

ABJ Parent Council Meeting Minutes October 29, 2019

1. Welcome and introductions 7pm.

Parents and Staff introductions – Name and what grades do your children attend.

2. Opening Prayer – Michelle Szott – “*Novena for Catholic Education*”

3. Agenda approved by: Nicole Markofke, 2nd by Nancy Ferguson.

4. Minutes of September 16, 2019 approved by: Julie Sonnema, 2nd by Dawn Cayer.

5. Student Council – Kassidy Thompson

- October focus is on Halloween celebrations.
- November has Remembrance Day and Mental Health Awareness as it relates to Veterans.

6. Michelle Szott – Elk Island Catholic School Trustee

- Presented Board Highlights.
 - Full time enrollment is on the rise. Current enrollment is at 7,230 across the division; this includes Alternative Programming.
- Catholic Education Panel will be presenting OLPH Parish on Monday, November 4, 2019, at 7pm. All are invited to attend.
- EICS Board of Trustees meet every third Wednesday of the month. Meetings run from 2:30pm to 6:00pm. Next meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2019. It will be held at Central Learning Services and is open to the public.
- Regarding the recent budget release; trustees are still in the early stages of studying its implications.

7. Principals’ Report

- Budget - \$1m cut across 18 schools within the district.
 - 2%-5% wage roll back for public sector employees.
 - Will engage in conversations with teachers.
- Alberta Education Accountability Results
 - Results are overall above standard.
 - Academically we are doing very well.
 - Student safety and transitioning to independence remain a concern.

- Be sure to complete the next survey coming in January 2020.
- PEP/Flex:
 - Number of students choosing to stay and engage in PEP opportunities is up from 300 to 450.
 - Available administrative staff take this opportunity to engage in collaborative team meetings on how to best support students.
- New cell phone policy
 - Seeing more student acceptance.

Questions from parents:

Q: Can we get a follow-up on the email parents received in September regarding a police presence at the school?

A: Issue was related to graffiti in the bathrooms. Threat assessment was done and found there was no threat to students or staff. Police were involved however there was no actual presence as there were only two officers on site.

Q: In regards to the Accountability Pillar results, how can we as parents help improve the low results as well as maintain the high results?

A: Maintain communications with your children.

Q: Is CALM worthwhile? What about skills like those provided in Home Economics and First Aid?

A: New staff Mr. Grondin provides student support such as HSE. Mr. Dumont reaches out to community resources.

Q: Regarding the no cell phone policy, has school administration considered other alternatives to the distraction of personal cell phone use?

A: This is year two with the new policy. Seeing student acceptance. Lots of research done on how strategies are used to persuade kids to continually return to their phones.

Q: Has the parking issue been resolved?

A: No. September and October will see the lowest number of parking requests by students. Although the barricades and traffic flow have been successful. There are currently 224 parking stalls.

8. Shelley Borowski – Board Chair - Feedback regarding the Grade 9 and 10 Honor Celebration.

- Feedback has been mixed so far. Please contribute additional feedback if you have not already done so.

9. Shelley Borowski - Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) “What does choice in education mean to you?”

- Please answer by this weekend by email to ABJ.Parent.Council@eics.ab.ca

10. Closing Prayer – Shelley Borowski.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next meeting date: November 25, 2019