

ARCHBISHOP JORDAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
School Council Meeting
MINUTES
Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 7:00pm (ABJ Library)

ATTENDEES:

12 Parents

Admin: Brett Cox, Principal

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Tracy Lockhart opened the meeting at 7:05pm.

2. OPENING PRAYER- Tracy Lockhart

“Slow Me Down Lord”

3. REVIEW of MINUTES from MAY 24, 2016 MEETING

- No corrections required.
- Motion to accept minutes moved by Nancy Ferguson to accept minutes; seconded by Siann Huie; motion carried by vote.

4. STUDENT COUNCIL/ STUDENT LEADERSHIP REPORT

- Due to beginning of school year, no students were present; Tracy Lockhart gave the report.
- Spirit week was very successful offering lunch hour activities, pancake breakfast and theme days including PJ Day, Jersey Day, ABJ Swag Day
- Looking forward to Halloween-planning in progress!
- 4 Members of the leadership team will be attending a convention in Edmundston, New Brunswick on September 23rd, 2016.
- Students meet weekly at 7:00am. Breakfast is supplied by student volunteers on a rotational basis.
- 80+ students attended the last meeting.

5. ADMINISTRATION/PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

- Currently 1293 students including 6 International and 1 exchange student. This is up 96 from this day last year.
 - Grade 9: 334 Students
 - Grade 10: 333 Students
 - Grade 11: 294 Students
 - Grade 12: 332 Students
- Due to high student numbers ABJ is on the waitlist for 8 portables.

- EICS grades 4-12 One to One Technology initiative is working well at ABJ. 460+ students are participating in the Chrome Book leasing program. 1 router per classroom has accommodated the high Wi-Fi need well.
- Cafeteria- Matthew Stinson has been instrumental in providing a 7 week rotation of recipes, rational, objectives and outcomes. Working towards providing quality student learning opportunities with a break even budget. A modest profit will allow for repair and replacement of equipment as required.
- Safe Arrival App is a tool for parents to report absences. After an initial pilot year, it is more functional and user friendly.
- Much effort and attention has been given to keeping the ABJ Blog and website up to date. Weekly updates, monthly calendars, comments/pictures from special events and information as it is made available in a timely manner.
- The ABJ attendance policy has been very successful in reducing the number of student absences. The policy does not include absences due to illness, school team or club commitments. All information on the policy is located on the homepage of the school website.
- School budget is set to be finalized by October 10th. This is following the September 30th student count. It is estimated ABJ will have a 9.2 million dollar budget, 85.4% of which is required for staffing.
- The new swim club coached by Charlene Douglas has been received with huge interest. It is the 2nd largest club with 68 students. The club will be starting in October and be utilizing the new Emerald Hills Aquatic Centre.
- Mr. Cox shared that ABJ has welcomed 11 new teachers and 10 new support staff since June 2016. He is very happy with all the hires and their fit into the ABJ family.
- Staff attended professional development workshops on September 16th. These included: department assessment and reporting, Individualized Student Plans (ISP) building, Power Teacher Grade Book Pro, English as a Second Language Training (ESL), Non-Violent Crisis Intervention training (NVCI), Violence Threat Risk Intervention Training (VTRI), Google Training, GAFE-Google Apps for Education and collaboration time for teacher-teacher and teacher-EA. In the near future we will see small pull-outs for core subject area staff.
- Awards night will be October 24th for the 2015-2016 school year.
- Mr. Cox has requested that the counsellors offer a presentation on Post-Secondary / Scholarships to parents of the grade 11 and 12 students. Date to be determined.
- Mr. Cox has requested for our School Resource Officer (SRO) to share the roles and responsibilities of this position. Information to follow.
- October 1st is the early acceptance deadline for grade 11 students.
- Mr. Cox shared the results of the School Accountability Pillar issued by the Alberta Government. A full summary is available. The evaluation for the measure categories is as follows:
 - Safe and Caring Schools-Excellent
 - Student Learning Opportunities-Excellent
 - Preparation for Lifelong Learning, World of Work, Citizenship-Excellent

Parental Involvement-Excellent

Continuous Improvement-Excellent

- 2 Dance Classes are underway this school term. Mr. Cox was very happy with the classes of 20 and 21 students even without these options available during course selection and pre-registration.

6. GUEST-Meet the principal of ABJ, Brett Cox

Mr. Cox entertained a Q&A session with the parents in attendance.

