

Ardrossan Junior Senior High School
PAC Meeting Minutes
April 27th, 2020

In Attendance: MJ Nam, Skip Gordon, , Paul Schwartz, Lonnie Hicks, Ron Horton, Hannah Quewezance, Glenys Boe, Jackie Anderson, Angela Ayers, Christie Dubeau, Cathy Farnell

1. Call to Order: 6:42 p.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions:
3. Trustee Report – Skip Gordon

At the February 20th Board meeting, we approved the 2020-2021 Student Transportation Fee Structure. The new fee structure reflects recent changes made to Alberta Education's School Transportation Regulation AR 96/2019, which is guided by the Education Act. EIPS families using student transportation services will see the following fee changes starting in the 2020-2021 school year:

- The introduction of a two-tiered fee structure. Both eligible and ineligible riders will pay a fee for busing services.
- The elimination of the Student Transportation family rate.
- The elimination of an exemption for ineligible riders who cross or walk along a road with speeds of 60 kilometres per hour or higher, without a sidewalk or standard traffic light protection.
- Bus fees for eligible students (those who live more than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school), will be \$100.00.
- Bus fees for ineligible students (those who live less than 2.4 kilometres from their designated school or choose to attend a non-designated school) will be \$325.00.

Last week, Alberta Education took back 2.36 million dollars from base instruction and 1.25 million dollars from student transportation. The reason given was that we had no students in classrooms. As a result, EIPS was forced to issue temporary layoff notices to 407 employees. These were mostly educational assistants.

Next year EIPS will again face a shortage of approximately 7.5 million dollars. Our reserves are depleted. All schools next year will therefore have fewer dollars to work with. All schools will have fewer staff. All schools will have increased class sizes.

Schools will have 2.9% of their budgets cut, Central office departments will have 20% of their budgets cut.

Finally, you are probably aware by now that Superintendent Liguori has suspended this year's graduation exercises.

4. Administration Report – MJ Nam

Current Status

Alternate Learning is well underway and thank you to students and families as we continue our work online, offline, connecting with kids and families, and with curriculum. Please contact your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns.

Chromebooks are available for loan to families and if wanted by parents, please accept the Parent/Guardian invite for Google Classroom and go to settings to set None, Daily or Weekly Notifications.

The School has been working hard to help parents know what is happening with their students' learning. Daily or weekly summaries are available through Google Classroom. Parents should have invitations from their students' teachers. Accept those and go to settings to sign up for notifications. If you need assistance with getting set up for a class, contact the teacher.

Temporary Layoffs starting April 30th, 2020 – 5 Classified staff out of 10 staff are working May and June. These staff members will continue to support students, parents, teachers and administration. For example, registration process for next year is being finalized.

Process for Parent/Teacher Interviews- Phone call conversation

As the stoppage of in-person school classes occurred in the midst of our planned Parent Student Teacher Interviews, we chose to get our alternate learning going first.

Parent/Teacher Interviews are intended for teachers to be available to report progress of the student and to provide professional advice and to make ourselves available for feedback from parents about the learning at home.

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences will be held on Monday, May 4 – 3 to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, May 6 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

We will be using an online booking system, as in the past, to book conferences. Bookings will open up on Tuesday, April 28 at 3:30 p.m.

You will be able to book conferences for both timeslots. You will not be able to schedule any interviews before that time.

You will need to enter your son's/daughter's name, the class, and teacher with which you would like to schedule a conference. You are limited to one conference time per teacher. If your son/daughter has a particular teacher for more than one subject, please just book one 10 minute time slot. If you need more time with a teacher, please arrange a separate phone call at a later date.

Please enter an e-mail address to receive confirmation of your 8-minute interview. The teacher will phone you close to the start of your interview time. Interviews will last 8 minutes, with a 2-minute transition for teachers to prepare for the next appointment.

You will also be prompted to provide a telephone number that you can be reached at during your time slot.

To book your interview times go to <http://www.schoolinterviews.ca/>, enter the school code dhn3g (all lower case) and follow the screen prompts

The following subject areas have availability:

High School- Biology, Chemistry, English, French Language Arts, Math, Physics, Science, Social Studies, Mechanics/Fabrication, Construction, Physical Education, CALM, Commercial Foods, Foods, Spanish, Band, Drama, Art, Communication Technology, Personal Fitness

Junior High-English, French Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Band, French as a Second Language

My Child's Learning: Parent resource- www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/
Excellent resource from K to 12 – details on learning outcomes and other resources

Update on EIPS Budget: Decrease to AJS budget
High School funding changes- per pupil/ not by credit
Jr. High funding-decrease

Fees at Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High – see attachment

Family Survey will be sent out to all families- to check in with how is it going, how can we support families.

Together we will get through this time, safely with Alberta Health and Canada Health.

There was a question about fees for this year, such as noon supervision. The school is waiting for final confirmation from Alberta Education before refunding fees.

Grad fees – the school is looking at various options right now, which must fall within AHS guidelines. Things are still uncertain at this time.

