

## **ABJ Parent Advisory Committee Minutes**

September 21, 2020

In Attendance: Joe, Greg, Ruth, Brent, Barb, Mike, Ted, Steve, Pam, Margareth, James, Greg, JT, Marie, Deb, Trish, Steve, Susan, Hugh, Trish, Julie S. Patrick, Mike, Laura, Ian, Shelley, Marianna

### **Welcome & Introductions:**

Shelley Borowski called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

### **Opening Prayer** led by Shelley Borowski

A moment of silence was held in remembrance of former EICS students, Alexandra and Keithan, who passed away in a tragic accident.

**Meeting minutes** from June 15, 2020 approved by Julie S. and seconded by Barb C. Motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda** moved by Julie S. and seconded by Barb C. Motion carried.

### **Highlights from the Elk Island Catholic Schools Board of Trustees, Ted Paszek**

Ted Paszek shared that the Board of Trustees are very pleased that re-entry has gone well so far in the division. With only one case of COVID-19 being at St. Nicholas, which was attributed to being contracted outside of the school community. Ted shared that the matter was quickly handled, the entire class quarantined at home for the requisite period of time and the illness did not spread.

Ted paid his respects for the young people who have passed away from the tragic car crash. Joe Dumont reminds parents that if their child was affected by the passing, of these former students, that counsellors are available to help support them.

Ted spoke to the 2.3 million dollars from the government and how it has been very helpful to hire online teachers.

Mr. Paszek responded to two questions from parents;

- What are you doing to advocate for more funding from the government?  
The trustees have written letters to the Minister of Education, they have held meetings with the MLAs, they feel the government has been flexible.
- What is being done to ensure parent concerns are being represented?  
The trustees understand parental frustration concerns. They do address concerns with the government however, they do so in a manner that maintains a positive working relationship

## **Administration/Principal Report -Joe Dumont**

### *COVID-19 protocols and school re-entry update*

Joe Dumont reported that staggered entry went very well, it helped ease the students anxieties about which door to use, where is their classroom etc. The students are using six different entrances to keep cross contact down as well as sanitation protocols, new time tables (two classes a day), and cohorts have been put in place to prevent too many students crossing paths. Students need to stay at home for ten days if they feel sick, unless COVID test comes back negative, then they are invited to return to school. 150 students are online, they may re-enter in November if they choose.

### *Extra-curricular update*

There may be some sports coming back, but only for developmental progress not likely to play other schools just yet. Maybe if one can find the right school board with small enough cohorts of their own.

### *Grade 12 graduation 2020 and 2021 and Gold Book Review*

A grad committees will be formed but we are not sure yet what grad will look like. The gold book is required to be completed by every student intending to graduate from ABJ. Part of the requirement of the gold book is to mee with a counselors to review your child's plans for their future.

### *Student Council update – no updated presented*

### *Students moving to online*

ABJ has 140 students who choose full online classes for Quarter 1. These students have the opportunity to return to in-person learning in Quarter 2 or Quarter 3.

### *New teacher/staff and administrators*

We are pleased to welcome the following staff for 2020-2021:

Marc St. Jean-Assistant Principal

Chad Starko-Assistant Principal

Anita Lakusta-Teacher, English, Religion Social

Bailey Baumgartner-Teacher, Science

Amanda Lopushinsky-Teacher, English

Shelby Klotz-Teacher, Science

**Elections** for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Member at Large were held. The Executive for the 2020-2021 Parent Advisory Council is:

**Chair-** Shelly Borowski

**Vice Chair-** Marianna Kowal

**Secretary-** Margareth Mauro

If anyone knows someone who might be interested in helping with the ABJ PAC Facebook page please have them reach out to Shelley via the PAC email address: [abj.parent.council@eics.ab.ca](mailto:abj.parent.council@eics.ab.ca)

**Closing Prayer** – led by Shelley Borowski

**Next Meeting:** October 26, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned 8 p.m.