

ABJ Parent Council Meeting September 16, 2019

1. Welcome and Introductions 6:30pm

Parents and Staff introductions - name and which high school we attended

2. Opening Prayer - Nancy Ferguson

3. Minutes from May 2019 - approved by: Karen Boutin 2nd by: Chris Olthius

4. Student Council/Leadership Report - Madeleine Polak

- Executive meets Tuesdays 7:30am determine committee leads eg. social media, dance
September Events:
 - a) car stall auction for 6 ideal spots, profits to Valeda house
 - b) 50th Anniversary
- Student Council has drop in meetings for all students on Wednesdays at 7:00am (snacks provided)

5. Administration report on budget and staffing - Joe Dumont

- 93% of budget is for staffing/admin
- went over budget already in order to lower class sizes in English
- funded based on number of students not credits like other big schools
- final numbers will be September 30th but we are at 1413 today
- carry over of budget surplus from last year was \$220k which will help the current over spending of \$120k due to hiring extra teacher
- planned for 4% decrease \$400k in funding based on change in government
- 50th Anniversary Friday Sep 20, 2019 - tickets still on sale
- October 1st students start applying to post-secondary schools
- Grade 12's in Social 30 will be hosting a debate for MP's this Friday
- Teams started: Football, 6 Volleyball, Swim, Cheer, Cross-country, girls Flag football

6. Nominations to fill the following positions:

Chair - Shelley Borowski shelley.borowski@shaw.ca

Vice-Chair - Marianna Kowel

Secretary - Nicole Ziegler knziegler@telus.net

7. Principal's report on new ABJ Flex Block and new Tech Policy.

Greg Lakeman - Tech Policy

- used as a tool to support learning (students require Google for classroom)
- there are a few hard wired pc's available for students in the library
- students need to ensure the devices are charged before school
- no need to buy top of the line laptop, a chrome book or tablet work fine
- phones: all must be put in the cell phone hotel, hotel rooms are numbered
- students can use phones in learning common, or lower common area
- prevents students from using phones in washrooms or walking around in hallways
- teachers were exhausted from having to constantly ask students to put away phones
- mirrors the regulations in other Sherwood Park high schools

Joe Dumont - Flex Block

- students can choose how they invest their time for learning
 - a) academic support eg. math help, projects b) health/wellness eg. fitness, spiritual
- teacher meeting opportunities/ regular collaboration with other teachers
- challenge: attendance 1 hour end of day Wednesdays
- kids can choose, but parents can also place the student in a specific session
- opportunity to use flex block as a make-up class eg. missed class due to assembly
- gr 12's get a chance to meet with teachers to help ensure all courses are fulfilled to graduate as well as help reduce anxiety about where they will go/what they will do after they graduate

- Questions from parents:

Q: what is the buy in? A: first week we only had 30 students stay but teachers expect this to increase quickly as students have more assignments

Q: will yellow bus transportation change? A: no

Q: city bus extremely overcrowded on flex day A: county is looking into the situation

Q: why are kids leaving? A: if you want your student to stay, sign them up for a session, or hopefully they make that decision on their own

Q: what if study hall gets too full? A: we will continue to accept session ideas from students/parents

Upper common area - could be used to teach a larger group eg. fitness

- preventing kids from hanging out in an unsupervised location

- it has made a difference for teachers not having to police the students who were not making good choices eg, vaping in washrooms, cell phone use

8. Next Meeting Date: October 2019 TBD by new Chair

Topic Ideas: Flex update, Parking lot safety concerns (kids are getting impatient, jumping curbs just to get out due to only one exit)

9. Closing Prayer – Nancy Ferguson

10. Meeting Adjourned @7:50pm