



William Aberhart High School School Council



William Aberhart High School School Council Meeting Minutes: Monday May 26, 2025

Chair: Farouk Gillani	Principal: Christos Sagriotis	Assistant Principals: Sebastien Fournier, Michael Scott, Jocelyn Vryenhoek
Vice-Chair: Olga Tourin	Secretary: Tracy Duncan	Student rep: Rotating
Key Communicators: Gitte Julien, Tanis James	Teacher Rep: Rotating	Members at Large: Shelley Wiart, Lisa Gibson, Mike Van Wensem, Nicole Rossi

Attendees: Josh Orzech, Shelley Wiart, Mike Scott (assistant Principal), Tracy Duncan, Kate Purdy (student), Steven B, Farouk Gillani, Parissa Gillani, Darcy Cumming

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Tracy D.
- Land Acknowledgement
- Consent Agenda reviewed. Motion to approve agenda and May 5 2025 meeting minutes by Tracy, seconded by Josh.
- Guest student or teacher presentation: Kate Purdy, grad committee
 - Member of the grad committee for this year. Responsibilities included choosing speakers, tickets, scheduling
 - Great community of people
 - Picked the theme
 - Conversations on what we wanted grad to look like
 - Quote for the ceremony
 - Created a great community
 - Getting to know the teacher reps
 - A good way to get to know the school / in addition to clubs
 - Ceremony and banquet hosted at Gray Eagle Casino
 - Ceremony a bit overwhelming, lots of students, beautiful way to reflect on high school
 - Grad committee were MCs, toasts to grads & parents, then class historian speech
 - How was everything funded? Lots of funding came from the school - paid for tickets (\$120 to banquet + \$50 fee to students for grad gown, or \$10 for parents to sit).
 - Bought disposable grad gowns so students could keep them for photos after grad.
 - Quote for the ceremony for the valedictorian + reflections speaker "life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning to dance in the rain"
 - Most students went to the ceremony, split whether they stayed for the banquet



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- Valedictorian selection: staff chose a group of 4, grad committee chose valedictorian and reflections speaker from those nominees
- Principal/Administration update

Looking to get a partnership with an elder to advance our truth and reconciliation actions in partnership with Richard Van Camp, Abe Alumnus (1989)

- Plan for a 2-day session: first evening presentation to our broader community (parents, community, etc). Possibly presenting one of his movies and the opportunities for storytelling
- Following day working with classes
- Wondering if school council can support this via a grant
- Abe recently ordered 3 class sets of Richard Van Camp's books
- Shelley recommended a grant in Calgary up to \$10k. Recommended coming up with multiple ways where we could engage Richard, then seeing how much the funders will grant
- Shelley likes the idea having a community event that parent council can support
- Possible use of ASCA grant \$500
- Shelley notes that grants have to be started early so you know in the fall if you received it
- Shelley has 2 grants in mind
- Shelley will write an email to Christos copying Farouk to ask how the parent council can support.
- Abe talked to Richard for an hour, he spoke highly of his experience at Abe.

Exam schedules Wed Jun 11-Thurs June 26.

- Can reach the exam schedule by clicking the big tile on the aberhart web page [Link here](#)
- Within the schedule, there are opportunities for students who are "wobbly" to recover some targeted credits and get help with diploma prep.
- In the first week most 10-11 students will finish exams, except some taking level 30 classes.
- We have moved exams from the gym to the classrooms to reduce stress, better temperature
- Grade 10's will write exams the first week, then week off the 19th to 25th. There are opportunities for them to start next years courses on the D2L shelves
- Have to give all students 6 hours to write their diploma exams so it takes the staff away supervising who could be teaching students
- Teachers feel timeline pressure, they would like to have the extra hours of course time to teach students
- Students get rewarded when they go to other provinces for university because the diploma exams are rigorous



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- Grade appeals: these are intended for students who are struggling to see what outcomes they have to meet to succeed. Not targeting exemplary students
- Josh: could argue that going from an 88 to a 90 could be a reasonable use of grade appeal time given the competitiveness to get into a top tier university.
- Mike S noted that it is better to be proactive for students trying to improve high marks - assessment best practices document is publicly available.
- Recommended resources for preparing students for next year e.g. Peter Hill has put all the CBE math lessons on YouTube. He is a CBE teacher. [Link to his YouTube](#)

Calendar of events: Staff will be in before the long weekend in Sept, then school starts after the long weekend.

Enrolment numbers for next year: A little bit higher, projections about 1300 students, a great size. Increase is in the French immersion population.

- School Council Update (Farouk G.):
 - Open house in September: hoping to do as much recruitment as possible, looking for parents to help recruit parents to school council
 - First school council meeting will be our AGM
- Key Communicator update (Gitte Julien and Tanis James):
 - Not another council of school councils meeting since last meeting
- New Business:
 - email from university preparation consultant Renee Duan:
 - Mike: Abe has representative from various universities visiting the school
 - Advise families to be strategic about the 5 courses that they use for entrance to university. Depending on the program, students are restricted by the courses they can use (e.g. engineering requires calculus), but could be strategic, e.g. take math 30-2 for good marks and then take 30-1 or calculus later, depending on course requirements for university
 - e.g social 30-1 and 30-2: unless a student going into a career like political science, 30-2 might be a good option to leverage for marks
 - Shelley notes there are a lot of programs taking into account other factors (maturity, experience) for admissions
 - Council not really interested in a paid consultant for university admissions.



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- Next meeting: September 2025. This will be the Abe school council AGM. Farouk will consult with Flo and Christos regarding meet the teacher date, then finalize the school council first date
- Motion to adjourn by tracy at 7:55 pm by, seconded by Shelley. All in Favour. Adjourned.