

Ardrossan Junior Senior High School
PAC Minutes
January 20th, 2020

In Attendance: MJ Nam, Paul Schwartz, Lonnie Hicks, Ron Horton, Glenys Boe, Jennifer Mailer, Angela Ayers, Tracy Silliker, Alain Duguay, Sylvie Duguay, Lonnie Hicks, Paul Schwartz, Los McMullen, Ron Horton, Jackie Anderson, Shelly Gall, Rachel Burgemerster, Pollyanna Peters, Jennie March, Amy Robertson, Alicia Ponciano, JP Grebenc and Cathy Farnell.

1. Called to Order: 6:29 p.m.

2. Introductions:

3. Fee Discussion:

- MJ Nam introduced the purpose of the meeting to discuss fees from the 2019/2020 school year and potential fees for the 2020/2021 school year. The fees to be discussed are the fees to be charged by the school for courses, sports teams and field trips. All of these fees are cost recovery only with no profit to the school.
- The funding for 2020/2021 is unknown for now.
- The numbers shown at the meeting were preliminary and will come back to School Council before fees are finalized.
- The 2019/2020 fees were approved by the government and represent the maximum the school is able to charge for the listed line items.
- Not everything on the list is offered to the students because there is not always enough student demand to offer every course.
- With respect to field trips, the school is looking for minimum participation before a field trip proceeds. For example, the April Band Tour, which in 2020 was a trip to Whistler, is not proceeding because there are not enough participants committed to attending.
- Many items on the list have generic names, for example, Grade 7 science trip, so that if something comes up it is in the approved fee list and the class can use the opportunity to take the trip. If the item is not on the approval list or if it's too specific on the list, unexpected opportunities will have to be turned down. For example, in second term English 30-1 is studying Shakespeare. They are going to study a comedy instead of a tragedy and there is an opportunity to go the Cineplex to see a screening of the production. The class is able to do that because of the generic field trip allocation.
- Junior High and Senior High teams: the fees are based on twelve students although sometimes there may be more or less on the team. The fees include league fees, cost of referees and tournaments to a maximum of four. In Junior High there are no overnight tournaments. In Senior High, one overnight tournament is permitted within the Province of Alberta.
- With respect to football, there is a very active parent group that does a lot of fund raising because the costs are too significant for the school without that extra fundraising.
- Costs of attending Provincials if a team is successful in league play is an extra fee over and above team fees and can be up to \$350.00 per student.

- Discussion:
 1. Grade 7 outdoor education has a significant fee, what does this include?

- This includes survival camp for two nights and three days as well as Wilderness Certification for Hunters Ed and Survival Camp.
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- 2. French as a second language:
 - Comment from a parent: Over and above the fee there were requests throughout the year to supply additional items, mainly food items. The parents suggest it would be good to including a note in the fee list so when people are signing up for that course they are aware that those costs will be forthcoming.
- 3. Art:
 - There was a comment that on top of the cost of the course, students need to have additional supplies and that should also be noted so that parents are aware of those costs when the student is choosing the course.
- 4. Band:
 - It was suggested that list include potential rental fees for instrument rental, as required. It can be noted on the sheet on an "if needed" basis.
- MJ Nam asked what people thought of the numbers of options being potentially offered and parent feedback was that Ardrossan offers a large variety of options. Specifically some parents who have recently moved to the Ardrossan area commented that there are more options at Ardrossan than at previous schools.
- MJ Nam noted that the Senior High has a longer list of options and that many of the courses are offered by credit. For example, in Commercial Foods the course is done by modules with each module being assigned credits. The cafeteria menu often reflects the commercial foods modules to assist the students in achieving and/or obtaining the necessary credits.
- 5. Esthetics:
 - A question was asked as to why the same cost is shown on one line for 10/20/30 rather than being separate lines. MJ Nam confirmed the cost is the same for each year. It could be shown on different lines. It likely reflects that this was a new course last year and could only be offered at the 10 level because it had not been previously offered. This year it was offered at the 10/20 level, and next year the 30 level will be offered. It is offered as one class with students in 10/20/30 all attending in the same class, working at different levels and on different modules.
- 6. Cross Sport Advantage:
 - There was a question about Cross Sport Advantage which has a \$300.00 fee. It was explained that this involves a personal trainer and sessions specific to the students enrolled.
- 7. RAP and Work Experience:
 - The \$5.00 cost associated is because a teacher has to go to the site, talk to the students' bosses, etc.
- There was a question as to whether all courses on the lists are offered. Not all courses are offered as it depends on student interest in a given year. This year Textile Fashion, Aboriginal Studies and Leadership were not offered.
- It is important for parents to note that the courses their students are put in have to work with the rest of the offerings. For example, the school must work around required courses to ensure that graduation requirements are met. Students will start working on their choices for 2020/2021 with the counselors in March.

