



**Calgary Board
of Education**

**Henry Wise Wood
High School**

**Henry Wise Wood High School Council Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2025 @ 6:30 pm in-person and online**

In attendance: Brandi D. (Chair), Aileen S. (Principal), Pooja S., Tinke Z., Tabi S., Cinnamon B., Tilal A., Dennis V., Jen S., Tina L.

Online: Christina M., Dawn D., DE, Dehab, Helen, Kate, Arvind cdt, LW, Rick F., SO, Susan A., Tony S., Mercy E., Galina R.

*Brandi D. took Minutes.

1. **Call to Order and Meeting Guidelines** - Brandi: Called to order at 6:31pm.

2. **Motion to review and approve the Agenda** – Brandi

Approved with the following changes: Under Chair Report, remove “Annual Report”, and add “Motion to fund memorial activities for a teacher who passed away this summer”.

1st: Christina 2nd: Tinke Carried.

3. **Motion to approve Meeting Minutes from May 26, 2025** - Brandi:

1st: Cinnamon 2nd: Tinke Carried.

4. **Land Acknowledgment** – Brandi

Brandi shared that she is using a book called “52 Ways to Reconcile: How to Walk with Indigenous Peoples on the Path to Healing” by David Robertson. The book shares small, doable acts, one for each week of the year. These are ways to become more informed and more connected with Indigenous people and their culture, while promoting reconciliation.

5. School Updates – Aileen S., Principal

Start-Up and Updates:

- **CBE Quick Stats:** 142,400 students, 16,000 employees, 44,000 EAL (English as Additional Language) students, 251 schools, 25,000 students with special needs, 6,200 self-identified Indigenous students, 27,100 Students in language and alternative programs, 24,500 students on 611 yellow bus routes
- **HWW context: 1868 students;** EAL - 290; Total Student IPPs - 493
- Yellow Bus - 11 registered for bussing
- Unique settings and specialized classes: ACCESS - 10, GATE - 63, IB - 501, LEAD - 4, PLP - 13
- Self-identified Indigenous students - 107

Celebrations:

-Facility upgrades: Foods Room, Library classroom, Chairs in the courtyard, Tree near the bike rack has been pruned, courtyard carpets cleaned; medicinal garden is growing
-Still working on: our elevator; our lighting dimmer system - Ed Matters Campaign to come; self-selected Maggie - a magpie came in the school today

- a) **Artists** - Casino funds bought the Laguna Planer - extraordinary machine for the kids! Big thanks to SC and PAA!
- b) **Scholars:** We participated in the National Biology Competition as a rookie School. Our highest scoring student alumnus Marcus Y. finished in 73-78 place, out of 2,337 national participants. Our school team placed 22nd out of 164 schools nationally. Only two schools in Calgary scored higher.
- c) **Champions:** Terry Fox Run/Walk took place -students created a banner for who we are running for
- d) **Athletics:** Football, Cross Country, volleyball have all started
- e) **Clubs** - 21 of them! Had a clubs day to sign up; there will be another sign-up day in February; joining is ongoing
- f) **Warrior Voice Council:** Exploring What is it to be a Warrior? What is it like being a champion, scholar and artist? Make sure that everyone finds a way to be included
- g) **Classroom Moment:** cross-curricular class with Business and Architecture classes; groups were doing a project making a tiny home, and students were very engaged and learning
- h) **Updates:**
 - Staffing - we are staffed; may add 2 teachers in Semester 2 if budget allows
 - Timetables: Student course requests - no more changes

i) **Upcoming:**

- Sept 26 - Orange Shirt Day
- Sept 29 - NI Day - no classes
- Sept 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - no school
- Oct 14 - Photo Retake Day
- Oct 15 - Veterans' Tea
- Oct 21 - Lockdown Practice 9:30 am
- Oct 27 - School Council AGM
- Oct. 20 - NI Day - School Conferences
 - 12-3 pm online
 - 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm in person
 - HWW is a general election site

Parent Questions:

- Q. Is there a list of clubs? A. On website
Q. When is the next Casino? A. 2nd Quarter of 2026

6. **Special Presentation** - Aileen S., Principal

Changes to the Education Act and Ministerial Order: What they are and what it means for HWW

Education Amendment Act, 2024

- The Education Amendment Act, 2024 received royal assent in December 2024.
- New requirements for schools/school authorities in effect September 1, 2025:
 1. Parent/guardian **opt-in** for human sexuality learning activities
 2. **Notification and consent** for a student that requests school staff use a gender identity -related preferred name or pronoun(s)
 3. **Fairness in Sport** for female-only sports teams (ages 12 to 18)
 4. **Learning Continuity** during an emergency

Parental Notification...

As per section 33.2 of Alberta's Education Act:

- for students under 16 years of age, the school requires parent/guardian consent before teachers, principals and other school staff can you use a student's new preferred name or pronoun(s)related to their gender identity
- for students who are 16 or 17 years of age, parent/guardian notice is required before teachers, principals, and other school staff can use a student's new preferred name or pronoun(s)related to their gender identity

...**Opt-in Consent** *often related to CALM in high school
In accordance with section 58.11 of the Education Act:

- Alberta schools must now obtain written consent of parents prior to providing instructions or materials that deal primarily and explicitly with human sexuality, gender identity or sexual orientation. Students are unable to participate in this portion of the curriculum unless consent is explicitly granted.

...and, **Approval of Learning and Teaching Resources and External Speakers**

- In accordance with Section 18.1 of the Education Act, Ministerial approval is required of learning and teaching resources related to gender identity, sexual orientation, or human sexuality.
- External parties using or providing learning and teaching resources that deal primarily and explicitly with gender identity, sexual orientation or human sexuality must be approved by the Minister of Education and Childcare.

Fairness and Safety in Sport Act came into in effect September 1, 2025

Stated Purpose: Protect the integrity of female athletic competitions by ensuring women and girls have the opportunity to compete in biological female-only divisions

- every athlete (12 years and older) registered to play in a female-only league will be required to confirm in writing that they:
 1. Understand the requirement and;
 2. The athlete meets the eligibility requirement
- Female athletes may continue to compete in male and co-ed categories.

Q. - What should I do if I have questions about the Fairness and Safety in Sport Act and Regulation?

A. - Please contact Tourism and Sport at SPAR@gov.ab.ca

Learning Continuity During Emergencies

- Administrative Regulation 1032: Learning Continuity During Emergencies has been established
- Indicates CBE will make efforts to maintain in-person learning for students during an emergency such as a local state of emergency or public health emergency
- Process outlined for determining a temporary move to at-home learning during an emergency
- Notification and consent for non-routine individual health measures

Parent Questions and Comments:

Q - Names - slightly different language than what was sent home. How do they determine if the name is gender-based? And what happens if kids say they want to change their name, but it's not because of gender?

A - only refers to gender identity, not cultural changes, not nicknames

Q - How does the school support students who are away for things like music camp?

A - Teachers try to give lots of notice for events where students will be missing school due to school activities. Kids can work ahead or catch up when they get back. Teachers support that.

Q - How does it work to get resources approved?

A - Schools have been given forms to submit. Admin and teachers will work together . School is required to give 30 days' notice to parents for opt-in. If all consent forms are returned sooner, instruction can begin sooner.

Ministerial Order (MO): Standards for the Selection, Availability, and Access of School Library Materials

- Purpose: Sets provincial standards for selecting, making available, and providing access to school library materials in Alberta
- Includes:
 - Definitions related to “explicit visual depictions of a sexual act”
 - Requirements for removal of materials
 - Directives for school districts to implement policies for selection, review and public access to information

What does this mean at HWW?

- Letters sent regarding Fairness in Sport with the Female Only Sports forms
- Full school letter sent regarding the Parental Notification process this past Friday
- CALM letter sent for Opt-In to CALM student families
- District will submit a list of materials to the Minister by AB Ed
- Publish and implement policies for the selection, review, access and challenge of school's library materials by January 5, 2026.

Parent Comment: her understanding is that CBE has always had rigorous standards in place for vetting library materials.

Parent/Guardian FAQs



- Possible Job Action : If negotiated settlement can't be reached, strike action will take place on Oct. 6. The school is creating contingency plans. More communication will be shared as the situation evolves. **CBE labour action webpage has most current updates.**

Parent Question: What would happen with materials online, provided on D2L?

