

MINUTES

from the School Council Meeting
held Monday, January 20, 2025
6:30 PM, AJS Learning Commons

In Attendance (14):

Jackie Anderson (Vice Chair)
Devid Gordulic (Teacher Rep.)
Rebecca Gustafson (Asst. Principal)
Jill Herbert
Kelly Koban
Rod Leatherdale (Principal)
Shyla Locke (Asst. Principal)

Melissa Manolescu
Jennie March (Chair)
Susan Miller (Trustee)
Lisa Slywka (Secretary)
Erin Stroud
Val Ulliac
Anne Wasylyshen (COSC Representative)

1. Call to Order – meeting was called to order by J. March at 6:40
2. Welcome and Introduction – attendees took the opportunity to introduce themselves
3. Approval of Agenda – motion to approve made by J. Anderson
4. Approval of Minutes (November 18, 2024 meeting) – minutes were not made available to attendees
5. COSC Report – Anne Wasylyshen
 - No COSC meeting in December, plenty to discuss in January
 - EIPS Coard Chair C. Allen provided details on
 - Draft Jr Hi curriculum to be piloted in Sept 2025, main concerns focused on gaps between elementary and junior high, that all three grades will be implemented at once
 - Trustee election to take place in October, deadline to submit nominations is Sep 22
 - New ATA president M. Holm was introduced
 - Superintendent report – S. Stoddard –
 - Power School breach: concerns about the entire district being affected, Power School has taken responsibility. Full report to be published by Power School January 17.
 - EIPS Annual Education Results Report available online via eips.ca
 - All assurance reviews are complete
 - ASCA – moving to an online meeting for conference and AGM this year to increase attendance, April 26- 27. Cost per school = \$100, number of participants per school to be determined.
 - Caregiver education series always available via the website.
 - School grant allocations still available, Bev Facey looking to pool funds for a David Ervine presentation (leadership, family dynamics), reviewed COSC procedure manual to ensure it is current. Weighted Moving Average presented and discussed – overall, it is ASCA’s point of view

that public education funding needs to be increased, presentation recording available on ASCA website

- EIPS school calendars for 25-26 and 26-27 have been approved and are posted on eips.ca

6. Trustee Report – Susan Miller

- The new K-9 school has been named Forest Grove School, scheduled to open for the 2027-28 school year
- Fees were set, a 2% cap on fee increases has been set at 2% or must receive district review
- 25-26 calendar is out, some adjustments to block/learning period time, start and end time, early dismissal days – see new calendar on eips.ca for details
- Criminal Record Checks are now required as part of a Trustee nomination package
- December 22 – Power School data breach – student and staff ID information accessed, no financial information was accessed. Details re: compromised info is on eips.ca
- January 29 – drop-in info session re: FI program at Salisbury Composite, childcare provided. A copy of the transition plan draft will be sent to affected students and their families ahead of the meeting. Details re: Open House will be posted on eips.ca

QUESTION: Why is the school not called **Ecole** Forest Grove School?

T. Miller: naming was based on feedback.

J. March: Ecole Ardrossan Elementary School also faced this issue.

R. Leatherdale: it may be because it's a dual-track school. (Only single-track Ecole Campbelltown School is named in this way)

QUESTION: Early dismissal time change?

S. Miller: instructional time does not change overall. *Discussion ensued regarding past day/time changes.*

QUESTION: Has the Catholic board also adopted the time change?

S. Miller: yes, as well as New Horizons. Input ensured regarding optimizing teacher planning/prep time, whether a few minutes per block makes a difference. R. Gustafson: yes, it does – marks, collaboration time both improve. S. Miller: Goal of changing school schedule was to improve reading comprehension, other essential skills.

QUESTION: What recommendations is EIPS making about protecting/securing IDs as a result of the data breach?

S. Miller – Power School is monitoring both webs to see where data is going, if anywhere.

R. Leatherdale: EIPS is a larger district so has the means to have individuals monitor this breach.

7. Student Council Report – D. Gordulic for S. Decoursey, Student Council Rep.

- Student Council is on a January hiatus, will resume in February following exams

8. Teacher Report – Mr. Gordulic

- New software – Varetta – new provincial DAP (digital assessment program) is being piloted at AJS, seems to be running very well. Is piloted here as the PATs are being written here.

