all currently active
- Drama 30 presentation at Festival Place – May 31, June 1 and June 2
- Great Faith PD day at Birch Bay last Friday; Dr. Hauptman spoke about Abortion, Contraception and euthanasia; incredible presentation; teachers felt more comfortable
- Three way conferences last week – Brett questioned parents about one night or two nights for the three way conferences – all parents agreed that two nights are needed
- In terms of school pictures, parents agreed that we will continue to use local photographer – ICON – as in past years
- Pool – will be commissioned to the county in June for opening in January 2017.
- Emerald Hills Turf Park now open – access for school teams worked out
- Review of graduation validations – are invited to participate as long as they are in a position to graduate
- Continue to blog out news events, weekly reminders and monthly happenings

7. THREE YEAR EDUCATION/ASSURANCE PLAN

- Opportunity for parent discussion and input
- Very fluid process; always opportunity for change and feedback

8. NEW BUSINESS

- CEPAC – Catholic Education Parent Advisory Council – Abigail reviewed the information shared with parents at the March 2016 CEPAC meeting
- 9th Annual Prayer Bag Initiative - Planned for Wednesday, June 8 at 11:00; have spoken with elementary schools who are preparing the prayer bags for us; request for parents to assist in assembling the Prayer Bags on the evening of Tuesday, June 7 at ABJ – more details to follow
- Staff Appreciation Coffee Break will also take place on Wednesday, June 8; parents can bring goodies to the school on the evening of Tuesday, June 7 as well
- OLPH Parents in Prayer – names will go to the PPC for distribution to the parish members the week of May 28-29

- Career Test Drive – the information was shared by Brett with the parent group; initiative started by two retired Elk Island Public School Divisions
- REAL Talk – information brochure shared by parent, Le-Ann Ewaskiw; Le-Ann to share information brochure with Brett for distribution to parent group; event is May 5 from 6:00 – 8:00 – it is free but parents do have to register

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, May 24, 2016 @ 6:30 pm in the School Library; Elections will take place next meeting in May.

Brett Cox asked that should parents have any questions they wish to have answered at the next meeting to please sent it ahead of time (via e-mail) so that he may have answers for them.

10. CLOSING PRAYER – Abigail led closing prayer – “the Stewardship Prayer”

11. ADJOURNMENT at 8:45 pm