

ARCHBISHOP JORDAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
School Council Meeting
MINUTES
Monday April 13, 2015 @ 6:30 pm (ABJ Library)

ATTENDEES:

Leta Shannon (Chair); Nancy Ferguson, Lori Hawrelak; Trina Spasiuk; Mary-Lou Veeken;
Brenda Raboud; Vera Horn
Admin: Lorne Monaghan

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Leta Shannon opened the meeting at 6:37pm. Attendees introduced themselves around the table.

2. OPENING PRAYER – Leta Shannon, Chair

Leta shared Pope Francis' "Five Finger Prayer" with the group.

3. MINUTES of March 16, 2015

MOTION moved by Brenda Raboud, seconded by Vera Horn
THAT the Minutes of the ABJ School Council Meeting of March 16, 2015 be approved as distributed. CARRIED.

4. STUDENTS' REPORT

Mr. Monaghan reported on New Horizons Student Leadership conference (April 22, 2015). Attendance of 200 students from around the province is expected. ABJ students wish to request the national conference (last done in 2004 with 600 students attending).

5. GUEST SPEAKER – Vera Horn – *Orofacial Myology: Oral and Facial Function Matters!*

Vera has two dental diplomas and is internationally certified since March 2009. She is the first Canadian certified, plus one more since then; and several are studying. Vera encountered orofacial myology because both of her children had dental issues. Vera listed potential orofacial and speech developmental problems and showed photos of possible facial development. The transition of babies/children from breast/bottle to sippy cup may be part of the problem in not allowing proper palate growth, as is the sedentary electronics-centred lifestyle which often creates open-mouth breathing. Orofacial myofunctional therapy re-trains mouth and face muscles. Orthotopics is the in-between earlier phase of oral expansion to help the face grow properly with proper tongue placement to support the palate. Vera showed many before-during-after pictures to demonstrate the benefits of orofacial therapy.

6. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Mr. Lorne Monaghan

Mr. Monaghan reported that the first of the new April diploma exams were written today, and these exams continue all week. There is some difficulty in maintaining quiet writing areas while the rest of the school programs continue. The Grade 8 orientation, to prepare for Grade 9 entry next school year, was well attended. This year all the Grade 8s came the same day – successful but very busy

with 300 extra students around. Next year will probably go back to a two-day open house, with half the students each day. Online course selection is available for the first time for the incoming Grade 9s.

Many new families wish to come to ABJ; Lorne has interviewed 60 families (of which 30 are Catholic families).

Provincial Budget of March 2015 says education funding is CAPPED – no funding for new students who come to the Division in 2015/16. This could create a divide where the Catholic schools may only accept Catholic students. There are about 308 Grade 8s coming in and about 280 Grade 12s leaving.

BUDGET: The new provincial budget was announced March 26, 2015. The 2% salary increase for teachers will be covered by the province. If numbers at schools remain similar, Alberta Education wants schools to maintain similar numbers of teachers. If number of students at school increases, it's unlikely that there will be more teachers hired.

A Choir Night fundraiser was held March 20, 2015; going to San Francisco for festival.

The Robotics group is going to Kentucky to compete in World Robotics competition. They have been fundraising like crazy. Their project is looking very good.

Report cards went home last week; the online booking system is in operation for parent/teacher conferences (Wed Apr15 & Thurs Apr16).

STAFFING: The budget drives the staffing. ABJ staff count is anticipated to be similar next year; there is a priority system for retaining staff.

Mr. Monaghan is leaving ABJ; new principal for 2015/16 school year will be Brett Cox (from OLA school in Fort Saskatchewan).

Mrs. Damur and Mrs. Schaub plus one more will be on maternity leave next school year. Mrs. Bakken will return from maternity (.8 FTE requested).

The County recreation centre construction continues. It is anticipated to open late Summer 2016/early Fall 2016. There will be a good win-win facility-sharing relationship between the school and the rec centre. Day-time use is expected to be mainly seniors and parents & tots, plus student programs; evening use will be lessons and adult programs.

May 01, 2015 is School Faith day with Fr. Jim Corrigan (St. Theresa pastor), Doug Cramer (Camp Encounter faith-based games), plus other speakers. Teachers can choose which sessions to attend.

Q&A: Average class size at ABJ is currently 27.2 students per classroom (largest class is 35; one course often starts at 40 and end with about 30 students). Total numbers are expected to be 1140-1150 in 2015/16. If maintaining the number of teachers, staffing may be reduced in other areas (including "Response to Intervention" area).

7. New Business:

a. *School Council Bylaws* – Adoption of Proposed Revisions

Mary-Lou reviewed the changes/clarifications since the draft presented in March.

MOTION moved by Brenda Raboud, seconded by Nancy Ferguson,
THAT the ABJ *School Council Bylaws* be approved as amended. CARRIED.

b. School Council Executive Positions for 2015-16

Elections for the ABJ School Council executive (for 2015/16 school year) will be held at the Tuesday May 26, 2015 Annual General Meeting. All positions are open; nominations may be submitted in writing to the Chair or be made during the meeting. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected by those present at the meeting; the remaining positions (Secretary, Members-at-Large and Community Representative) will be filled by volunteers.

c. ABJ Prayer Bags for Grade 12 Students

There will be a Prayer Bag Stuffing event starting at 7:00 pm, Tuesday, June 9, 2015 in the Staff Lounge

d. Staff Appreciation – Wednesday June 10, 2015

Contributions of fruit/veggie trays, squares, other food items will be accepted at the Prayer Bag Stuffing event or between 8:30 and 9:30 am on Wednesday morning June 10, 2015

e. Youth Alpha Program

No official update on Youth Alpha – four (4) high school students were baptized at the Easter Vigil on Sat/Sun April 05/06, 2015!!

8. MAILBAG – nothing

9.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday May 26, 2015 @ 6:30 pm (School Library)

Guest Speaker: SAFFRON Centre - "Cyberworld: What Happens When Youth Press Send?"

11. CLOSING PRAYER – Leta Shannon led the closing prayer

12. ADJOURNMENT at 20:44