

**MINUTES**

from School Council Meeting

Monday, March 17, 2025

6:30 PM

Learning Commons

**In Attendance (8):**

**Jackie Anderson (vice-Chair)**

**David Gordulic (Teacher Representative)**

**Rod Leatherdale (Principal)**

**Shyla Locke (Assistant Principal)**

**Jennie March (Chair)**

**Susan Miller (Trustee)**

**Lisa Slywka (Secretary)**

**Rebecca Gustafson (Assistant Principal)**

1. Call to Order – 6:38 PM
2. Welcome and Introduction – attendees took the opportunity to introduce themselves
3. Approval of Agenda
  - No changes to agenda, motion to adopt agenda as presented made by J. Anderson
4. Approval of Minutes
  - From the November 18, 2024 meeting – motion to approve minutes made by J. Anderson
  - From the January 20, 2025 meeting – motion to approve minutes made by J. Anderson
5. COSC Report – J. March for A. Wasylyshyn (absent)
  - February 5 meeting
    - Board Report by Cathy Allen covered the 2025-26 budget, kindergarten and returning student registration, and funding for attendees for the ASCA Conference and AGM in April
    - Trustee Elections will take place October 20, deadline for nomination is September 22
    - PowerSchool Data Breach – PS has contracted Experian to provide services to “affected individuals”
    - Draft JH curriculum – no updates from Alberta Education
    - Social Media Policy has been updated by EIPS to complement new provincial legislation
    - ASCA Update – Conference and AGM in April, deadlines approaching – dates can be found on the ASCA website, as can results from the ASCE Grant survey, proposed advocacy resolutions are published for the 2025 AGM
  - March 5 meeting
    - Board Report by S. Miller, vice-Chair – Rural Education Symposium took place Mar 2-4, focus was on equity vs. equality
    - March 7 – PD Day, focus on leadership, community of practice sessions
    - Fulltime Pilot Kindergarten programs for the 2025-26 school year
    - Change to Transportation distance minimums (details in Trustee Report to follow)
    - 2025-26 budget will be updated to reflect new, two-year weighted moving average model implemented by Alberta Education once they release their funding manual

- ATA report by M. Hol, - concerns with budget, curriculum, and assessments, upcoming trustee elections
- Alberta Education Assurance Survey – for parents with students in Grade 4, 7, and 10 – deadline is March 21
- EIPS Annual Feedback Survey for Parents and Caregivers – deadline to complete survey is March 21. Meeting attendees expressed some concerns about low response rate by AJS families

6. Trustee Report – S. Miller

- Equality vs Equity – focusing on providing supports to each individual student, based on their “starting” point rather than providing each student the same thing, regardless of need
- Reserve Limit – Alberta Education has changed limit of operating reserve for each division from 3.2% to 6.0%, which is a good change
- School Status Report – average cost per student just over \$7,000, AJS at just under \$6,800. Two schools went over \$10K per student, 21 others went above the average cost
- Student Transportation distance eligibility reduced to 1.0 km for Grades 1-6 and 2.0 km for Grades 7-12 for 2025-26; current minimum for all grades is 2.4 km
- Pink Shirt Day was observed by the board
- Sobey’s/Safeway’s “Make Tummies Happy” campaign – AJS receives gift cards from the campaign

QUESTION: what was the GoA’s reason for the increase in the limit?

S. Miller: Divisions wanted to be able to use their reserves more effectively, many divisions wanted the move.

7. Student Council Report – D. Gordulic for Samantha D. (absent)

- 3/14 – Pi Day – students could win pie for reciting Pi, spin a wheel for prizes
- St. Patrick’s Day – Leprechaun onsite, handing out chocolate coins, shamrock hunt

8. Teacher Report – Mr. Gordulic

- This past round of Diplomas at AJS yielded the best results in years
- Teachers are looking forward to Spring Break

9. Administration Report – Mr. Leatherdale

- Student Teachers – a total of 6 teachers in both tracks are at AJS this semester, AJS always gets plenty of requests for placements
- Hold & Secure and Lockdown drills took place this month – aim to help reduce anxiety and familiarize students with protocols, officials who would be present in an emergency
- Ardrossan Open House – took place February 10, was very well attended
- Returning Student Registration started
- School administration visited 4 elementary schools in the area and is hosting 3 of these to come to AJS and listen to the band, get an idea of the options available
- Basketball has wrapped up – all 4 Varsity teams had excellent seasons, Sr. Girls won the Metro championship – banner to be hung in the gym this spring

