

Crescent Heights High School – School Council Meeting Summary

Date: June 1, 2026

Time: 6:30 PM – 8:09 PM

Location: Crescent Heights High School

Attendance:

Linden A., Lisa M., Beth R., Allison C., Angela N., Brian D., Tracey V., Karen L., Joanna G., Melanie M., Justin T., Mark F., Sandy M., Sonya M.

Guests: Patricia B. (CBE Trustee), April B. (Art Teacher), Joel L. (Principal).

1. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. The agenda was reordered to allow guest presenters to speak first before moving into administrative business.

2. Presentation: Dark Room Revitalization

April B., a fine arts teacher, presented a proposal to revitalize the school's underutilized dark room.

- **Educational Philosophy:** April argued that film photography is a vital antidote to the "instant gratification" of the digital age. It requires students to focus on technical composition, patience, and problem-solving.
- **Student Impact:** The program is aimed at Art 20/30 and Advanced Photography students, impacting between 100 and 160 students per year. It offers a creative path for those who may not feel successful in traditional drawing or painting.
- **Facility Readiness:** The dark room has 11 enlargers, four of which are currently functional, and the ventilation is already up to code.
- **Funding Proposal:** A quote for \$6,752.11 was presented to purchase 35 point-and-shoot film cameras, bulk film, paper, and chemicals. While chemicals and paper are consumables funded by course fees, the cameras and equipment repairs represent a long-term investment.

3. Principal's Report and Community Integration

Principal Joel L. highlighted significant changes coming to the school in the 2026-2027 school year, focusing on school growth and student experience.

- **Community Integration:** Starting in September, Crescent Heights will welcome Grade 10 students from Castle Ridge, Falcon Ridge, and Coral Springs. These students face transit times of up to an hour each way and may arrive "fatigued and crabby."
- **The Crescent Collective and September Barbecue:** To foster a welcoming environment, the school is launching a student-led mentorship initiative called the "Crescent Collective." A "Welcome Back" barbecue in September will serve as a platform for this integration. Student mentors (from leadership, sports, and arts) will be identified by specific swag—such as hoodies or retro jerseys—so that the 300 new students feel safe and have a sense of belonging immediately.
- **Grade 12 "Goodbye" Barbecue:** This "capstone" experience for graduating students is scheduled for the week following this meeting. The event will include music, inflatable games (basketball and a racetrack), and hot food like hot dogs. Principal Joel L. met with the students to discuss expectations for good citizenship and respect for the neighborhood.
- **Staffing Growth:** Due to increased enrollment, the school has created 12 new positions. Key departures include Assistant Principal Le Martinez. The school is currently hiring for a new AP, a learning leader, and teachers for Math, Science, Computer Science, and Foods.
- **Athletics:** There is a critical need for coaches, particularly for football and basketball. Joel encouraged community volunteers to step up, noting they would be paired with teacher sponsors to meet duty-of-care requirements.
- **Curriculum & AI:** Discussion was held regarding the relevance of the Computer Science program in relation to industry hiring trends. Joel also noted the school is exploring how to harness AI as a tool to reduce teacher workload.

4. Trustee's Report

Trustee Patricia B. provided a detailed look at the CBE's systemic pressures and capital planning.

- **Capacity Crisis:** High schools across the CBE are currently operating at 107% capacity.
- **Modernization Status:** Crescent Heights is currently second on the CBE Capital Plan for major modernization and first on the list for addition requests.

- **The Funding Pipeline:** The CBE is requesting \$250,000 in planning funds this fall. Patricia explained the four stages of a project: Pre-planning, Planning, Design, and Construction. Once planning dollars are received, a project is considered "rolling" and generally continues through to completion.
- **Advocacy Strategy:** Patricia urged the council to engage with alumni and local MLAs to advocate for the modernization, noting that funding is never guaranteed until the provincial budget is announced.

5. Financial Report

Tracey V. presented the financial update. This was Tracey's last update; all attendees were very appreciative of her attention to detail and service to the council and association.

- **General Account:** The account has approximately \$10,000 in available cash.
- **Staff Appreciation:** The council discussed focusing on "Appreciation Events," such as breakfasts or lunches, which have proven more effective at reaching all staff members than purchasing hardware like coffee machines.

Highlighted Motions

- **Motion** to approve the minutes from the previous meeting: Moved by Karen L., seconded by Beth R. Carried.
- **Motion** to approve up to \$2,000 for a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast held Monday, 29th June: Moved by Justin T., seconded by Melanie M. Carried.
- **Motion** to approve \$2,000 for the "Crescent Collective" student-led integration and welcome barbecue initiatives: Moved by Joanna G., seconded by Melanie M. Carried.
- **Motion** to approve up to \$6,000 for the Dark Room revitalization project: Moved by Allison C., seconded by Angela N. Carried.

6. Adjournment

The regular School Council meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM. This was the last meeting of the 2025-2026 school year. An email will be sent out in September to invite parents to the first meeting of the 2026-2027 year. Have a great summer!