QUESTION: are there alternatives for students who do not do well taking online exams?

R. Gustafson: there are hardcopy backups, and 3 students will be using those. Discussion ensued regarding merits of paper vs. online assessment

QUESTION: are there issues at AJS related to the use of generative AI such as Chat GPT to write papers?

R. Leatherdale: there are always areas where this takes place, but platforms can also generate metadata, teachers can ask students to verify content. Generative AI can be helpful to brainstorm, to study for specific exams. It is changing the way we are teaching.

9. Administration Report – Mr. Leatherdale

- Three new student teachers will be coming to AJS next semester.
- Currently in the process of wrapping up Semester 1 courses, last day of instruction was January 16
- Please provide feedback on the weekly newsletter information re: attendance during exam week, especially for junior high students. Once exams are done, students are expected to attend class – the loss of instructional time during exam weeks is tremendous.

QUESTION: what will take place in class during exam weeks?

R. Leatherdale: prior assignments, use class for study/exam prep, assignment and project-completion time. Use of movies and other media in class by teachers is not encouraged. AJS' administration's main concerns are about safety and supervision of students, concerns about hearing a clear message from the teachers about whether classes are still in session, the school about ensuring that students know that they should be coming to class regardless.

- School safety/security changes – main door and “fishbowl” door both have camera doorbells, will open at 8:00 M-F. Athletics and other activities are supervised, so gym and other doors will open on an as-needed basis. Activities taking place after 4:00 PM will need to be supervised, unsupervised access to the school at large will be blocked off from gym-area access.
- AJS is planning to hold an Open House on February 10 for prospective and current students and their families
- Accommodating programming needs and core options/options for all students is a challenge for a small high school like AJS – working closely with Next Step, discussion collaborating with other schools for AJS students to go to another site to complete a desired course
- Volleyball wrapped up, basketball is in full swing, archery to start up soon
- Post-secondary fair (school and careers) took place in November
- Christmas concerts were a great success, AJS band students performed and sang at two elementary schools in December as well
- EIPS Information Night took place, all school principals attend – slide presentation will be made available for anyone interested, specifically Grade 9 students and their families
- Quebec Trip for Grade 9 FI students is still being planned for May
- Parent group hosted a breakfast for Grade 12 students on December 20
- More Grad fundraising will take place in the new semester

10. New Business

a. Payment of Student Fees – J. Anderson

- Concern raised regarding the fact that both Semester 1 and 2 fees were placed on parent accounts in September. Parents aren't always aware of the fact that they could defer payments to the semester – unpaid fees, regardless of status, are automatically flagged as late, and Collections will pester families. District pools money, perception is that the process is unfair to families. R. Leatherdale and S. Miller will both make inquiries and report back.

b. 2025-26 Fee Schedule Review – R. Leatherdale

- Feedback on fees usually comes from parents once the fee is added to the parent account at the start of each semester, not much input on fees is received beforehand

- Areas where inflation has impacted, such as Foods, will be examined to determine whether more than a 2% increase in fees is needed
- If the total fee is not used, then what remains will be returned to parents
- New fees can be added with district approval. This included a provincial athletics fee in golf and cross-country for AJS this school year.
- Starting next year, the football fee will not include the charge for Provincial Championships – AJS will wait to see whether the team makes it, and then will apply the fee

QUESTION: Are all levels of basketball fees the same? Some teams have a smaller pool to play against, so there may be less travel.

R. Gustafson: bus mileage is a cost, and the mileage per team is accounted for. I will inquire and get back to you.

R. Leatherdale: the gym fees aren't as expensive as field fees for football.

- Meeting attendees were provided with the 2024-25 fee schedule. The 2025-26 schedule will be examined at a future meeting

QUESTION: How are you going to request feedback on the fee schedule?

R. Leatherdale: likely a feedback form will be sent out.

11. Old Business

- M. Manolescu – how is the grant related to the ASCA cost per school, per person? J. March: there may be quite a bit more money available for this.
R. Gustafson: bringing back MADD to present before the May long weekend might be a good idea.
J. March will follow up on this.

12. CPF Report

- CPF has been unable to hold its AGM due to a lack of membership, attendance; may dissolve chapter
- Carnaval funding will still be provided to Ecole Ardrossan

13. Next Meeting – March 17, 2025 6:30 PM

14. Adjournment – meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM