

ARCHBISHOP JORDAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
School Council Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday May 26, 2015 @ 6:30 pm (ABJ Library)

Attendees: 7 Members

Admin: Lorne Monaghan, Heather Thomson

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Leta Shannon called the meeting to order at 6:38pm. Introductions were made around the table.

2. OPENING PRAYER – Leta Shannon, Chair

Leta led the gathering in prayer.

3. GUEST SPEAKER – Julie Parr, SAFFRON Centre [6:40-7:38pm + Qs to 7:44pm]

“Cyberworld: What Happens When Youth Press Send?”

Parents are encouraged to interact with their children and keep in touch with their electronic lives. The internet is an open system with almost no rules or regulations. ISPs are required to archive all internet activity. Family-friendly filters are available (e.g. NetNanny), sometimes via the ISP. Google, if accessed via a family account, can have security/filtering features activated. Cell phone providers are also required to archive everything done via cell phone. (It is believed to be retained for 3 years, but really, nothing disappears.) Be sure to keep kids informed about the law. Help preserve balance in their lives. Online gaming is designed to be addictive, often based on gambling-style techniques. Communicate with children so they know to avoid personal questions and information-sharing. Social media evolves quickly ... moving from FaceBook to Instagram and SnapChat, Kik (world-wide conversations), Vine (seems okay), Ask.FM (anonymous question/answer site; the answers are often not of good quality), Omega (live webcam application), ChatRoulette (open conversations and photos). Consider turning off location-finders on phones. Help children understand what is appropriate, and that some behaviours are never appropriate. Children often think these sites are fun and funny, and they don't understand the dangers or the long-term implications, unless we talk to them regularly about the risks ... accountability/responsibility; jobs, school, reputation, identity theft, victimization, vindictiveness, bullying, addiction, criminal records, future goals, etc. Consider the situation in the news currently about the new MLA whose social media posts are coming back to haunt her There are positive factors about social media, if it is used appropriately. Children tend to like social media because it gives them a sense of belonging, but they need to be aware of the potential implications, and protect their own privacy (and that of their friends). Even if privacy settings are quite high, friends can share a posting from their pages, and then it is “out there” and no longer private. If one wouldn't talk about some of these things in person, why do so online? Don't do/say things to other people that you wouldn't want done to yourself! A good guide is: Don't send out a message or photo that you wouldn't want seen on the front page of the paper, or that you wouldn't want your grandparents to read or see. Do not carry on a controversial conversation online.

Advise children to look in the mirror and say it to themselves, as a test, before considering sending a mean message. Talk about social media rather than hide it. Consider that 30% of children say their parents monitor their electronic activities, whereas 80% of parents say they monitor their children ...!

Warning signs: asking for private phone number, personal information, computer access, offering bribes, threats, lots of compliments, gradual intro of sexual content, cyberbullying/mean or threatening messages, embarrassing pictures, posing as other people, etc.

What to do: talk to your kids, listen to what is happening, don't be afraid to intervene, set expectations and boundaries, set aside tech-free time, familiarize yourself with what is in use.

There are many benefits of the electronic age – do not be afraid to use technology, but use it appropriately. Teach children to be social AND how to disconnect from the technology.

Schools tend to have fairly strong internet filters. EICS has a technical staff that monitors computer use and establish protocols.

4. **MINUTES** of Monday April 13, 2015

MOTION moved by Brenda Raboud (no seconder) THAT the Minutes of the School Council meeting of April 13, 2015 be approved as distributed. CARRIED.

5. **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** – Mr. Lorne Monaghan

Mr. Monaghan updated the staffing/budget process. The school will remain in a status quo situation where teacher FTEs last year will be the FTEs this coming year. Rough timetable drafted. A few temporary positions (maternity leaves) will be filled. There are two additional EAs (educational assistants) but significantly more are needed to assist the “door-to-door” students. The new provincial government will bring in a budget in the Fall, so final details of school budgets may change slightly. Grad ceremonies were held this past weekend (Grad Mass and commencement). The banquet will be at the end of June. French grad and Ukrainian grad coming soon.

