

Ardrossan Junior Senior High School
PAC Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2021

In Attendance: MJ Nam (Principal), Paul Schwartz (Assistant Principal), Lonnie Hicks (Assistant Principal), Ron Horton (Teacher Representative), Skip Gordon (Trustee), Hannah Q, Bailey A (Jr Student Liaison), Jackie Anderson (Chair), Jennie March, Jen Mailer, Kasia Spiker, Wendy Marty, Dayna McGeachy, Jen Todoschuk, Anna Nygren, Amy Archibald, Vania Lloyd, Cathy Farnell

1. Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

2. Welcome and Introduction

3. Approval of Agenda

Agenda amended to include "Discussion re: Tech Fees" under New Business.

4. Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2021 meeting

5. COSC Report – Jackie Anderson

- There was a COSC meeting on March 3, 2021.
- The Division will be held harmless from any decline in enrollment this year which would normally impact the 3 year rolling average funding model.
- The transportation budget remains the same for 2021/2022 as it was for 2020/2021.
- Up to 15 School Council chairs will be sponsored to attend the ABSA conference in April.
- Overall the Board was happy with the budget.
- The Teachers' Convention was well done and although teachers missed the in-person contact, they were happy with the presentations.
- COVID concerns that were discussed were the lack of vaccinations for teachers and school staff as well as the new variants.
- ASCA's grant funding has decreased. They would appreciate support for their role as they engage in other fund-raising. They ask that people provide 3-5 sentences to show how ASCA supports our school council so that they can use those statements in their fund-raising.
- The idea of a technology fee was introduced and we will discuss the topic further under New Business.
- As of March 3 there were 4 active cases in the Division, 1 was a variant.

6. Trustee Report - Skip Gordon

- EIPS is contemplating implementing a technology fee for next year to support the increasing need to acquire, install, and maintain up-to-date technology resources and services to enhance student learning.

This potential technology fee would be charged for each student except for those that are attending a school in which "Bring Your Own Device" is a current requirement.

The amount of the fee and the date for implementation are currently being reviewed by administration. It would be an amount far less than that required for parents to purchase individual devices for their children.

The fee would be used to offset the costs associated with purchasing student devices, updating classroom computer labs, student printing, and network related services such as internet demands across the division.

- EIPS will hire two additional staff for its elementary French Immersion out-of-school learning option.
- If any staff member or student is exposed to a person who has tested positive for the UK or South African variant of COVID-19, they will now have to quarantine for 24 days rather than the normal 14.
- The Board will continue to fund the cost of one registration fee per EIPS school to attend the annual General meeting of the Alberta School Councils' Association.
- Budget day was scheduled for Feb. 25. We were not anticipating a "good news" budget from the provincial government. However, the allotment for education will be 8.3 billion overall. This is the same level of funding provided last year. There will be no decrease in funding despite the drop in enrolment most school divisions saw this past year. EIPS saw a drop of 500 students over the previous year. The EIPS board advocated strongly for school divisions to be held harmless in light of this unanticipated effect of the pandemic. The provincial government actually listened. Although, the higher standard cost of teachers, grid increases, and inflation will mean that last year's \$8.3 billion is not quite the same as this year's \$8.3 billion.
- Learning support funding grants will provide an additional \$40 million to the learning needs of students who may require additional supports from school authorities. The majority of these dollars will be for Program Unit Funding (PUF). This program is for two and a half and three year old children who need specialized programming to provide a boost before kindergarten.

Question as to whether there would be a fee for those who can bring their own devices? The fee is charged on a per school basis and will be charged at schools that are not bring your own device schools.

7. Student Council Report – Hannah Q and Bailey A

- See attached report.

8. Teacher Report – Ron Horton

- Student Council lifts the spirits of teachers as well as students.
- We are ½ way done the third quarter. Teachers have been working hard.
- Had meet the teacher night on February 22.
- Had a Professional Development Day March 5 with many things covered including assessment of students and how to make that more effective and efficient.
- Parent/student/teacher conferences are March 11

Jackie noted that she hoped the teachers enjoyed a well-deserved spring break at the end of the month.

9. Admin Report - MJ Nam

- See attached Report.

Ardrossan has the following student teachers right now:

Student Teacher Name	Mentor Teacher Name
Sonnenberg, Jessica Scharlottie	Machushyk, Robin (AFX, Feb.10-Apr. 29)
Kozculab, Chad Ulrik	Pretzlaff, Richard (AFX, Feb.10-Apr. 29)
Keymer, Mackenzie Michael	Stock, Tracey (AFX, Feb.10-Apr. 29)
Harmatiuk, Sydney Amanda	Hoffos, Cynthia (AFX, Feb.10-Apr. 29)
Bland, Breanna Tazlynn	Zinken, Phil (AFX, Feb.10-Apr. 29)
Regimbald, Joseph	Liz Booij, (AFX, Faculte St.Jean, 7 weeks, Mar. 1-Apr. 23)
McKay, Cameron	Rebecca Gustafson (IFX, Mar. 15-Apr. 30)

All are doing well.

Pre-registration is now finished. Ardrossan Jr/Sr is a closed school, but there were a couple of students that were able to be accepted under the sibling clause. As of this time, there are 865 students for next year. That number may fluctuate between now and September, for example, if people move to the area or away from the area.

AJS Parent Fee Survey Results		
(13 respondents)		
Noon Hour Supervision		
Question	Results	Comments
Do support modestly increasing noon hour supervision fees by 5% which would reduce the impact of the shortfall on our school budget.	92% agreed with 5% increase	You should not have a shortfall. Charge a little more.
		While I understand that supervision is required, teachers are contractually obligated to supervise while still having their allotted lunch time. How do you not have enough teachers to cover the supervision requirement. I understand needing supervision in case something happens after the eating time but how does that differ from needing that for a high school student. Supervision is required at all levels Jr high and high school so why is it that we need to pay for it at a Jr high level.
Field Trips		
Question	Results	Comments on Fieldtrips
When do you prefer to pay your child's field trip fees?	38% prefer one time payment 62% prefer pay as you go	Perhaps covid has taught us that virtual field trips are sufficient, unless student learning of curriculum can be vastly improved by leaving the school premises.
How many field trips would you support in one school year?	8% dependent on if deemed necessary 23% prefer one or two 70% prefer three or four	Field trips are important. Especially when they are interactive, hands on and interesting.
How much are you willing to spend per field trip? The fee includes cost of the activity as well as substitute costs and the per student cost of the bus ie. Bus costs can range from \$5 to \$10 per student for 1 class- \$2.50 to \$5 per student for 2 classes on a bus	12% would pay \$10 per trip 12% depends on the trip 15% would pay \$15 per trip 15% would pay \$30 per trip 48% would pay \$20 per trip	The cost is really determined by the activity. I would pay more for my students to experience an excellent field trip
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Student Activity Fee		
Question	Results	Comments on Student Activities
To support these activities, how much are you willing to spend per student? Presently, the one time fee for each school year is \$20 per student.	77% would pay \$20 15% would prefer \$15 8% would prefer \$10	Excellent for school culture Thank you for doing this

With respect to the fees survey results respecting supervision, staff are required to have a minimum of 30 minutes per day for lunch. Given that the lunch break is 55 minutes, there are not enough teachers to supervise without additional assistance.

The Student Activity Fee will be kept at \$20.

Parents at the meeting gave supportive feedback respecting the reasonableness of the fees and were in favour of increasing supervision fees to achieve full cost recovery.

10. New Business –

a. COVID Update – nothing to add to COSC and Trustee Reports

b. Tech Fee Discussion –

- The fee would be used to cover things such as cost of devices, internet, bandwidth, applications, and programs.
- Concern over reasonable access to internet for urban and rural schools and what is reasonable access.
- Concern over fair access to comparable devices/technology for all students.
- Central office is aware that they need to be mindful of rolling out new fees with families' financial situations in these times.

- The general process for schools acquiring hardware is that schools identify needs and then equipment is sourced centrally to keep products similar and to get better costs. Similar products ensures similar opportunities for students and is easier for IT support.
- There was a question as to whether it is harder to add a tech fee where parents are already fundraising to pay for new tech. At Ardrossan there has not been any fundraising for this purpose.
- With the new curriculum coming up, there is a suggestion that much of it will be digital and will be rolled out digitally, so there needs to be access and availability to make that work.
- Comments/answer arising from questions at the meeting:
 - o It is a reasonable ask to include a tech fee
 - o Best guess for a range of the fee is in the range of \$25.
 - o It is important that students have a level playing field at school in terms of technology.
 - o The school has multiple carts of chromebooks and they are used a lot every day. There are some desktops with specific programs for classes such as Comm Tech with graphics or other specific requirements. Generally, the school is finding that chromebooks last 3-5 years and that the cost of them has decreased over time. The school has been pleased with the chromebooks and is looking at getting another cart down the road.

11. Old Business – None

12. CPF – MJ Nam

Had meeting. Getting ready for La Semaine de la Francophonie which is the third week of March. Will mainly be within the French classes due to continuing to cohort.

13. Next Meeting – May 7, 2021 6:30 p.m.

14. Adjournment – 7:28 p.m.

Student Council Report

January:

- Celebrated 5 different national holidays on January 11th, 15th, 19th, 20th, and 23rd. All of these events were online on the schools Instagram, and posters were also put up around the school. (Milk day, bagel day, popcorn day, cheese lovers day, and pie day.)

February:

-Ran Valentines Day events from the 9th-12th.

-On the 9th, 10th, and 11th we sold roses and also did a punch board. (People could pay to win various mystery prizes, and if you got a golden ticket you were allowed to play a bean bag toss game to win a larger prize.)

-Roses were given out to people on the 12th.

-On the 11th groups of students stayed after school to put up chocolates on lockers to give to students on the 12th.

-Had a tea day on the 19th.

-Held Pink Percentage Day on the 24th. (The class with the largest amount of people wearing a pink article of clothing won doughnuts.) A total of 350 students dressed up.

-Worked with the mental health group to do a "nominate someone from a random act of kindness" booth. The names all went into a draw and the people that won got a prize basket.

March:

-March 4th we gave out rice krispies for National Snack Day.

-March 17th we will have a bunch of activities for St Patrick's Day. There will be green slurpees served in the cafeteria and students will be encouraged to wear green. There will be trivia posted on the instagram page. The teacher with the most trivia questions aimed towards them will have a pot of gold and students will have to tell them a code word to get a prize.

**Administration Report
Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High School Council Meeting
March 8, 2021**

Welcome to Ardrossan Jr. Sr. High

Ardrossan welcomes University of Alberta Student Teachers to our school.

Process for Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences

Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. We will be using an online booking system, as in the past, to book conferences. Bookings opened up today on Monday, March 8th, 2021

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. Each conference is 8 minutes in length. If your son/daughter has a particular teacher for more than one subject, please just book one 8 minute time slot. If you need more time with a teacher, please arrange a separate phone call.

Update on EIPS Budget:

Awaiting the provincial budget and funding manual

Fees consultation and summary of feedback- See next page

Thank you for taking the time to all of our families for feedback on next year's fees.

Calendar for April Q3 sittings- please check website

Pre-registration for 2021-22- Closed boundary school Awaiting approximately 865 students

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