5. Staff/Teacher Report – Mr. Horton

As teachers, we truly care about our students. They are the reason we do what we do. We miss the daily interaction with them and are truly concerned for their wellbeing. We know a number of students who are continuing to work at part-time jobs or whose families are struggling, and we really hope all families are safe and healthy. Most of our teachers are also parents and we, too, are grappling with many of the same issues as you.

As teachers, it has been amazing to see how well most of the students have been adjusting to the new online learning format. Despite many challenges, the students have really risen to the occasion. The kids have been very resilient and adaptable. Some of the projects coming in have been very well done and extremely creative. It is very clear that the students want to learn and have been putting their best effort forward during this challenging time. They have continued to learn and produce very good work. We feel when we return to a traditional school setting the students should have the basic knowledge and skills to be successful.

Teachers are finding that everything takes much longer now. The amount of time it takes to create new lessons in this new learning platform cannot be understated. Concepts that can be taught in the classroom with ease are much more difficult to convey from a distance. It also takes more time to simply communicate to students, parents, and our own colleagues on a daily basis.

Communication is a challenge these days. The interactions of a typical day in the classroom are not easily replicated over the Internet. Teachers are accustomed to relying on these interactions and feedback from their students as indications of student engagement and understanding. Something as simple as seeing the expression on a student's face when introduced to a new concept can be an irreplaceable indication of understanding. However, in this new learning paradigm, many students have been adept at using technology to communicate with us.

This is a challenging time. Students (and adults) are very concerned about their future in a completely different way than previous generations. There is no doubt about that. Students and teachers have new obstacles to overcome that we had never imagined. As teachers, we commend the students and their families for their hard work in making the best of the situation and for working to overcome these new challenges in the best ways that they can. We thank all parents for your understanding, patience and continued support.

Glenys Boe – Thanked Mr. Horton and noted that the parents are thankful for the efforts of the teachers and the school.

6. Student Council Report – Hannah Q.

Proudly hosted the following events:

November 26th:

For Giving Tuesday 8 students in block one and 7 students in block two walked over to the Ecole Elementary school to make crafts with the kids.

December:

The 12 days of Christmas:

5- Free hot chocolate was served in Grad Hall which was a success amongst the students.

6- How the Grinch Stole Christmas was played in the cafeteria during lunch.

9- Student Council attempted to play a Christmas themed Kahoot during lunch, with the first place prize being a \$20 McDonalds gift card. Unfortunately, students filled the Kahoot with Bots so we had to shut the Kahoot down.

10- This year instead of using the students' phones for the Christmas booth we purchased a mini photo printer that was connected to some of our council members' phones. This went very smoothly and was well received.

11- We hid paper presents around the school and whoever found them received a pack of hot chocolate with a little candy cane.

12- Candy grams were sold for 50 cents each in grad hall

13- Played Shrek The Halls in the cafeteria during lunch

16-Christmas Hat Day

17- Sell cookies for students for 50 cents to decorate also Red and Green day.

18- PJ day

19- Ugly sweater day plus a visit from Santa

20- Formal day for the students and the junior high dance (which was put together by the teachers)

Christmas Bureau: To help bring in more food donations we took away the cafeteria chairs and if the students wanted a chair with their name on it they would have had to donate non-perishable food items unfortunately that was not well received by the students and did not bring in many donations. On top of taking away the chairs we also took away the grade twelve microwave which to get back the seniors would have to donate 50 food items. Which took about a week to get back. As for the Oilers tickets, those brought in 450 food donations.

January:

For tea day this year we handed out free tea for the students to help alleviate the stress of exams. This year we took a different approach. Instead of serving hot water in cups and allowing students to grab random tea bags, this year we filled some jugs full of three different flavours (orange pekoe, peppermint and green tea). On top of the tea we also had sugar and honey on the ready for students to put into their tea.

February:

10- Sold the rose grams for \$2 each

11- Again sold the rose grams which we sold out of. We also had a punch board game where students would pay 25 cents to pick a mystery cup that could have candy in it.

12- Sold candy bags for the students 50 cents each.

March

13- In room 117 we held a Pi memorization. The top prize was a whole apple pie and the runner up prizes were little pie pastries the winners were Abigail with 627 digits memorized, Alyssa with 147 memorized and Sienna with 70 memorized.

Also, that day we had a Pie your teacher in the face day.

Conclusion:

Due to the global circumstances Student Council has nothing else planned in the future.

7. COSC Report -Jackie Anderson

COSC met virtually 2 weeks prior to the School Council meeting. They had excellent turnout.

The representatives gave their feedback, basically as parents, as to how things are going.

John Thomas from the IT Department of EIPS walked them through how to use Google classroom, how it looks.

There was discussion around whether School Council meetings will be a good forum for parents to get stress and frustrations out. The recommendation is that parents be allowed to use the meetings as an outlet but if things are getting out of hand, try to bring the meeting back on track.

They plan to meet again in May.

8. Approval of Minutes from November 25, 2019 Meeting - passed

9. Next Meeting – To be determined for late May or early June.

10. Adjournment – 7:26 pm