



Western Canada High School

Ordinary Meeting of School Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, Oct 11, 2023 @ 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams

Topic: "Planning & Process: Post-Secondary"

Meeting Facilitator: Karen Savoy, Chairperson

Invited: All WCHS Parents/Guardians

Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM.

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 +100 attendees. It was asked that any objections to approval of the April 13, 2023 meeting minutes and agenda be registered in the chat. Both were approved at 6:36 with no objections.

"PLANNING & PROCESS: POST-SECONDARY" PRESENTATION BY ALBERT CHIENG, GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

- Guidance has many resources for students planning for post-secondary. Help students determine what is the best path for them and what that will look like and this process begins in CALM (Career and Life Management). There are many online resources available from the Alberta government, LIKE ALIS (Alberta Learning Information Service)
- Once they find their program, we give them the tool to investigate where they would like to go. Research entrance requirements, fees, deadlines etc. Please ensure your child sets up their MyPass account for their final transcripts. If your student needs help with this please contact Ms. Luft from the main office.
- Alberta and Ontario have general application websites for all post-secondary institutions in the province. Apply Alberta and Ontario Universities' Application Centre OUAC
- Dates and deadlines vary. Guidance office recommends that students decide by the end of October, beginning of November, where they would like to apply, which gives them plenty of time to be considered for conditional admittance (to be given a spot conditional on their final grades). As most universities have rolling admissions, meaning they will take how many students they want for each of their programs until they are full.
- Most universities take five major (30 level) courses when considering your student, primarily English 30-1. The courses vary depending on the program.
- Wide range of programs available at different institutions (university, college, technical institutions etc) Many can transfer into a regular degree eventually.

- A lot of institutions have their own scholarships and award which are either automatic or require an application. There are also many opportunities online. Please watch the deadlines for application.
- Students are given a hard copy handout of information about graduation and post-secondary. Encourage your student to make an appointment with their counsellor for a credit check and discussion of opportunities available to them.
- Various fairs, open houses and presentation from post-secondary institutions for your student.
- Lots of support and resources available on Western's website (graduation, scholarships, resource links etc)

QUESTIONS:

- Best to email Albert directly with questions.
- Direct IB questions to Ms. Susan Rivers

STUDENT UNION PRESENTATION BY JOANNA AND JESSIE

- Aug 25 Student Council and 25 student volunteers gave tours to approx. 400 new students
- G10 Welcome BBQ on first day of school
- Sept 15 Terry Fox run, with donations and selling freezies approx. \$900 was raised
- Sept 19 Annual Club Day – approx. 200 students attended presentations by 30 different clubs
- Oct 10 Bimonthly Food for Thought – where students can reach out to Student Council and administration providing their thoughts in return for food.
- Student Senate will be held on Oct 16th, open to all club members and execs in the school
- Halloween “Hallow Week” Oct 26-31st with riddle me this candy event, movie night, virtual costume contest, pumpkin carving and annual mummy mania

PRESENTATION BY DARRIN WHITBREAD

- Apologies for failed attempt at first council meeting.
- Enrollment update: back in Feb 2023 our school was projected to have an enrollment of 2160 students, by May it was already 2260. CBE added 6000 students each of the last two Septembers. Board came up with redesignation plan in July, by the third week of August enrollment was projected to be 2315, we ended up sending 70 students to Crescent Heights. School settled in at 2205 a couple of weeks ago, with 760 in G10, 710 in G11 and 735 in G12. Board is concerned with G10 numbers for the next few years, as we already know there are bigger numbers coming from G9 and G8. Of the 2205, 215 are ELL, 68 displaced Ukrainian students and another 21 students with refugee status. We have 370 students that are coded, 700+ IB (full and partial) and 725 French immersion students.
- This year we have 89 teachers with 19 that are new to the school, 3 counsellors, 4 administrators, 6-7 support staff for a total of 104 staff.
- The budget will come out on Friday and we have 2 weeks to determine our staffing needs for the next year. This will include looking at teachers for second semester or perhaps adding some support staff.
- Population of the school was diverse 10 years ago, but more so now. Well behaved students at Western.

- Well into extra-curricular activities. Cross country, golf, football, volleyball, soccer, swim and dive, fine arts, band camp, clubs etc. Spain trip that leaves this Saturday.
- Meet the teacher in person recently, biggest group was G10 parents.
- Student conferences take place next Friday. Some requests for in-person in the spring.
- IB Open House Monday Nov 27th. Regular program and French Immersion on Jan 30, 2024, the same day as our G9 tours.
- Thank you to volunteers. Police will no longer waive the fee for police checks and CBE will not take on the expense, so it will be up to the individual to pay the \$21.25.
- Working on school development plan for this year, focusing on student wellness.

SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESENTATION BY KAREN SAVOY, CHAIRPERSON

- School Trustee, Susan Vukadinovic has agreed to attend our March General Council meeting, great opportunity to raise questions/concerns.
- All parents/guardians are automatically on school council, our role as executive is to advocate on your behalf.
- Typically we have four General Council meetings, with our AGM in November, in person because of elections.
- Stay informed by attending meetings, website, FB page, email.
- Treasurer Update: We are not a fundraising organization, we fund staff appreciation events and will raise money for our December event.
- Key Communicator: attended ASCA and COSC meetings, with ASCA voting on advisory resolutions for the Minister of Education and COSC June meeting discussed the budget for the year.
- Volunteer Coordinator: Volunteer interest form on the website.
- Staff Appreciation Event: Dec and June events.
- Speaker Series Update: Have speakers at our four General Council meetings. AHS presentations FREE online sessions on child and adolescent health. Please send in suggestions for speakers or topics of interest.
- Celebrate Western is a fundraiser by Friends of Western, where all proceeds go to student extra-curricular activities. Online auction, prior to the Winter Break. Last year it raised +\$24,000 and the goal this year is \$30,000. Consider purchasing online items or donating a service/product to the auction.
- Casino Report: Held in May 2023 raising \$77,000.
- Questions?
 - Prefer online meetings. – Unfortunately, the tech doesn't allow for voting online, but considering recording the AGM.
- Next meeting is Nov 16, 2023 for AGM – in person

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

School Council welcomes your ideas, questions and comments

Contact us at: wchsexec@gmail.com