- A. No new materials would be provided if there is strike action. Uncertain if D2L would still be accessible. Unless something changes it will be business as usual.

7. Chair Report (5 min): Brandi D.

- a) Updates from 2024-25: COSC report: the update was submitted by Alice H. but was tabled in previous meetings
- CBE received increased funding from the provincial government for the 2025 - 2026 school year, to account for increased enrollment, but it is not enough; doesn't take into consideration inflation, continued growth, maintenance pressures, and full schools. 90 out of 251 schools are at or above 100% capacity
 - CBE received approximately \$1 billion; Charter and private schools received \$400 million
 - CBE has about 20,000 more students since 2020 - 2021 school year
 - contact your MLA to advocate for CBE and public education
 - with the upcoming Municipal election, be sure to vote for your trustee

b) September 17 - had a table at Meet the Teacher Night

c) Financial approvals for December and January events, and memorial activities for a teacher who passed away this summer. The General Bank account balance is currently \$2751.

- **Motion: To approve up to \$600 for a staff appreciation meal in Semester 1.**

1st: Christina 2nd: Tilal

Discussion: A comment was that this account does not have much money. Response was that this general account is basically only used for activities like staff appreciation and Fuel Your Brain. Parents often donate and that money goes into this account.

Vote: For- 14 Carried

- **Motion: To approve up to \$650 for Fuel Your Brain in January 2026.**

1st: Cinnamon 2nd: Jen

Discussion: Healthy snacks are provided to students on exam days, before they go into the exam. Ensures students have something to eat, and it is often reassuring for students to see a parent volunteer before they go into their exam.

Vote: For-14 Carried

- **Motion to spend up to \$300 to fund school memorial activities for a teacher who passed away this summer.**

1st: Tinke 2nd: Cinnamon

Discussion: This teacher always wore a tie-dyed lab coat that a student made for him. The Science teachers would like to make tie-dye lab coats for them to wear, and to give to both of this teacher's children. The school is able to cover the cost of the lab coats, but not the cost of the tie-dye supplies, which would be approximately \$200, and would be paid personally by teachers if not funded another way. The school is in the process of making a memorial book, with memories shared from the school community. The cost of the final product of this book is not currently known.

Multiple comments were made stating that School Council would like to cover the costs, but it's hard to decide how much to approve without knowing the final costs. We can approve funds now; if less is needed, we will pay that amount and the rest will go back into our general fund. If more is needed, we will revisit and have a discussion at a future meeting.

Vote: For- 14 Carried

- d) Cobbs Volunteer - Tilal volunteered to help Tina with the Cobb donations this year. Thank-you!
- e) GATE Parent Association (GPA) is looking for a HWW Representative. This person would attend about 4 virtual meetings during the school year and update what is happening at HWW, with regards to students in GATE. A report could also be emailed, if unable to attend the meeting.
- f) Elections - will take place at the Annual General Meeting on October 27th.
 - We are looking for a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Key Communicator and Volunteer Coordinator, who would work with Tabi (who has been the Volunteer Coordinator for the past 2 years).
 - Roles can be shared between two people.
 - Brandi is willing to mentor the new chairperson.

8. Treasurer report (5 minutes): Brandi D.

- a) ASCE grant - \$500 gift card

We had Dr. Saroush Sabbaghan, from the University of Calgary, as a guest speaker to our May 26, 2025 General Meeting, to speak on the topic of Artificial Intelligence. He charged no fee, but we gave him an honorarium which included a \$60 school sweatshirt, and 2 x \$50 Indigo gift cards, for a total of \$160.

We purchased books, recommended by administration and teachers, that will be housed in the school library. These books will be advertised to parents to borrow, and can be recommended

by administration and teachers to parents to read, in order to support their children. The books are *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt and *Brainstorm: the Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain* by Daniel J. Siegel, M.D.

We purchased 9 copies of *The Anxious Generation* And 8 copies of *Brainstorm* for a total of \$337.38.

Total Spent: \$160 + \$337.38 = \$497.38

Total Remaining on card: \$0.62

9. Other business - none

10. Adjourned at 8:08 pm.

School Council Annual General Meeting: October 27 @ 6:30 pm