The Skills Canada competition was attended by cosmetology, hair design (4th placement) and photography (participation) students. (See also an article in Sherwood Park News about a former ABJ student who is modeling in New York.) The “Maine” play qualified for 13 Cappy awards. “Getting Near to Baby” is playing at Festival place this week (Tues/Wed/Thurs).

The Choir went to San Francisco. The Band went on a cruise up the west coast and their performances were very well attended and appreciated by the passengers.

Linking Generations program (students visit seniors centres) was back this year and was very successful with about a dozen students participating. Some students continue to visit their seniors outside of program time.

Edwin Parr Award nomination of Brianne Black went forward to the northern region. Two of those 17 move on to provincial level. Brianne was the only high school teacher in the pool.

Lots of sports activities continue at ABJ.

EICS purchased a one-year membership for school councils in the Alberta School Councils' Association to provide support and access to their services.

Ms. Thomson reported that a Thought stream survey was done for the school division and individual schools – ABJ has received the results, but the results are not as focussed as was anticipated. The division will look at streamlining the data so that schools can hold round-table discussions.

Colour Awards will be Monday June 15, 2015.

Mr. Monaghan spoke about the LIFE framework, which is the Catholic response to Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs). There is a conference call Wed. morning among the school administrators. LIFE = Lived Inclusion for Everyone.

The Catholic schools have a comprehensive approach to inclusion and are open to Catholic discussion of such topics. There will be a support team of staff (teacher, counsellor, chaplain) to work with a group of students.

6. **REPORTS:** 2015 Excellence in Teaching Awards

Leta e-mailed Alberta Education for follow-up and received information that announcements should happen at the end of May. (The website as of May 16 said there were 10,000 nominees, 500 winners; 10 from EPS, 3 from ECS are in the running for 20 awards provincially.) Phil Nay and Tim Murawsky had been nominated from ABJ. They received a certificate from Alberta Education.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Monaghan thanked Leta Shannon for her years of service on the ABJ School Council.

a. *Elections & Volunteers* – School Council Executive positions for 2015-16
Principal Lorne Monaghan presided over the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Chair: The sole nominee, *Tracy Lockhart*, was declared elected as Chair.

Vice-Chair: There being no one who accepted nomination, the position will be left open for the organizational meeting in September.

Presiding Chair Leta Shannon called for volunteers for the remaining executive positions.

Secretary: The position will remain open until the September meeting.

Members-at-Large (2): *Melanie Sczesny* is willing to remain as a Member-at-Large. The second position will filled at the September meeting.

Community Representative: *Leta Shannon* volunteered to be the community representative.

The Principal and one Assistant Principal comprise the remainder of the ABJ School Council Executive.

b. *8th Annual ABJ Prayer Bag Initiative* – Preparation & Distribution

There were 130 returned; EPK will decorate another 140 bags. Distribution will be Wed. June 10 at 11:10am (20 minutes before lunch break). Leta, trustee Michelle Szott, Monica Friesen (OLPH parish council chair) and possibly Br. Joe Glaab and Fr. Jack H will help distribute.

c. *Staff Appreciation Coffee Break* – Wednesday, June 10, 2015
With about 8 people, the coffee break can be prepared and the prayer bags filled in about an hour on June 9 at 7pm in the staff lounge.

d. *OLPH Partners in Prayer* – will be distributed June 6/7 at OLPH church

8. **MAILBAG:** OLPH Parish Picnic, Sunday June 14, 2015 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm
The KofC will cover cost of a bouncy castle and a dunk tank. There are several volunteers to be dunked. Proceeds will go to the Priests' Retirement Fund. ABJ students will help with the activities at the picnic.

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** To be set in September 2015 by Chair Tracy Lockhart within 30 days of school starting.

Round-table: Mr. Monaghan expressed appreciation for his time at ABJ and the support of school council and the parents. The parents voiced their appreciation of Mr. Monaghan's years with ABJ and expressed accolades for his leadership.

10. **CLOSING PRAYER** – led by Leta Shannon, Chair

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Leta Shannon declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.