

ARCHBISHOP JORDAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
School Council Meeting
MINUTES
November 17, 2014 (6:40-8:10 pm in the Library)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (6:40pm)
8 Parents (including Executive) attended
Staff: Greg Lakeman (assistant principal)
Guest: Carla Howatt, Ward Four Councillor, Strathcona County

Chair Leta Shannon called the meeting to order at 6:40pm. The attendees introduced themselves.

2. OPENING PRAYER – Tracy Lockhart, Member at Large
Tracy led the opening prayer.

3. GUEST SPEAKER: Carla Howatt, Strathcona County Councillor, Ward 4 (6:45-7:30pm)
Leta introduced Carla Howatt. Carla's three children graduated from (old) ABJ. Carla spoke informally about what is happening in the County.
The aquatic centre will open in late 2016 with many recreational facilities, focussing on water sports. Kinsmen Pool has 18,000 students for swimming lessons annually and relief of that congestion is in high demand. There is some concern with the noise from the construction – classroom windows have been covered to act as sound barriers. The centre is a great example of collaboration between the County and the School Board. The sports field is partially complete and will be fully open in 2015 with a sports pavilion and spectator seating for 1000.
The Emerald Hills shopping district continues to be developed (SportChek, medical building, Sobeys, hotel, gas station).
Kinder Morgan began construction on a rail terminal south of Baseline and there are two other major industrial developments in progress. There are multiple major pipelines running through the County. Bremner development is still in the discussion stages. Strathcona County is part of the Capital Region Board (CRB), which has a growth plan. When a municipality does a municipal development plan (MDP), it must go through the CRB (and beyond). Bremner and Colchester are the two possibilities that remain for consideration. Comparative data is needed for both possibilities before any decisions can be made.

Q. There seems to be a lack of religious institutions in the rough drafts put out by Strathcona County.

A. These are bare-bone plans that will change considerably before the final plans are ready (if development proceeds).

Q. Housing costs, particularly that there is little (no?) affordable housing in the County.

A. “Affordable housing” means that up to 80% of the median income (\$144,000 in the County), or about \$2800 per month, can be housing costs before the housing cost is considered above the affordability level.

Q. What's it like being a councillor?

A. There is no “job description” for county (or city) councillors. The requirement is to attend County meetings, come prepared, and vote. The councillor's accountability is to their constituents. Carla finds that most people are quite content and not difficult. Carla is passionate about the community and there is so much to learn about the County. A councillor covers it all – not an expert in anything and somewhat knowledgeable about lots!

Carla shared information about the “10-to-the-sixth line” that marks the greenbelt or buffer zone in Sherwood Park and the County for safety from potential refinery or pipeline incidents. The line can change.

An advantage of the County remaining a Special Municipality (and hamlet) is that the County can apply for both urban and rural grants. Also, the specialized municipality status helps smaller towns survive. Carla has “Coffee with Carla” open houses the first week of the month on Wednesday evenings 7-8pm at Fresh Healthy and on Friday afternoons 1-2:30pm at Opa's. All are welcome to come and chat.

4. MINUTES of September 15, 2014

Following the Councillor's presentation and Q&A, the meeting resumed at 7:30pm.

MOTION: Moved by Tracy Lockhart, seconded by Daryl Ciezki,

THAT the Minutes of the School Council meeting of September 15, 2014 be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

Amendments:

p. 2 item #5, under “Safety” – during the *fire* drill, 12 staff and students *were evacuated* in under 2 minutes; and

p. 2 item #5, under “Bussing” – the request to modify light sequencing is to allow for buses, staff and student vehicles *to exit the parking lots* at the end of class time.

5. STUDENTS' REPORT

Mr. Lakeman will ask someone from Student Council to report at the January meeting.

6. TEACHERS' REPORT

Greg Lakeman reported on behalf of the teachers and principal. As a new staff member, Mr. Lakeman has found the school community to be very welcoming. The Remembrance Day ceremony went well. Awards Night (for 2013-14 school year) took place October 27, 2014 at Festival Place. Hallowe'en activities were lots of fun. Student Council had a “bonding night” with 54 students in attendance. Some went to “We Day” in Calgary. Students participate in the Geomeer project, a two-week drive to support families for a few months. Gifts, food, household items and personal toiletries are included. Family selection is co-ordinated through OLPH parish. There will be lists of items posted at the office and online. Christmas activities are being planned (including ugly sweater day, talent show on Friday December 19, teddy bear toss, Santa); raising money for Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS <www.yess.org>). School sports are well under way, under the guidance of staff and former students. It was requested that the team games be posted under the athletics tab. The theatre production is coming next week (Nov24-26/14) at Festival Place. Mr. Lakeman will also look at posting the departmental exam dates.

7. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Mr. Lorne Monaghan unable to attend

8. OTHER REPORTS

a. World Teacher Day – October 4, 2014

School Council purchased treats from WOW! Factor Desserts for the teachers to acknowledge their work with our students.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

a. CEPAC Meeting Report – October 29, 2014

Leta reported that any member of school council (i.e. all parents) can attend the Catholic Education Parent Advisory Council (CEPAC) meetings. At the October 29, 2014 meeting, there was a “Healthy Communities” presentation about school nutrition. Trustee Szott talked about the EICS Board. Minutes of Board meetings are available at <www.eics.ab.ca> (click on Board tab). CEPAC Terms of Reference were reviewed. The next CEPAC meeting will be announced in the New Year.

b. 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award Nominations (20th year)

Nomination packages are now available <education.alberta.ca/teachers/excellence.aspx>. The deadline is February 6, 2015. Plan the timing appropriately as several constituent groups (principal, superintendent, teacher, public, and the nominee) must collaborate for a nomination. If parents choose, collaboration on the forms can occur with the Chair and other members jointly – share the work!

10. MAILBAG – none

11. ROUND TABLE

Q re: Bylaws of the School Council: These were last reviewed in November 2011, and are reviewed on an as-needed basis. Parents are requested to submit potential changes to Leta or Mary-Lou before January 05, 2014. They will compile the input and present a document to the January school council meeting with the suggested changes (or options, if there is more than one suggestion). Archbishop Jordan High School – School Council By-Laws can be found at

<[Http://archbishopjordan.eics.ab.ca/images/School_Council_By_Laws.pdf](http://archbishopjordan.eics.ab.ca/images/School_Council_By_Laws.pdf)>.

Q re: school social media – ABJ has Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Q re: teacher interviews process – some had trouble receiving the instructions on booking interviews

Q re: student information updates – these can be done online; however, there were problems making the actual changes – Mr. Lakeman will check on this.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday January 12, 2015 @ 6:30 pm (School Library)

– Guest Speaker, Michael Hauptman, EICS Superintendent

13. CLOSING PRAYER – Tracy Lockhart, Member at Large

Tracy shared the Development & Peace Fall Campaign's “Sow Much Love” prayer for farmers <www.devp.org>.

14. ADJOURNMENT – Leta declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

NOTE: Wednesday December 10, 2014 – OLPH choir's Christmas concert at the church.