

Archbishop Jordan High School
Parent Advisory Committee October 26, 2020 Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 829 8402 3605
Passcode: 9XMbp8

Monday, October 26, 2020

Attendees

Executive for the 2020-2021 Parent Advisory Council

Shelley Borowski - Chair
Marianna Kowal – Vice Chair
Margareth Mauro - Secretary

Archbishop Jordan High School Staff

Joseph Dumont - Principal
Greg Lakeman - Assistant Principal

Elk Island Catholic Schools Board of Trustee member

Ted Paszek

Archbishop Jordan High School Student Council

Danielle C. - Student Council member
Tara Marie H. - Student Council member
Zach S. – Student Council, Public Relations

Archbishop Jordan High School Parents

Pam C.
Tara C.
Susan D.
Nancy F.
Michelle and Travis G.
Ken and Tanya G.
Lisa H.
Debbie H.
Isabel H.
Richard and Tiffany H.
Marie L.
Roberta M.
Laurel M.
Lisa M.
Chris O.
Julie S
Patrick

1. Welcome & Introductions

Shelley Borowski called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. Opening Prayer

Shelley Borowski led the opening prayer

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the October 26, 2020 agenda as presented.

Moved by Pam C.

Seconded by Ken and Tanya G.

Motion carried.

4. Minutes from September 21, 2020 Meeting

Motion: To adopt the September 21, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by Isabel H.

Seconded by Michelle G.

Motion carried.

5. Highlights from the Elk Island Catholic Schools (EICS) Board of Trustee

This is Ted Paszek's first time as a Trustee representative for Archbishop Jordan (ABJ) high school. Ted provided a verbal update from the Board of Trustee meeting last week.

- Recent enrolment numbers remain stable; there was some drop in the enrolment numbers in the Strathcona proper.
 - There was a smaller number of students who chose online learning (slightly over 8%) when compared to other jurisdictions.
 - The low student numbers choosing online learning and the federal funding enabled us to staff online learning without impacting ABJ school.
 - As we move into the next stage, it is not possible for students to change their choice of instruction to online learning.
- EICS Board of Trustee meet with the County Counsellor, Bishop, Member of Legislative Assembly and public Elk Island Public Schools counterpart.
- Ted mentioned touring EPK and the renovations currently taking place.
- The County contributed \$2 million and county is able to gain access to the building afterschool for evening programming.
- It was School Bus Safety week from Oct 18-24 in recognition of school bus drivers.
- There were no questions directed to Ted.

6. Student Council Report

Danielle C., Tara Marie H. and Zach S. presented information about what Student Council is doing to engage students in a fun and safe way.

- To encourage student participation, many of the activities have a competitive theme and a prize; for example, there is a pumpkin carving contest and classroom decorating contest scheduled in October.
- Council is focusing on on spirit once a month; for example, there was a jersey day and nominate a Scot in the spirit of Thanksgiving. The planned activities are intended to be as easy as possible.
- Once a month, Council is asking students to vote for the movie they want to watch at lunch using Instagram. This activity encourages online students to participate.
- Council is in the planning stage to coordinate Christmas Grams and to sell items/ prepackaged treats as Christmas approaches. The challenge for implementing these activities is obtaining payment without using cash in the current COVID environment.
- Council is setting up a monthly writing contest; it will be posted on Instagram very soon.
- There is a Jam Board that students may access for information regarding post-secondary education and scholarships.

7. Administration / Principal Report

Joe Dumont provided a verbal update regarding the following:

i. continuing COVID Protocols

- Joe acknowledged and credited families for supporting ABJ and their children since the onset of COVID in March 2020 and re-entry in September 2020. Everyone has been respectful and supportive to the education sector. The answers and decision one day may be different the next day; ABJ staff greatly appreciate the flexibility and support. This cannot be one individual's responsibility; it is the entire staff and community's responsibility.
- The reality that many things will significantly change quickly after identification of a COVID case and individuals are quarantined. This is not a time to relax our vigilance. The number of COVID cases are increasing and we must maintain COVID protocols, although it is exhausting.
- ABJ is ensuring students are staying with their same cohorts and maintaining COVID protocols. There is no positive COVID case to date.

ii. supports for students who may be struggling socially emotionally

- Grade 9 classes can access counselling and mental health worker.
- There is the Grade 9 google classroom that students can connect for social and emotional support.
- At this time there are no extracurricular clubs at lunch time; although, there is a desire to get kids together during noon hour. ABJ administration wants to continue to maintain the AM and PM cohorts.
- Students Services staff have visited all the students and are helping individuals complete their gold book, scholarship applications and secondary applications; grade 10 and 11 students have also been visited.
- The October Staff PD day focused on wellness in the classroom. Staff were educated about strategies they can implement in their class to promote self-care; for example, mindfulness breaks, a walk break, focused breathing exercises, ABJ TV and KAHOTS.
- Some staff and student feedback have indicated that the AM and PM cohorts are like having a homeroom.

iii. final assessments, report cards, transition to Quarter 2

- There will be no Provincial Assessment Tests (PATs) at this time and diploma exams are optional. Approximately 10% of students may choose to write diploma exams as a chance to increase their grade or it may be part of their post-secondary application if it is outside AB. It may be helpful in their pursuit.
- There is no formal exam week. Students attend classes right to the end of Quarter 1. Final exams will occur during regular scheduled classes.

- Students who may be ill or quarantined will have November 16 to write their final exam. November 16 is a staff turnaround day, and students who miss an assessment are able to come to ABJ and write it.
- November 17 is the beginning of Quarter 2 and it will start on a Day Y.

iv. new principal introduction

- Greg Lakeman will be acting Principal for the remainder of the 2020-2021 academic year at the start of Fall break.
- A staff member will be assigned to Greg Lakeman's Assistant Principal position; this is still to be determined. Another staff member will be assigned to the vacant teaching position.
- Gratitude and congratulations were expressed by Chair, Shelley Borowski, and parents to Joe Dumont as he advances his education career with the Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Services.

8. Questions from Parents

i. Will students be given access to lockers moving forward?

- Administrators will review different protocols and determine the best approach; need to review under what circumstances lockers may be used.
- The challenges with lockers are that they are a high touch surface area and must be cleaned twice day. Additionally, the location of the locker has an impact to the student's AM and PM class cohort and the students' designated entrance. With no locker access, student traffic is minimized, hallway crowding is non-existent and changes to the cohort system have been avoided.
- To date, administrators are not entertaining the use of lockers as student and staff safety outweighs the need for lockers. Students may store their boots and coats in their cohort classroom as best as possible.
- Joe Dumont acknowledged parents' concern that some students are having difficulty carrying a heavy backpack and suggested students use the digital textbook, leave their textbook in the classroom or keep one textbook at home and another textbook in the classroom.
- Follow-up question was asked: When would the use of lockers be revisited? In Quarter 2? When extracurricular clubs begin?
 - Joe responded that in this COVID climate, ABJ is paused until further notice.

ii. Will ABJ consider returning to four classes per day in the New Year?

- ABJ will maintain Block 1 and Block 2 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year because COVID numbers are increasing and we want to maintain what we are doing. Any class schedule change will impact **everything** including, student and staff schedules.

- Joe Dumont acknowledged parents' frustration and struggle. The quarter schedule is ideal for some courses; for example, CTS and physical education. Joe indicated that he received student feedback that the quarter schedule is a great service and the students appreciate the quarter schedule.

iii. Has consideration been given to adding an additional east only exit onto Emerald Drive?

- Joe Dumont provided the following background information. About 18 months ago, Strathcona County started discussions about the ABJ student parking lot with an engineering firm. A three staged development plan was decided and by stage three, there would be increased parking capacity and an additional exit to Emerald Drive.
- Students who park in the lot have only one exit and may wait up to 20 minutes to exit. There are 220 parking spots in the lot.
 - There is alternate school parking on the south side of ABJ.
 - The 70 parking stalls in parking lot A and B are for the Emerald Hills Leisure Centre now; there are 220 stalls in the ABJ student parking lot.
- An additional exit would be beneficial; however, there has been no updated information shared with ABJ about whether this is in the County's plan and if it is in the plan, the date of completion.
- Joe clarified that the County owns the land and is responsible for the maintenance and support for students; such as providing garbage cans.

Joe Dumont wanted to follow-up about his recent correspondence to students and parents regarding littering and loitering at shopping centres. In this COVID environment, Joe is hearing from businesses that there are students (from various schools) who are taking up space, blocking doorways and not cleaning up after themselves. The Alberta Health Services inspector is inquiring about the same. If this type of student behaviour continues, then ABJ students may be restricted from crossing Emerald Drive. ABJ staff are supporting and reminding students as much as possible to represent ABJ well through their behavior. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could also remind and support their children in the same way.

9. Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

a. Parent Pandemic Pulse Survey – closes November 6, 2020

<https://ca.surveygizmo.com/s3/50085641/ASCApreventcovidtest>

The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) represents parents and provides feedback to government. Shelley Borowski is the parent council representative on ASCA and highly encourages parents to complete the [Parent Pandemic Pulse Survey](#). Results of the survey will provide a snapshot of what parents are feeling and how they are dealing with the pandemic. The Elk Island Catholic Schools Board of Trustees covers the ASCA membership fees for all the EICS schools. Shelley will share what she learned at the ASCA meeting at the November 30, 2020 Parent Advisory Committee meeting.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- November 30, 2020
- January 11, 2021
- February 22, 2021
- April 12, 2021
- May 31, 2021

11. Closing Prayer

Shelley Borowski led the closing prayer.

12. Adjournment

Shelley Borowski adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.