

**Ardrossan Junior Senior High School
PAC Meeting Minutes
March 11th, 2019**

In Attendance: MJ Nam, Paul Schwartz, Skip Gordon, Ron Horton, Hannah Quewezance, Glenys Boe, JP Grebenc, Cathy Farnell

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from November 26, 2018 Meeting – passed.

COSC Report – JP Grebenc

- March 11th – Annual Survey – will include a question about cell phones – and they encourage everyone to fill out the survey so that you have a say in what the cell phone policy in our schools should be. There are different ideas for Elementary, Jr. High, and Sr. High, it may end up that there are different policies for different age groups
- In the upcoming election, currently education only ranks 6th or 7th in priorities, so they have put together some questions for people to ask candidates on the campaign to try and raise education to a higher priority. The questions will be posted on the website but here are some examples:
 - What do you feel are the most important issues for education? What is your party's education platform?
 - Is providing stable, predictable and adequate funding a priority for your party?
 - Given the current deficit, how do you intent to achieve a stable funding model for education?
 - Do you believe locally elected school boards should be able to have greater discretion in allocating funds to areas of most urgent need within their division?
 - Do you believe that it's just as important to maintain current schools as it is to build new ones, regardless of student enrolment? These schools represent an investment of taxpayer dollars, and they should be maintained properly.
 - Do you believe every student is entitled to the best possible learning environment, regardless of how many students attend? What do you think is the best way to ensure this happens?
 - If the government places new requirements such as school bus training on school boards, where should the funds for those programs come from?
- We could use the school newsletter or forums like Facebook to direct parents to the site for more information
- Stable funding – biggest concern for schools

Trustee Report – Skip Gordon

The Board has approved the registration fee for school council members to attend the ASCA Conference April 26th – 28th. The Board will fund the cost of one registration fee per school.

At the January Board meeting the Board approved changes to the German programming at Mills Haven Elementary School. The German Bilingual program would move to a German language and culture program starting in September of 2019. The decision was made based on low enrolment numbers, funding and language arts instruction requirements. This decision has now been amended so that the German bilingual program will now be phased out over 5 years while the German language and culture program will be phased in over the same 5 year period. Everyone now seems satisfied with the changes.

The Board also approved a second school location to offer French immersion programming. The new Wye Elementary replacement school will offer a dual track English and French program starting in September 2020. Urban students west of Clover Bar Road will be designated to Ecole Campbelltown while students east of Clover Bar Road will be designated to the new Wye replacements school. Rural students designated to the Campbelltown will remain there. The Board also has approved capping French immersion at the two schools in Sherwood Park. There will be a cap of three French immersion classes per grade at Campbelltown starting September 2020. In addition, the replacement school being built in Heritage Hills will open with a cap of two French immersion classes per grade.

The Board also approved the 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 division calendars. Highlights include:

First day of school	-	September 1 st , 2020
Fall break	-	November 9 th – 13 th
Christmas break	-	December 23 rd to January 5 th
Spring break	-	March 29 th to April 2 nd
Last day of class	-	June 25 th , 2021

A student forum on cell phone and personal device usage was held February 28th as the first step of a Board plan to formulate a policy on usage of these devices in the classroom for EIPS. Some of the feedback Skip has heard is that at the elementary level, they really aren't needed and that changes at the junior and senior high school levels, so it looks like it may be a differentiated policy by age groups. The purpose of the policy will be to curtail non-educational use of cell phones in the classroom.

Discussion – Cons – distraction of the student and other students

Pros – connection with others, mental health benefits and use as a research tool

School Bus Training – this has been bumped forward for a year to deal with concerns such as the time investment (40 hour on the road, 15 hours in the classroom), cost (who will pick up the cost?) and lack of qualified people available to conduct the training.

Ardrossan's teachers are already working on compliance.

Administration Report – MJ Nam – See attached report.

Student Council Report - Hannah Quewezance

Student Council has proudly hosted the following events:

November:

- Food bureau ran from November 10th to December 19th
- The top class who collected the most food items for Junior High was Mrs. Gus and for the Sr. Highs, it was the goals class
- Overall we collected 1000 food items to donate to the Strathcona Food Bank

December:

- December 6th – served complimentary hot chocolate for students in the morning
- December 11th – Christmas scavenger hunt
- December 13th & 14th – Candy Grams Sale
- December 18th – Red and Green Theme Day and Cookie Sales with optional decorations activity
- December 19th – PJ Theme Day and Ornament Making
- December 20th – Ugly Christmas Sweater Day and Pictures with Santa
- December 21st – Formal Dress Day

January:

- January 17th – served complimentary tea to relieve stress during exam week
- January 23rd – 25th, 28th & 30th – Therapy dog available to students before writing their exams
- Thursday, January 10th we did a trivia game Kahoot! on the movie Over the Hedge

February:

- Food bureau ran from November 10th to December 19th
- February 12th & 13th – Roses sold
- February 16th – Ardrossan Winter Carnival featuring:
 - local artists
 - concession
 - winter themed carnival games such as tug of war, snowball toss, ice fishing and many more

Student Council's agenda moving forward:

- Easter
- Pi day
- St. Patrick's Day
- Therapy Dogs for June exams

- Many more events for each holiday

Questions for Parents:

- How many parents use Facebook:
- Is there any interest in an Ardrossan's Jr./Sr. High School Facebook page?

Discussion – some of the parents present use Facebook and others don't, but doesn't seem to be a downside to having a Facebook page as the more methods of communication the more likely the school is to reach a bigger part of the community.

New Business

Fees information and discussion – Administration has been working to keep fees manageable. The proposed fee schedule will be higher than actuals to give room for flexibility for classes if an opportunity arises because once the fees are approved they cannot be exceeded. However, the fees are a flow-through so they will only be charged if a related cost is incurred.

Old Business

Results Review recap/take away priorities. Ardrossan had outstanding results in the Review. Administration believes that it helps to have 6 years to work with the students.

It was suggested that in future years, Administration/Council consider hosting a specific Results Review session for parents (30-60 minutes) to go over the results with a bigger group of parents.

CPF Report – MJ Nam

Carnaval is set for Thursday March 21st. The Grade 9 French Immersion students will be helping out and the CPF will provide funds for the costs of the substitute teachers while the Grade 9 French Immersion trip is on. Everyone is hopeful there is still enough snow.

Next Meeting – May 13, 6:30 pm

Adjourned – 7:38 pm