
ARDROSSAN JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES

from School Council Meeting
Monday, March 18, 2024
6:30 PM

In Attendance:

Bailey Anderson (Student Council Representative)	M J Nam (Principal)
Jackie Anderson (Vice Chair)	Jennie March (Chair)
Rebecca Gustafson (Teacher Representative)	Lisa Slywka (Secretary)
Lonnie Hicks (Assistant Principal)	Val Ulliac (CPF Representative)
Vania Lloyd (CPF Representative)	Anne Wasylyshen (COSC Representative)
Susan Miller (Trustee)	Trudy Williamson (Assistant Principal)

1. **Call to Order** – meeting called to order at 6:31 PM by Jennie Marsh
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Approval of Agenda**
 - one addition made to new business by Jennie Marsh re: Teacher Appreciation Day
 - motion to approve agenda made by Jackie Anderson, seconded by Val Ulliac
4. **Review & Approval of Minutes** - from January 22, 2024 meeting, motion to approve made by Vania Lloyd, seconded by Jackie Anderson
5. **COSC Report** – Anne Wasylyshen presented a summary of the February 7 and March 6 meetings
 - February 7 summary
 - Board report presented by Susan Miller encouraged parents and caregivers to advocate for public education by contacting various Government ministries, ministers and critics, and the premier
 - COSC Chair also referred potential advocates to [the ASCA Advocacy package](#)
 - [EIPS You Tube channel](#) also has literacy videos
 - [ASCA conference and AGM](#) – April 26-28 – several past attendees indicated that attending was time well spent for networking, gathering information and ideas
 - School Council engagement grant – 30-37 applications approved, school councils encouraged to share grant plans on the COSC FB page
 - March 6 summary
 - Board report presented by Cathy Allen focused on the March 3-5 Rural Education Symposium roundtables and EIPS Board Mythbusters campaign via Twitter and FB
 - ATA Report by Dineen Zielke focused on Teachers’ Convention and its AI sessions, new SS curriculum discussed at the ATA Local meeting, an ATA Political engagement seminar, and the education aspects in the 2024 Provincial Budget
 - Alberta has the lowest per student funding in Canada – spending per pupil has fallen by 13% since 2019
 - Operational spending top-up won’t resolve student population growth issues
 - Instructional funding increase won’t offset past decreases

- Public schools will get less than 1/3 of the funding increases pledged to private schools
- 43 school modernization projects in Alberta: only 12 to receive construction funding for now
- Caregiver Series sessions announced for March 19, 20, and 26
- EIPS Annual Feedback survey closes March 21
- ASCA presented info on its role for school councils, info available on [the ASCA website](#), presentation recording available to COSC members
- ASCA AGM 2024, April 26-28 – registration for all 11 funded attendee spots is now at capacity and is closed

6. **Trustee Report** – Susan Miller

- Reminder to complete the EIPS Annual Survey for Parents and Caregivers by March 21
- EIPS 2023-24 Fall Budget highlights
 - Budget: \$207.5, including 1.05M draw from operating reserves
 - Students: 17,760
 - FTE employees: 1,732
 - Capital reserves: \$965,000
 - Instructional spending: \$9,448 per student, 78.5% of budget
 - Administrative spending: \$4.59M, 2.2% of budget
 - Ab Ed surplus: \$6.19M allocated to other uses within EIPS
- ASCA memberships – to attend the ASCA AGM and Conference, one member per school
- Student Achievement funds: \$101k received, will target junior high grades to reduce discrepancy between EIPS and other district levels of achievement in these grades
- Rural Symposium held in Edmonton March 3-5 attended by EIPS board members
 - Toonies for Tummies – Sobey's and Safeway locations have raised \$26k for EIPS students to distribute healthy snacks to 29 EIPS schools – this is on top of the EIPS nutrition programs.
 - MS Nam noted that AJS benefits from Toonies for Tummies through the provision of Reset Room snacks

QUESTION: How will the Student Achievement funds be utilized?

Ms. Miller: Mainly to hire EAs to bring junior high kids to their grade reading level

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

- Valentine's Day, February 14: spin the wheel, crush cans and cards events; Budget \$309.38, proceeds donated to A Safe Place
- Pink Shirt Day, February 28: free cookies to Tshirt wearers, friendship bracelet-making
- Pi Day, March 14:
 - Students paid \$5 to pie teachers (Hicks, Sorotsky, Enger, Booij, Vanderland, Pretzlaff)
 - Ms. Gustafson held a TI digit-memorization contest, winners took home pies
- St. Patrick's Day, March 15 and 18: clovers hidden around the school for prizes, SC members dressed up as leprechauns and played accordion during chocolate coin deliveries to classes
- Custodian gift: a \$75 gift basket given to Wendy for her contributions to the school; a comment was made by a meeting attendee on the touching nature of the gift presentation video
- Anti-Bullying Week: educational posts on Insta, fruit snacks provided to students – total cost \$177.31
- Talent Show: to take place in May – 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and participant prizes, judging by teachers

(Basaraba, Gordulic, and Laliberte)

- Mother's Day: herb and flower planting, snacks, platters, tea and juice on May 9, more info to follow
8. **Teacher Report** – Ms. Gustafson for Ms. Stock
- Ms. Gustafson emailed and interviewed teachers for feedback
 - General consensus was that March is “a good time of year to be in the school” with warmer weather, Spring Break coming
 - Some comment re: overall PATs were also noted, teachers were happy overall with results, both within the school and comparing schools' subject areas and overall achievement levels
9. **Administration Report** – Miss MJ Nam, Ms. Williamson, Mr. Hicks
- Ms. Nam
 - Welcome to 5 student teachers from the U of A who will be working with teachers Stock, Dixon, Basaraba, Gustafson, and Pretzlaff
 - Parent-Teacher Interviews Mar 19-20, signup access Mar 12 at 4PM to 3PM Mar 19
 - EIPS budget: district is waiting on the funding manual from the Provincial Budget
 - Fees consult survey: 35 responses (up from 20 last year):
 - January – first fees meeting; March – fees analysis and confirmation, hence the survey
 - List of options are not confirmed, finalized list of options will be made publicly available later in the year
 - Ms. Nam praised the staff for keeping the fees as affordable as possible.
 - More survey feedback reflected a desire for fees NOT to be increased, even by 5%. However, majority of respondents encouraged field trips and the hands-on learning experiences
 - Majority surveyed also encouraged support of Student Council Activities
 - Bamfield Marine Centre Trip – capacity is now 22, down from 40 – 11 for AJS, 11 for Vegreville, trip happens biannually.

QUESTION: When was the last time students were able to go on the Bamfield trip?

Ms. Nam: before COVID

QUESTION: What is the itinerary?

Ms. Nam: Students fly into Comox, stay 5 days 4 nights there and in Port Alberni, then return. First opportunity to sign up for Bamfield is given to Grade 11 students.

QUESTION: When was the last esports course option available?

Ms. Nam – several years ago, and remember that the options listed are not confirmed

- Ms. Nam will leave her position as Principal for AJS March 21 to take on the role of Director, Human Resources for EIPS
 - Mr. Hicks will act as principal for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year
 - Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Williamson will take on the assistant principal roles for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year – Mr. Ferguson is currently acting AP at Fort Sask Next Step

QUESTION: who to email/contact if a course change is requested soon after the deadline?

Ms. Nam: email Ms. Williamson directly, please

- Ms Williamson – Grad Council update
 - Most recent grad parents' meeting was very well attended. Highlights:
 - Students need to ensure that they meet the academic requirements for graduation, apply for the Rutherford and other qualifying scholarships
 - Right after Spring Break, grad tickets go on sale - \$35 per person, up to 10 additional tickets for friends and family, option to purchase more than 10 will be on the form

- Email went out for the Wilhauk beef jerky fundraiser, distribution will take place around Victoria Day weekend

COMMENT: Grad meeting was very fast, thank you

QUESTION: how many tickets available?

Ms. Williamson – I don't know, but there will be plenty of capacity as the grad class is small this year.

- Mr. Hicks – Fine Arts report
 - Hicks loves March – plenty of arts activities – Bisons got talent!
 - March 6-9: AJS Drama Company (ADC) presented *A Dreamer's Door*, a musical written and choreographed by AJS students and members of the ADC
 - An exhibit of AJS student art was also shown in the theatre lobby during the performances
 - March 15: AJS Jazz band performed their Jazz Night Concert in the cafeteria
 - Cafeteria laid out and decorated as a jazz club with tables, catering by the Commercial Foods students
 - 200 tickets sold
 - An exhibit of AJS student art was also shown in Grad Hall for attendees to view as they entered/exited the jazz club
 - Spring Break preparation: jr. high locker cleanout, overdue books to be returned to library, lost and found remnants will be donated after 3PM Thu Mar 21

10. **New Business** – Ms. Nam, Jennie March

- Ms. Nam – parting remarks – it has been an honour to work with you and your kids over the past 8 years, you're in good hands with Mr. Hicks and Ms. Williamson and the rest of the AJS staff.

COMMENT by Jennie March: the kids are lucky to be in a school with such caring staff. Best of luck to you.

- New Business – Jennie March
 - Teacher Appreciation Day 2024
 - last year, the event took place on early dismissal day in June, and staff attending the meeting commented that the date worked well for them
 - Wednesday, June 5, 2024 (early dismissal day) will be AJS Teacher Appreciation Day
 - Jennie March will plan and send out information about the event to parents in May

11. **Old Business** – Ms. Miller

- Clarification: the January 22, 2024 meeting minutes indicated that the Sherwood Heights replacement school construction would start in April 2024. That start has now been delayed until July 2024

12. **CPF Report** – Vania Lloyd, Val Ulliac

- Carnival at Adrossan Elementary: some concerns that students were not dressed for the weather, in spite of several reminders – this is a yearly issue
- Ms. Nam – thank you to CPF for providing sub funds for the Grade 9 Quebec trip. As there are more school days off before the Victoria Day weekend, the sub costs are lower than usual

13. **Next Meeting** – May 13, 2024 at 6:30 PM

14. **Adjournment** – moved by Jackie Anderson, Val Ulliac seconded, Jennie March adjourned at 7:15 PM