

**Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School  
School Council Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2014 @ 7:00 PM  
School Library**

**Attending Parents/Guardians:** 16 Parents (including Executive) attended

**Attending School Staff:** Lorne Monaghan, Principal; Assistant Principals Greg Lakeman, Robert Stecyk and Heather Thomson

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Leta welcomed everyone and initiated introductions for all in attendance

**2. OPENING PRAYER –** Leta Shannon, Chair

**3. Minutes – May 27, 2014**

MOTION: Moved by Gerald MacDonald, seconded by Mary Anne Valentini, THAT the Minutes of the School council Meeting held Tuesday May 27, 2014 be approved as corrected (minor typos and “grading” should read “graduating” in item 6. b). CARRIED.

**4. Introduction of New Administration Team**

- The current size of the school/no. of students warrants three Assistant Principals
- Each Assistant Principal takes prime responsibility for liaising with one of the grade levels, as well as other duties. On Board are:
  - o Greg Lakeman from Holy Redeemer – Administrator for Grade 12s, including running the school website and blog
  - o Robert Stecyk from John Paul II, Fort Saskatchewan – Administrator for Grade 11s, including school safety and sports liaison
  - o Heather Thomson from St. Theresa – Administrator for Grade 10s including Special Needs Facilitator
- The Principal and Assistant Principals will share Administrator role for Grade 9s
- To be determined – the current administrators move up grades with students to ensure continuity for students
- Mr. Monaghan reported that there are 1150 students enrolled at Archbishop Jordan School for the 2014-2015 year
- This is an increase of about 75 students over last year. (The 2013-2014 school year started with about 1100 students and there were 1073 students at year-end.)
- The growth is from numerous sources, including students new to Elk Island Catholic Schools and students returning to EICS
- The school is constructed to accommodate a maximum enrollment of 1250. Each grade has approximately 300 students
- Every class is scheduled out to a ‘comfortable full’

**5. TEACHER’S REPORT and PRINCIPAL’S REPORT –** Mr. Lorne Monaghan

**International Exchange Students:**

- ABJ is currently hosting two exchange students from France
- Also, three international fee students; one from each country of Peru, Vietnam and China

**Budget & Staffing:**

- Student numbers drive funding and positions; staffing is up three teachers
- The current school's budget is solid
- There were four late-August staff changes and the staff complement is up by ~2.5 FTE.
- The average class size is 27 students, with a range of 17-35 students

**Construction:**

- Construction on pool/leisure centre on the west side has begun with an anticipated completion date for 2016
- The County and the school board have a joint use agreement defining shared access to the school and the county facilities
- Finances are set by the agreement; management is yet to be determined
- Mr. Monaghan attended meetings over the summer regarding pool construction
- The school has a good rapport with the general contractors who check in daily with Administration
- Contractors made all efforts to minimize transportation issues

**Turf:**

- Available to PhysEd classes only including football practices
- all football games occur elsewhere
- Lights are up; bleachers and score clock pending
- Anticipated completion is 2015-16 school year

**Communication:**

- SynerVoice may still be used but ABJ will maintain a website of information (a Blog) for disseminating information to parents; at present 680 parents are receiving blog messages
- Greg Lakeman will post Parent Council documents on the school website; By-Laws, Agendas, Meeting Minutes, etc.

**NOTE: Parents names will not be published on posted meeting minutes – only the number of parents who attended the meeting**

**Safety:**

- Robert Stecyk indicated the revision of and updating current fire drill routes to accommodate current construction on school grounds
- Fire Drill and Muster Point information will be updated and posted appropriately
- A drill was ran on Thursday, Sept 11'14 with excellent results –1200 staff and students in under 2 minutes
- Majority of evacuation to occur at back of school
- Four contact teachers posted at designated muster points; 2 for first floor and 2 for second floor

**Newsletter:**

- Cleaner format to be used
- First newsletter received a favored response

**Athletics:**

- Coaches have stepped up and are in full speed for Volleyball, Golf and Football
- Vacant coaching position open for Cross Country Running

**Bussing:**

- Some issues ensued with new Bethel Station Transit Centre but have quickly been resolved
- Mr. Monaghan has requested the County to modify the light sequencing for a 20 minute window to allow for busses, staff and student vehicles at the end of class time
- Outcome pending
  
- Q: What is the speed limit on Emerald Drive? Will it change or drop down?  
A: 50 Km/hour. Unknown
  
- Q: Should Parent Council Meeting start times revert back to 7:00 pm?  
A: Show of Hands supported a start time of 6:30 pm. Last year babysitting services were not utilized for any meetings. Any parents requiring this service are asked to contact Leta Shannon at 780-427-2381 or 780-416-1845 one day prior to the meeting to allow for students to be notified

**Other:**

- Elk Island Public School Board is looking at changing monthly early-release Wednesdays to one Friday per month instead

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. **Secretary Position Vacant**

Mary-Lou Veecken has volunteered to assume the role as Secretary for Parent Council

b. **2014 YWCA Women of Distinction Award – Margery Hallonquist**

Leta shared with Council the article regarding ABJ Staff Member Margery Hallonquist winning the Women of Distinction Award. (Article attached to minutes)

c. **2014 World Teacher Day – October 5, 2014**

Leta informed Members 'World Teacher Day' is celebrated globally as a way to show appreciation to all teachers

While the actual date falls on a Sunday, Leta will be delivering 'treats' to staff on Friday morning, October 3, 2014, including a card of appreciation on behalf of all parents of ABJ students

d. **ABJ Parent Council Website Maintenance**

This item was addressed in Item #5. Principal's Report - Communication

e. **2015 Excellence in Teaching Award Nominations**

Alberta Education will have nomination packages for the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Awards available in mid to late October

