

Archbishop Jordan High School
Parent Advisory Council Meeting
Via Google Meet: meet.google.com/xxf-zeec-zcc

Monday, September 27, 2021
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Attendees

Executive for the 2020-2021 Parent Advisory Council

Shelley Borowski - Chair

Archbishop Jordan High School Parents

Julie S., Lisa H., Katherine I.
Tobi P., Fiona N., Darren M.
Avril G., Pam C.

Archbishop Jordan High School Staff

Ruth Bernadas-Tymko, Principal
Greg Lakeman, Assistant Principal
Michelle Horon, Family Wellness Worker

Elk Island Catholic Schools Board of Trustee Member

Ted Paszek

Archbishop Jordan High School Student Council

Danielle C., Isabel S., Shaun H., Zach S.

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

2. Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer

Shelley began the meeting with a land acknowledgement and the opening prayer.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by Lisa H.

Seconded by Pam C.

Motion carried.

4. Minutes from May 31, 2021 Meeting

Motion: To adopt the May 31, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by Pam C.

Seconded by Julie S.

Motion carried.

5. Highlights from the Elk Island Catholic Schools Board of Trustees, Ted Paszek

- The Board of Trustees held a special meeting on September 9, 2021 to approve amended final-approval calendars for St. Patrick Catholic School, Our Lady of Mount Pleasant Catholic school, Strathcona County, Vegreville and Fort Saskatchewan. They agreed to recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, making September 30th a school closure day.
- COVID-19 protocols are still in place within all schools. The Board moved to direct the Board Chair to write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Minister of Health to reinstate contact tracing and quarantine measures in EICS schools to address the rising number of covid cases in our schools.
- A new high school has been approved for Camrose.
- The Board of Trustees is expressing concerns for the planned development of a shared catholic and public school structure in the Cambrian area structure plan. After consultation with parent/stakeholders in August via Thought Exchange, feedback indicated that 80% of respondents showed support for two school sites of 10 hectares as opposed to a shared school site of 6.1 hectares. The EICS Board of Trustees moved to accept the engagement data and will use it to advocate with Strathcona County in future meetings.
- EICS has contracted a company to enable staff to have access for expedited COVID-19 testing.

6. Student Council Activities

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

- Student Council has 15 members for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The Terry Fox Run was held on Friday. There was a lot of energy shown by the school community. Student Union members were integral to the success of the event, from setup to takedown. The feedback has been very positive. Of note, It was the first in-person activity that has been held in many months.
- Mr. Lakeman thanked Zach S. for leading the setup and takedown of the event. Thank you to the Cheer team and Danielle for creating a festive atmosphere. Thank you to Mr. Roman for being the DJ at the event.

- Upcoming events will center around Spirit Day and Halloween.
- Activities, events will be promoted and shared on social media platforms including TikTok, Instagram and Twitter.
- All planned events will be COVID-19 friendly.

7. Administration Report, Ruth Bernadas-Tymko

- Ruth Bernadas-Tymko introduced herself and shared her background and experience at ABJ. She began her journey as a teacher and Inclusive services facilitator in addition to assistant principal in Vegreville and then moved to ABJ. In addition to teaching she has been a family wellness worker, assistant principal and is now honoured to be the principal.
- The school year started off very smoothly. As part of the registration process, school tours were provided to new students by Student Council members.
- Each assistant principal is assigned to a particular grade level for continuity through their ABJ experience.
- All COVID-19 safety protocols remain in place. For example, opening mass will be livestreamed so that everyone may participate. Sport events are live-streamed
- All extra-curricular activities have resumed and games/activities are being live-streamed as well.
- In recognition of the Day of Truth and Reconciliation, students have been participating in activities leading up to the day.
- A question regarding class sizes was asked. Mrs Bernadas-Tymko shared that 30 students per class is the size they strive for when planning. At times, class sizes will be larger given unexpected schedule changes, new registrations and course selection/availability. Extra personalized education period (PEP) classes are offered in subjects with larger class sizes to address questions and review information to support student success.
- PEP classes have been brought back for the 2021-2022 school year. They were first offered at ABJ in 2019-2020. They take place every Wednesday with the exception of the first Wednesday of the month (early dismissal). Through these classes students have an opportunity to self-direct their learning and access help in core subjects. They also have the flexibility to balance school and work schedules for those who work part-time.
- During PEP classes, teachers who are not instructing are meeting with their collaborative response teams. These teams provide staff to talk about current issues or challenges experienced by students. Working together as a team, they come up with strategies to mitigate challenges.

Student Services Guest Speaker: Michelle Horon

- Mrs. Bernadas-Tymko introduced Michelle Horon, a family wellness worker. Michelle is part of a larger student services team that consists of two family

wellness workers, two counsellors and two teachers that oversee e-campus, work experience and manage the tutor list.

- Michelle assists students and families. She offers counselling, skill building, crisis management, conflict mediation and connection to community and specialty supports as needed. Michelle is also an integral part of the collaborative response teams.
- Students access the family wellness workers by referral. Students are able to have one initial appointment with the family wellness worker if they are under 16 years of age. Parental consent is required for ongoing support. Appointments may be pre-booked or drop in.
- Mr. Lakeman shared that there has been an increase in demand for family wellness workers, especially during the last 20 months.

8. Elections for PAC Executive

- Elections for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Member at Large were held. The Executive for the 2021-2022 Parent Advisory Council is:
Chair- Shelly Borowski
Vice Chair- open
Secretary- Tobi Parr-Pearson
Member At Large – Julie Sonnema
- We are looking for a parent volunteer to fill the role of Vice Chair. Please reach out to Shelley at abj.parent.council@eics.ab.ca if interested.

9. Upcoming Meeting Date:

November 15, 2021

10. Closing Prayer

Shelley Borowski led the closing prayer.

11. Adjournment

Shelley Borowski adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.