- There was a question regarding class sizes and how many students are needed for an option to go ahead. MJ Nam talked about safety issues in some classes, for example, mechanics where enrollment is capped at twenty four. The question followed as to whether there is a minimum. It was noted that in the past, if they had smaller numbers, they tried to collapse the courses, perhaps having 10/20/30's together or would otherwise work to make it work. Going forward the school is going to be less flexible for smaller numbers due to funding cuts.
- There was a question as to whether the school can offer courses with fewer students if parents are willing to pay more. The answer is that it doesn't work because the school also has to pay the teacher and they can't raise the fees to make that happen. These fees are cost recovery only for materials or out of pocket expenses.
- Construction Technology, Fabrication and Mechanics are module based. They work in one class at the 10/20/30 levels all working on different modules.
- Generally the fees are staying close to the same in the proposal for 2020/2021 as they currently were in 2019/2020. The biggest change is Fashion at the Junior High Level which was \$24.00 per quarter this school year. Next year rather than being offered for a quarter term, it will be offered for a half term and the cost goes up to \$60.00.
- Next year there will be a change to the Quarter system in Grade 8. Whereas they currently take Construction for a quarter, Fashion for a quarter, Technology for a quarter and Health for a quarter, there are too many students in the current Grade 7 class for the Quarter system to work next year so they are looking at handling that differently.
- Field Trips – There was a comment from a parent that Band Festival is listed under Field Trips but is actually part of the course now. MJ Nam agreed that it should be moved off the Field Trip list and included in the course information.
- There is usually a high of participation in field trips. There was a discussion as to whether there should be more or less field trips. Generally parents approved of the field trips as long as they relate to the curriculum.
- For Rec Fit 7, Phys Ed 10/20/30, the classes go on trips to Ardrossan Recreation Centre, Millennium Place, Yoga Studios and similar venues. A lot of those are required because of a lack of gym space during the day to make all classes work.
- A parent noted that there was no generic chemistry field trip allowance and MJ Nam agreed that this was a good idea and should be added to allow that flexibility.
- Sports Teams – there was a question as to whether fees include apparel. Apparel is not included but it was clarified that jerseys are included. The school offers the apparel starting in Grade 7 and tries not to then offer every year so people aren't buying the same items over and over. In High School there do tend to be more choices of apparel. One parent offered the idea that some team apparel should be included and can be offered an included in the fee list. MJ Nam did indicate there are rules that that may prevent that. Generally parents thought the fees for sports teams were reasonable, but that constant purchase of hoodies at \$60.00+ is expensive particularly for students who play on more than one sports team and for families with more than one child playing on sports teams. A parent suggested that perhaps there could be a generic hoodie with an option for adding cresting and maybe the Fashion classes can put them on. There was also a suggestion that perhaps fees could include a t-shirt because it's a lower cost and then a hoodie would be optional. There was also a discussion about having to order multiples hoodies so there is a cost to the school until reimbursed as well as storage requirements. One parent suggested that apparel could be ordered directly online by parents with parents paying directly. Another parent said it was nice that Ardrossan Junior Senior High supports a local supplier rather than using the online system.

- The question was asked whether it would benefit older students to participate in more tournaments, particularly those looking at playing sports at the secondary level. MJ Nam says yes but there are also challenges and trade-offs such as missing exam prep and more classes. There is also an increased cost in participating in more tournaments. Finally it is hard to find in-Province tournaments. The general view seemed to be that tournaments are a wonderful opportunity for teams to participate in.
- Noon hour supervision comes with a cost of \$40.00. This is a cost recovery and only Grade 7's to 9's are charged although many students at the Grade 10 to 12 levels are also at the school at that time. The teachers do some supervision and get paid for that. They also have some educational assistance that are paid for the supervision hour extending the day and time for which they are paid. Some of that money is also used to hire additional assistance for the lunch hour. A parent commented that the \$5.00 per month per child is exceedingly reasonable for that cost.
- There is a Student Council fee of \$20.00 and there was a question as to what this pays for. The answer is, it pays for activities to go forward that are offered by School Council from Welcome Week to Exam Support sessions, special holiday events and so on.
- There was a question as to whether the Wellness Centre has a fee for use. It does not have a fee but does require adult supervision.
- There was a question as to whether the school should proceed with the yearbook. At this time cost is \$45.00 per yearbook and it is optional to buy it. There are minimum ordering requirements so there are extras at the office generally. It was noted that as the school budget shrinks, some things have to give and right now a staff member does the yearbook which is a lot of work. The school has not yet contracted production of the yearbook for next year. Parents see the value in the yearbook including important memories such as team photos, candid and other pictures parents wouldn't always get to see, however, there was a suggestion that the kids be polled to see how important they yearbook is to them. It may be possible to offer the yearbook in a digital format. There was also a question as to whether they can do this in a CTS class with students earning credits to put it together. MJ Nam noted that the kids haven't shown that interest.
- There was a question about other cuts as the discussion at the meeting about small increases to cost recovery items. These items can't be used to pay teachers or other budgeting items. The other cuts will have to be determined when the provincial budget is released.
- A question was asked as to whether there is any information about busing fees for next year. This information is not available yet.

At the end of the meeting, MJ Nam invited parents to contact her with any further questions or comment.

Meeting adjourned: 7:47 p.m.