- Archery is now underway – over 600 students attended the AJS Archery Tournament on March 7 & 8 from across the zone, credit to the parents who organized and ran the event so well. The Archery team has been to Castor and Smoky Lake for tournaments as well
- Handball is well under way
- Monster Cinema is a popular event
- Ardrossan Drama Company's musical comedy was well done, just finished March 15
- AJS will host EIPS' RAP Open House Session April 22
- "My Blueprint" is now accessible to all students and is being used for registration for next year
- Pink Shirt Day was well attended
- Facilities Update –
  - one of the three projects proposed in November has been approved with in-house/CCTV cameras to help improve office sightlines
  - countertops in the Science labs are being replaced this summer
  - CTS Computer Lab size will be increased, CTS will now have its own space as of April, after Spring Break
  - CST. Annemarie Rusk will be AJS' new SRO for the 2025-26 school year
  - Grad Update – graduation is on June 7 at 1 PM, dance at 7 PM, grad song was voted to be *Time of Your Life* by Green Day, up to 7 tickets per family are available, fundraisers – no Krispy Kreme this year.

QUESTION: How many grads?

S. Locke: 157

- March is Mois de la Francophonie, HS students will attend *La Rhinocéros* at Campus St. Jean while JHS students will travel to Sherwood Heights to watch a Quebecois hip-hop artist
- Mmes. Booi and Gourley have been working hard to set up these FI events for the students

QUESTION: are there any preliminary numbers for next year?

R. Leatherdale: not yet, the French Immersion program move has put numbers in flux

- 2025-26 Fee Schedule review & approval – R. Leatherdale presented a comparison of 2024-25 and 2025-26 school fees. Highlights:
  - Most fees have stayed the same, the remaining fees have increased by the allotted amount, 2% - JH Drama fees are the exception
  - New options for JHS - Computer Science, Performance Arts Production, Musical Theatre, and Personal Image Design
  - New option for HS – Improv
  - Field Trip fees – mainly the same, some increases in Foods and Band (transportation/travel, instruments), some reductions in Outdoor/Environmental Ed.
  - Grad fee remains the same at \$100 for 2025-26
  - Student Council fees being cut to \$10 for 2025-26 from \$20 currently
  - Sports and other extracurriculars –
    - Readjustment of JHS basketball and volleyball fees mainly due to significant overages being refunded to parents this year
    - HS basketball fees have increased to cover transportation costs – the Metro division has expanded, so travel will increase
    - R. Gustafson: a new division for the largest high schools will be created for basketball

QUESTION: is the Noon Supervision fee (\$44) enough to cover the cost?

R. Leatherdale: no, but staff fill any vacancies and staff shortage.

QUESTION: Can you speak to the significant drop-in fees for football?

R. Leatherdale: We are no longer charging ahead of time for Provincials. Parents this year will be getting a "significant refund." A parent meeting for football parents will take place March 18, and among other things, parents will be made aware of the potential for additional fees for Provincials in 2025-26 and beyond.

QUESTION: What will be included in the Computer Science curriculum?

R. Leatherdale: Not only MS Office but also other applications.

Concern was expressed regarding the fact that students have no aptitude for PC applications for post-secondary such as word processing, spreadsheets

QUESTION: Why the cut in Student Council fees?

R. Leatherdale: There is a surplus in the budget that led to the fee reduction for next year.

#### 10. New Business

- Staff Appreciation – J. March – the event has been held during the last Staff Meeting in June, but we can change
- R. Gustafson – June 4 is the last meeting date, it falls between the Grade 9 and Grade 12 graduations, so it would be a perfect date.

#### 11. Old Business

- Findings from January 20, 2025 inquiry re: due date of payment of student fees – R. Leatherdale
  - Comes from EIPS Administrative Procedure 505, Section 2.3.3, all fees are charged at the start of the year regardless of start date of event/course.
  - It would seem that AJS was an outlier in not charging parents in this manner up until this year. However, there are payment plans and other options

QUESTION: to whom can a parent speak regarding the collection of these fees so early, what happens with the money before it's used for its intended purpose?

R. Leatherdale: Supt. Stoddard would be the person to speak to, and she will redirect inquiries to the Finance team. AJS will collect the funds and leave it in an account – no short-term investment of any kind takes place.

S. Locke: If a student changes their option after fees are paid, fees are then transferred and/or reimbursed.

S. Miller: EIPS will work with parents to plan out payments if needed, but the schools have the enrollment, so they will order materials early as they have anticipated numbers

- ASCA Seminar – question about bringing MADD in to run their program for Grade 12 grads – unfortunately, ASCA will not financially support something like this

QUESTION: How could funds be raised for events/activities/initiatives like this?

J. March: The AJSPC does not fundraise. However, finding funds for events like this is something to keep in mind for 2025-26 and beyond.

12. CPF Report – no report provided, the next CPF meeting is scheduled for March 31

13. Next Meeting – May 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm

14. Adjournment - move to adjourn meeting made by J. Anderson, meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM