
ARDROSSAN JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 20, 2023

6:30 PM

In attendance

Bailey Anderson (Student Council Liaison)
Jackie Anderson (Vice President)
Jennie March (President)
Susan Miller (Trustee)
M J Nam (Principal)

Lisa Slywka (Secretary)
Tracey Stock (Staff Representative)
Trudi Williamson (Assistant Principal)
Anne Wasylyshen (COSC Representative)

1. **Call to Order** – meeting called to order at 6:35 PM by Jennie Marsh
2. **Welcome and Introduction**
3. **Approval of Agenda** – no amendments were made to the agenda, motion to approve made by Jackie Anderson
4. **Review & Approval of Minutes** - from May 8 September 18th, 2023 meetings, motion to approve made by Jackie Anderson
5. **COSC Report** – Anne Wasylyshen presented summaries of the October 4 and November 1, 2023 meetings.
 - October 4 summary:
 - Alberta Council and Schools’ Association - School Council association and Caregiver association both have monthly workshops /inservices/seminars, information available on the AHS website, school newsletters
 - School Council Engagement Grant – Alberta Education is providing schools with a \$500 grant to build capacity, strengthen engagement. Applications due October 23
 - EIPS Three-Year engagement plan discussed, focus on operations improvement, including programming, school capacity
 - New curriculum and assessment tools from EIPS, including *Partners 4 Science* program
 - COSC Sharing – discussion focused on council fundraising
 - November 1 summary:
 - EIPS Board of Trustees Report presented by Cathy Allen – noted the board’s Advocacy work plan and focus on advocacy topics at future meetings
 - ATA report – Deneen Zielke shared information on the 1 Million March for Children as well as Take Back Alberta – encourages parents to do their own research on this event and special-interest group
 - School Council Education grant – application deadline extended to December 31

- EIPS assurance Review discussion led by Ryan Marshal, EIPS Associate Superintendent, focused on interpreting individual school results
- COSC Sharing – discussion focused on holiday events, emphasis on asking students, as well as parents and caregivers, what they would like to do – if students engage, then parents and caregivers will follow suit

6. **Trustee Report** – Susan Miller

- Statistics shared – EIPS is the 6th largest with 1, 540 staff serving 17,760 registered students, within 42 schools, 300 more students than 2022-23
- Annual Educational Results Report (AERR) – EIPS’ 4 year education plan, was developed to meet Alberta Education’s Assurance Framework (AEAF) – to report on school results, used by the Division to guide support allocation for 2024-25
- Trustees will be touring schools and discussing challenges as part of the Trustee Assurance Tour/Program, strategies for overcoming them – Trustee Miller wants to give great credit to principals and teachers for their innovation, parents for their support and fundraising
- School Tours – Miller remarked on the distinctive culture of each school
- Trustees attended several Remembrance Day ceremonies
- New French Immersion school site – as a result of new info received by Central Services, site options may change or may not – Miller hopes that a decision will be finalized prior to registration for 24-25 school year
- Agora – post-secondary institutes fair November 21, 6:00-8:00 PM
- AHS is offering Zoom sessions on addiction and mental health – more info available at www.cyfcaregivereducation.ca

7. **Student Council Report** – Bailey Anderson

- Having a 10-12 dance on Friday, November 24 but short of parent volunteers – a link to volunteer was included in the last Bison Tracks November 20, another announcement will be made - Dance Friday – Under the Stars theme, tickets include a snack, tickets are still available, not sold at the door
- Discussion regarding most recent dances, consensus is that dances are a good thing, even if there may be some reluctant participants sometimes
- Reorganization re: class representation – has now moved to grade-level representation and will seek ideas for events et al. from these representatives – still looking for Grade 9 representation, will ask teachers to remind students that anyone can join at any time
QUESTION: can council members come into classes to talk up Student Council?
ANSWER: yes, if council members are willing and have the time to do so
- Halloween Week was a success, good participation in the pumpkin painting and mummy making, Halloween Scavenger Hunt was very popular, thanks to the teachers supporting Council for giving out candies as prizes
- Bullying Awareness Week – took place the week following Fall Break, announced on Instagram – treats handed out by Student Council, notes posted on lockers
- Current: Spirit Week - one theme per day, dance will end the week November 24
- December – expansion to include Christmas and other holidays; Formal Wear Day will take

place on the last day of school Dec 22; “Bison on the Shelf” starts on Instagram Dec 4; ornament painting in Grad Hall for taking home or hanging on the tree Dec 7-8

- Candygrams Dec 11-13, lantern painting, gingerbread house competition with prizes for the Top Three competitors
- Hot Chocolate Day Dec 18, Candygrams delivered Dec 19, Ugly Sweater Day Dec 20,
- All events posted on Instagram and larger posters are being put up for events throughout school
- Ms. Nam emphasized that all events are supported by the \$20 per student fee paid at the start of each year, funds stay in the school

8. **Teacher Report** – Ms. Stock

- Teachers have appreciated meeting parents and communicating with them this term
- Teachers continue to provide extracurricular support via clubs, teams

9. **Administration Report** – Miss MJ Nam

- Welcome to 4 student teachers who will be at AJS until the end of December
- National Bullying Awareness Week was acknowledged, celebrated, SAFFRON presented to Jr High classes
- Kids Helpline, Bullying Helpline numbers have been made available to students; focus was on recognizing the many forms of bullying as well as its repetitive nature
- Parent-Teacher Interviews are key for teachers to continue with learning plans to support students – lower-than-usual turnout for October
- AJS will host the other Grade 7-12 school administrations within EIPS (Lamont, SCA, Vegreville, AJS) for its annual Assurance Review on November 22nd.
 - Jennie March will attend as parent representative
 - The Assurance Review’s focus will be on making decisions based on test results (STAR, etc.) to determine areas of growth, highlight opportunities for improvement.
- **GOAL 1: Student Engagement**
 - Synopsis of results included in report – excellent graduation and dropout rates, AJS are well above district and provincial stats
 - Rutherford Scholarship recipients at AJS – high number of recipients in 2022-23
- **GOAL 2: High-quality Teaching and Learning**
 - In 2021, AJS had 381 different classes (7-12); 2022-23 = decrease to 375 classes, 2023-24 – another decrease to 343 classes – all with a similar number of students – reduction in amount of classes is mainly due to a decrease in funding resulting from the conversion from credit-based to block funding; Increase in student numbers in most grades = large JH classes
 - STAR Math data for Grade 10 is not aligned in the same way as STAR 7-9 mainly due to semestering issues skewing results (STAR Math average does align with results)
QUESTION re: STAR reading 10: some decline noted, reason?
ANSWER (Ms. Nam): could be due to “benchmark fatigue” with writing these assessments 3x per year – still pleased with overall growth
 - Looking at other surveying tool results, including EIPS surveys, to get a more comprehensive picture of progress

- PAT (9) results – overall, outstanding results for AJS in all areas, French dipped a bit but is still above provincial average
- Diplomas – Math, Chem, Physics – outstanding results – all other areas still well above district and provincial averages
 - QUESTION** regarding FLA 30 results
 - ANSWER** (Ms. Nam): no change in results year over year, but results across district, province may indicate issues with the exam itself
- Science 30 is not offered at AJS
- GOAL 3 – positive, effective citizenship and behaviors
 - Improvement in student survey areas reflecting Safe and Caring behaviors since COVID restrictions were lifted
 - reflects concerted efforts to improve communication within school, to parents and caregivers
 - QUESTION:** Does admin reflect on what citizenship means in the school? Sometimes a disconnect is apparent.
 - ANSWER** (Ms. Nam): Survey results include a “do not know” option, which means that results will be negative. Routine communications now include a *Did you know...?* FAQ as well as questions to students re: “What does _____ mean to you?”
 - Admin will continue to seek feedback from parents
 - An increase in feedback from parents across the district has been noted
 - Ideas for improving student engagement – BBQ like the elementary? Attendee noted a significant disconnect between ELEM and JRSR parent engagement opportunities
 - Ms. Nam emphasized the many different ways of engaging: parent-teacher interviews, viewing Bison Tracks, completing surveys, emailing teachers/admin
 - Concern was expressed that authentic engagement that comes from in-person participation seems to be missing
 - Suggestion to define “what does parent engagement look like to you?”
 - Know what’s going on day in, day out in classes
 - Distinction between attendance, connection, and engagement needs to be apparent
- Ms. Nam – noted a lower-than-expected turnout for Parent-Teacher nights
 - Discussion of competing interests – sports, weather – that can exacerbate the attendance problem
- Ms. Nam – exam schedule will come out next week, to run for most of January (Grade 7-12)
 - QUESTION:** diploma prep schedule – does it complement exam schedule? Will all sciences be covered the same day, for example? Concern was expressed about Part A dates being set so close to the return to school in January

10. **New Business** – Ms. Williamson for Mr. Hicks

- Grade 7 Bison Grand Council Report by Mr. Hicks
 - Allows Grade 7 students opportunity to integrate into AJS’ culture, provide a forum for positive experiences, issues to address, friendships to form
 - Council Meets every second Thursday during the lunch break

- First meeting was November 16, 10 students attended
- Positives: AJS staff are kind, caring; highly visible during breaks, lunch; are alert and responsive to negative behaviours; will talk with students willingly
- To work on: change rooms are being used as lunchrooms, so students cannot change during the noon hour and dislike the leftover mess; curtains in shower stalls provide much-needed privacy but are torn; dislike the fact that students are using the washrooms to vape – Mr. Hicks encouraged students to report seeing more than one set of feet in a washroom stall
- Next meeting: November 30

11. **Old Business** – Ms. Williamson

- Grade 12 – excited to have Grad on June 8 (Saturday) at the Ardrossan Rec Centre for both ceremony and dance – this is a departure from the after-exams date that is usually chosen
- Gradwear orders have been completed
- Donut order - \$9,000 in sales
- Trying new fundraiser – Salisbury poinsettias – deadline for orders November 28
- Grad Bakesale at Moyer Rec Centre November 25
- Class bonding event – wagon “sleigh” ride December 1, 4:30-6:30 PM behind school – pay by donation, hot chocolate and snacks now available
- A new grad photographer has been chosen – SUB Photos (U of A) will be at AJS to take photos February 12-16 and March 4-6
- Ms. Nam - \$100 fee will be charged per grad - includes cap and gown, stole, diploma cover, ceremony decorations
- Fundraising and grad fees all work to minimize ticket cost (cost may be about \$30 per person)
- Ms. Nam asked: Would livestreaming be something that families would be interested in? Cost would be \$450 to stream live in the arena, approx. \$4 increase pp. – a poll to grad parents will be created and sent
QUESTION: how many grads this year?
ANSWER: about 110
- A link to the AJS grad website is now live

12. **CPF Report** – no report provided as no meeting was held on this date, no CPF representative attended the school council meeting

- Ms. Nam mentioned that the next CPF meeting, scheduled for January 22, will involve setting fees for CPF members

13. **Next AJS School Council Meeting** – scheduled for Monday, January 22nd, 2023 at 6:30 PM

14. **Adjournment** – move to adjourn was made by Jackie Anderson, meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM by Jennie Marsh