



Western Canada High School

Ordinary Meeting of School Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 13, 2022 @ 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams

Topic: "All About Grad"

Meeting Facilitator: Karen Savoy, Chairperson

Invited: All WCHS Parents/Guardians

Meeting called to order at 6:50 PM after brief technical difficulties. The original meeting link did not allow for the chat function, so a new link was sent out.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Ms Savoy welcomed everyone and thanked them for their patience with our technical difficulties. She declared there was a quorum to hold the meeting with +180 attendees.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda motioned by Ruby Bolar, Veronica Martens and Michelle Bozynski - approved.

APPROVAL OF MAR 1, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Minutes motioned by Ali Damesh and Ozaro Ezomo - approved.

"ALL THINGS GRAD" PRESENTATION BY MAUREEN SCHARF, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

[WCHS - All Things Grad - April 13-2023.pdf](#)

- Ms Scharf began with congratulations to the Class of 2023.
- Contact information for all staff supporting the graduation preparations were provided.
- She emphasized the available communication tools available for parents with graduation information:
 - WCHS Website
 - Student D2L Shell
 - School Messenger - for parents
- Fees for both the graduation ceremony and the banquet were explained.
- The mandatory graduation rehearsal on Monday May 15, 2023 was addressed, where grad gowns would be handed out to allow families time for photos, with popular locations provided.
- Ms Scharf emphasized that parents should be on time for the ceremony at 11am on Tuesday May 23, 2023 at University of Calgary and stay for the entire duration.
- Ms Scharf encouraged all students who hadn't already, to complete the grad survey on the website.

- Ms Scharf discussed the grad banquet dinner and dance on Friday May 26, 2023 at BMO Centre Hall F. Doors would be closed from 6:30pm-7pm for program commences and there would be no exit and re-entry for the duration of the evening. She explained how the group tables would be organized and how the evening would proceed.
- No questions.

“GRADUATION PARTIES - WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW” PRESENTATION BY CST. SEAN BUNES, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.

Cst. Bunes discussed how parents may want to hold “safe” grad parties at home, however having kids under 18 consuming alcohol and parents providing alcohol to a minor, which is not encouraged by the Calgary police. However, the biggest thing parents should consider if they were to host a safe grad is the potential for civil liability. If something were to happen with impaired driving or if a student got injured while intoxicated those parents could be held civilly responsible by the other family. He gave an example of an accident in Springbank after a “safe” party where a couple of the students died and the family was charged by the RCMP with criminal negligence causing death.

No questions.

STUDENT UNION PRESENTATION BY NEIL (G12), ETHAN (G10) AND JOANNA (G10)

- Dance - first dance since Covid and raised over \$1400, profits going toward Canstruction and Culture Day.
- Bunny Go Spirit Event - promoting student engagement and raising community spirit
- Canstruction - help give back to outside community with proceeds going to Calgary Food Bank
- Spirit Week - coming up in June, promotes school spirit and creativity
- Culture Day - Neil spoke about two pillars of Western Canada, legacy and diversity. Culture day is one of Student Council’s biggest events of the year and this year they are collaborating with the Diversity and Representation Council as well. The event is on April 25th at lunch on the front lawn and will include food, music, artifacts, art and clothing. Hundreds of students participated, showing their culture and traditions to each other and it’s that kind of unity that defines Western as a school. Please encourage your students to register for the event.
- Food for Thought - students are invited to give feedback and engage with student leaders and school administration. The next event is Wednesday April 26, 2023.
- Student Senate - great way to foster student advocacy. Next meeting will be on Monday, April 17, 2023. Allows students to engage in specific dialogue about Truth and Reconciliation.
- Chief Superintendent's Student Advisory Council - group of 60 ambassadors across the CBE highschools that come together every month for different institutional level issues that revolve around student inclusivity and student quality of life. WCHS has three ambassadors and the main project this year is the centralization and unification of a D2L Shell with inclusivity as the focus to connect all students across the board.

SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTATION BY KAREN SAVOY, CHAIRPERSON

[WCHS 2023-04-13 Council Meeting Presentation.pptx](#)

- Karen thanked the administration, staff and teachers for continued hard work.
- Nine executive members attended an ASCA educational workshop in March with grant

- money provided by Alberta Ed, with plans to attend another.
- Karen pointed out the various ways to communicate with the council, via website, Facebook, email.
 - A [treasurer update](#) was provided. Karen explained how the Parent council is not a fundraising entity like Friends of Western and monies the council has are largely through donation for staff appreciation events.
 - Karen reviewed the December staff appreciation event and spoke about the upcoming event on June 21, 2023, with a barista breakfast for teachers and staff.
 - Speaker Series Update - review of upcoming general council meeting speaker focuses and hoping to resume AHS talks in the next school year. Karen encouraged parents to forward ideas for speakers to the council.
 - Key Communicator Update - update on recent Council of School Councils Meeting highlighting Proud to be CBE campaign. The school 2023/24 budget update and education engagement report to be submitted by the end of May. The upcoming Alberta School Council Association AGM on April 23, 2023.
 - Casino - WCHS's largest fundraiser to be held on May 19 and 20, 2023. A thank you to all the volunteers, as all slots have been filled.
 - This is the last council meeting for this school year, next one will be in September 2023.

Questions:

Why are funds not used for the students?

Karen explained that Friends of Western oversees all the money that is fundraised for student extracurriculars at the school. Donations to Friends of Western are tax deductible. The School Council is not allowed to fundraise for those kinds of things, it is not a non-profit and does not issue tax receipts. We only accept money for school council events which for us at the moment is only staff appreciation. Any money donated for staff appreciation will only be used for that.

Has the School Council considered returning to in person meetings for the next school year?

Karen explained that we have considered it and our AGM was in person this past year. There has been consideration for a hybrid version of both in person and online attendees, however based on last year's survey, the vast majority of parents prefer an online format for convenience. AGM is in person primarily because of technical concerns with voting in new executive members.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

School Council welcomes your ideas, questions and comments

Contact us at: wchsexec@gmail.com