In past years, a few of ABJ teachers have been successful in winning these awards  
Leta asked Members to start reflecting now on any teachers they would like to see nominated for an award

7. **MAILBAG:**

- ABJ Spring drama production of **Anne Frank** won about 10 Cappy awards, including "Best Cappy"
- Tues-Thurs November 25-27, 2014 – ABJ drama production, **About Maine**
- Tues-Thurs May 26-28, 2015 – ABJ drama production (may need to change School Council meeting date)

8. **NEXT MEETING DATE:** November 17, 2014 @ 6:30 pm (School Library)

Guest Speaker, Carla Howatt, Strathcona County Councillor

**Future Meetings:**

January 12, 2015

> Guest Speaker Michael Hauptman, EICS Superintendent

March 9, 2015 6:30 - 8:30

> Guest Speaker, Constable Rick Green, RCMP Liaison Officer on Drug Awareness

April 13, 2015 6:30 - 8:30 pm

> Guest Speaker Vera Horn

May 26, 2015 6:30 - 8:30 pm

> Parent Council Executive Election

**Round Table:**

Q: Is it possible to have Sports teams pray before games?

A: The subject will be brought up through the Sports Programs but may be hard to enforce

9. **CLOSING PRAYER** – Leta Shannon, Chair

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to Adjourn 8:25 pm by Daryl Ciezki, Seconded by Vera Horn. THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:24 pm. CARRIED

**NOTICE to ABJ Parents:**

- This meeting is open to all parents of students from Grades 9 to 12
- Meetings are information sharing only; no committees or fundraising
- Babysitting services are available for any parents wanting to attend these Meetings. High School Students (through the religion program) will keep your children busy and entertained through games and activities. This service will be offered in the Chapel. Any parents requiring this service are to contact Leta Shannon at 780-427-2381 or 780-416-1845 one day prior to the meeting to allow for students to be notified
- Please take advantage of this offering to allow you the opportunity to find out what is happening in the School as well as interact with teaching staff and other parents
- As well, any ideas, issues or questions you may have for Parent Council may be directed to Leta Shannon, Chair of ABJ Parent Council at [irish3@telus.net](mailto:irish3@telus.net) or at 780-416-1845

# Archbishop Jordan educator receives distinct honours

By [Daniele Alcini](#), Sherwood Park News

Thursday, June 12, 2014 2:58:01 MDT PM



Margery Hallonquist of Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School was recently honoured with the YWCA Women of Distinction award in the Educator category. Photo Supplied

One longstanding Sherwood Park teacher has joined the ranks of prestigious women across the Capital Region.

At the 32nd annual YWCA Edmonton Women of Distinction Awards, Margery Hallonquist, a teacher at Archbishop Jordan Catholic High School, was the recent recipient of the award in the Educator category.

The largest and second oldest organization of its kind, YWCA, or World Young Women's Christian Association, is a movement of women working for social and economic change throughout the globe, advocating for women's rights in the fields of leadership, justice, peace, human rights and sustainable development.

The long-tenured educator has empowered students passing through her hallways as the school's math department head. As well, she has ensured those throughout the province receive a quality and dependable mathematics education over her 24-year career.

A member of various senior high mathematics committees for Alberta Education, Hallonquist was also an influential piece in the formation of TERM, a network of mathematics professors throughout the Capital Region that support teachers with curriculum implementation.

Recognized for her constant efforts in improving the mathematics field throughout Alberta, Hallonquist was also acknowledged for her continuous efforts of bridging the cultural gap between Japanese and Canadian youth.

Elected as the chairperson for the Edmonton region Yamate Japanese Exchange program in 1998, she is responsible for bringing approximately 200 Japanese students every third year to Alberta's capital from the Yokohama area on the basis of education.

"We organize host families for Japanese students that come over every third year and our students go back to Japan for two weeks in July," Hallonquist said.

"Being that it's a very prestigious award, I was very overwhelmed to be nominated because these were letters written by colleagues of mine both here where I teach, students I taught who are now my colleagues, colleagues in Japan and in the Edmonton area who helped with the Japan exchange.

"That might have been part of where I maybe won the award because it's a lot extra on top of your teaching."

While she was left astounded at the thought of receiving an award for her educational efforts, Hallonquist said the most wonderful part of being recognized was standing in the foray of the Chateau Lacombe with the chance to mingle with the 54 additional Women of Distinction recipients.

"Being part of this illustrious group of business women and volunteers who have been doing this for years and being a nominee was just the most important thing," she explained. "When they came across the stage and everyone's clapping and cheering and taking pictures of all 55 of us on stage, that to me was the accumulation of everything."

While the recognition that came with receiving the award was rather unexpected, educators tend to step into the field due to their passion for empowering and enlightening the minds of students, Hallonquist stated.

"We don't do what we do for awards, we do it because that's what you're geared for," she said. "I think it's a recognition on the behalf of all those educators who work behind the scenes that don't get recognized — that's the part that meant the most."

Hallonquist now joins the likes of fellow Park resident, University of Toronto graduate and TEDxEdmonton speaker Joanne Cave.

Cave received the award in the Youth 18-and-Under category in 2009 for her efforts in founding Ophelia's Voice, an organization focusing on making sure that girls have what they need to make positive changes in their community.

Cave, one of Alberta's 50 Most Influential People and a women and gender studies and sociology graduate at the University of Toronto, is currently completing her masters of science in comparative social policy at the University of Oxford.

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