Q. Will ABJ continue to offer grade 9 and the French program in spite of the high enrollment numbers?

A. Yes. There are no plans to remove the French program or grade 9's in the foreseeable future.

Q. What is happening with the swimming pool access?

A. As the pool construction is coming to a close, a secure entry portal is being implemented. Two sets of doors are present in the corridor from ABJ to the pool. School staff can open the first set of doors from the ABJ side and pool staff can open the first door from the pool side. There is potential for access to be granted for those accessing the pool to utilize the foyer of ABJ to socialize or access the cafeteria. This would "open the doors" to possible sharing with the community and enhancement of our students growth. This has yet to be determined. To clarify- students are required to go around the building to access the pool if they choose to utilize the pool.

There are no concerns at this time with traffic and/or parking due to the aquatic center. Signage will be erected to inform busses and visitors of the appropriate space to use.

Q. Is there a student rate to attend the football games?

A. No. There is a set fee of \$5.00/person determined by Metro sports.

Q. Do the student fees for option classes go toward the teaching staff?

A. The fees do not pay for teacher wages. These fees are for materials, outings, and other various costs. The largest expense continues to be transportation. Mr. Cox has instructed the staff to ensure all fees are necessary. Making options accessible and inclusive for all students is a priority at ABJ. It is understood that ABJ's option fees are comparable or less than surrounding district's fees.

Q. Could fundraising be implemented to offset option fees?

A. Some classes or clubs including band, choir and theatre fundraise for specific off campus trips. Due to the age of the students in high school, it is possible the

students can earn funds at an after school job to offset fee costs. Students may need to prioritize their interests choosing the options that are most important to them.

Q. Do ABJ students and staff receive a cost break at the new aquatic Facility?

A. ABJ does not receive any cost breaks when utilizing the Emerald Hills Aquatic Centre due to its close proximity to the school. It is charged the same rate as the other high schools in Sherwood Park.

Mr. Cox concluded by asking parents not to feel they have to wait for a meeting to ask him a question. He welcomes parents to contact him anytime they may require clarification or have an inquiry.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Vacant Parent Council Positions

There is still an opening for the secretary position on the parent council. There are no volunteers at this time. Siann Huie volunteered to take minutes for today's meeting.

Melanie Sczesny will remain on as member at large.

8. NEW BUSINESS

GRAD 2017-First graduating class of 4 years at ABJ

- There is a grad 2017 committee made up of students and teachers.
- There is a grad committee meeting for grade 12 parents on October 12th at 5:30pm at ABJ. Location to be announced.
- In the past, ABJ has utilized the Shaw Conference center for 2 consecutive days for the ceremony, and the banquet and dance. Due to the high demand for this facility it is booked for 5 years in advance. The booked days have fallen on diploma testing dates. The Shaw has provided alternative dates to choose from. With consideration given to minimizing student absences and exams, May 28, 2017 appears to be the best choice at this time. If one of the alternative dates is not chosen for this year, ABJ will forgo the other 4 years of Shaw bookings due to cancelation. If graduation is on May 28th there would be a 2 hour break between the cap and gown ceremony and the banquet to set up the conference center to accommodate the meal service.
- Initial plans are to hold the graduation celebrations over 3 days. These would include:
 1. Distribution of prayer bags and graduation blessing ceremony
 2. Saturday mass celebrating our graduates
 3. Cap and gown ceremony and banquet at the Shaw Convention Center.

“A Matter of Choice” Career Fair

Le-Ann Ewaskiw shared that Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS) will be hosting another career fair at Millennium Place on November 1, 2016. Representatives from numerous post-secondary institutions will be onsite to share information. It was a success in the previous years with attendance around 900 students. Conference co-ordinator contact information will be provided to Mr. Cox.

The parent council hopes to host a guest speaker each council meeting to share information for about a 20 minute period. Ideas for speakers are welcome. If you have ideas, please contact the Parent council.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next parent council meeting date will be posted soon. Parents will find the information on the school website, in the weekly reminder and other emails. Plans to host a school counsellor to share information on scholarship opportunities and the college application process are being finalized. Please note: visits to ABJ are scheduled for UBC, Grant MacEwan, Concordia, U of A and NAIT this year. Dates on school calendar.

10. KUDOS

Siann Huie spoke on the excellent start up and registration process. It was easy, enjoyable and offered a very inviting feel for the students and parents. Mr. Cox said the feedback would be shared with the students who volunteered their time.

11. CLOSING PRAYER

Request made to please keep Tony Sykora, EICS trustee, in your prayers as he is gravely ill. Tracy Lockhart led closing meeting prayer.

12. ADJORNMENT at 8:32pm.