

Lord Beaverbrook High School – School Council Meeting
Agenda – Tuesday September 17, 2024 at 6:30pm
Meeting held In Person and Online via Microsoft Teams only
schoolcouncil4lbhs@gmail.com

1. Call To Order:

a. First LBHS School Council meeting for the 2024/2025 school year & Election of New Executive Members

2. Welcome and Introductions

A. *Land Acknowledgement*

In the spirit of reconciliation, we would like to acknowledge that we live, work and play on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot confederacy, which includes the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai. We also acknowledge the Tsuut'ina and Stoney Nakoda First Nations, the Metis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

B. *Introduction of guests & Executive Members*

Attendees:

- *Staff:* David Sparrow, Michelle Konschuh, Michelle Finley (online)
- *Executive:* Chair: Brenda P, Vice Chair (online) David J, Secretary: Kathleen R, LBMPA Representative: Jennifer B
- *In Person:* Nadine H, Jill L, Nate L, Christine H, Matthew I, Yousef G, Izumi M, Manabu K, Krista H, Beau, Tammy B, Maurice B, Ibrahim B, Jennifer A, Jen S, Laura B, Andrea S
- *Online:* Megan F, Julie, Laura P, Jaki S, Varba C, Brenda, Kari I, Nadir, Yuriy, Glorialyn B

C. LBHS Procedural Items

All parents/guardians of LBHS students are automatically voting council members; we strive to have meaningful involvement by all members of our school community and to advise and consult with the Principal on matters relating to the school; the separate fundraising society is attached to our music parent society (LBMPA).

Housekeeping items on-line attendees: please remain muted and only unmute if you have questions or would like to share as part of the discussions; to vote on items this evening, turn your camera on and raise your hand

D. Verification of quorum

Principal and Chair (or acting representatives) are present, majority of attendees are parents (not school staff). Confirmed quorum.

3. Review of Agenda, including addition of any items. No items added.

4. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes Motion to accept the last meeting minutes: Laura, seconded by Jenn. Motion carried.

A. May 21, 2024 (circulated in advance by email and posted on the school website)

B. Business arising from minutes: New question: are textbooks digital? Added to Principal's Report to address question then

5. Principal's Report

a. Back to School & School Start Up

-With 800 grade 10 students Admin. Team tried to find a way to welcome these students without too much crowding. Admin's solution was to record a welcome back message that was shared in classes on the first day, so the new students were aware of expectations and the fun activities at LBHS. Admin. received some feedback, that communication home before the start could have been better. Admin is trying to balance communication (as they don't want too much so that it is ignored, but according to feedback more communication to grade 10 families was needed). Website will be updated regularly. So check there often, please. Most information, questions and wonderings will be found there and then if you need more you can contact Admin or teachers.

b. Budget, Staffing 2024/2025

School is fully staffed (around 2000 students, 800 gr 10, 600 gr 11, 600 gr 12s). They did hire a new grade 10 math/science teacher to reduce class sizes. Another look at staffing will happen in semester two. Currently at LBHS there are: 91 teachers and 36 support staff (support staff includes roles such as behaviour support workers, instructional support workers, EAs, office staff, behind the scenes staff).

c. Extracurriculars / School Trips

Extracurriculars are well under way: Jr/Sr Football, all volleyball, cross country, girls soccer clubs, clubs yearbooks, GSA, D&D club, so many clubs! Clubs week went well with lots of students interested and joining.

Welcome Back BBQ included hot dogs, juice and chips were served, all prepared by LBHS Culinary students and staff.

At LBHS we want all students to feel like they have somewhere to belong. The School Development Plan (SDP) will include student wellness. Feedback from parents to support

wellness will be appreciated. The goal is for students to have a trusted adult they have connected with is vital to their success (mentally, physically and academically). Principal advisory wellness committee will take applications soon.

Trips Planned:

- Mr. Pehkonen, a Math teacher who will take gr 12 students on a sailing trip in April, had a virtual meeting last Wednesday.
- Unfortunately, D trips (out of the country) will no longer go ahead.
- Mr. Mussie is planning a science trip and is trying to get in touch with Bamfield for a marine biology trip, which is connected to the curriculum as well.
- Band trip to Canmore, possibly Whistler too. Band is a way to enjoy travelling, performing, and learning from other musicians (more on that later).

d. Other

- Parent question about textbooks: are they digital? Mr. Sparrow's answer: It varies. Some teachers sign actual hard copies of textbooks out. Textbooks are not a big spending item, if it isn't available, then on D2L there would be an electronic version there. If you aren't seeing textbooks, the teachers might not be using them. If not using a textbook then the learning and teaching is happening from teachers, online, and other sources. Teachers will also post regularly on D2L. If you are unsure, ask each teacher about D2L and textbooks. There is an upcoming grade 10 learning night. Learning Leaders will be there for each subject matter. Students on IPPs can access materials from the Learning Lounge with MJ Sorensen.
- Thank you for the question! Some advice from the Principal: best thing to look at D2L and PowerSchool to be engaged with students. Encourage parents to get involved in D2L as everything is all laid out so clearly as it is a useful tool for learning (D2L is called BrightSpace now) and every teacher should have an online presence. Administration ensures helpful and useful material. Let the administration know if things don't seem quite right. New teachers are forming their 'shells' and everything should be up and running very soon.
- School organisation for inquiries: There is Principal, 3 Assistant Principals partnered with Guidance Counsellors as well. The school website under the menu > About Our School > Our Staff. [List of staff and contact information can be found here.](#)
- Website is open to the public.
- From Kathleen R (Council Secretary and Parent): A formal thank you to the teachers and staff for planning and running ALL that is involved in school trips! These have

been missing since the Pandemic yet, these trips are so meaningful. We understand the undertaking of these staff members is immense and largely planned on their own time. THANK YOU from all of the parents, students and families for planning and offering these enriching trips (after years with no trips).

6.Focus Item – Engagement at LBHS

A. Increase meeting participation/engagement

Last year:

- We were busy as a Council: hosted 3 presentations and invited feeder schools (social medial, substance abuse, parent strategies with anxiety and exam stress), there were presentations at other schools that our population was invited to: teaching kids about money
- Played a role in CBE webinars (free) and related to wellness, mental health sessions
- Promoted forum to share ideas and have collaborative discussions about community (booth set up at open house, parent council nights, trade fair was busy (but not helpful venue for Council). This year focus on interviews and open house for gr 9s
- A trade fair was held in our gym and organised by Corrie P
- Focus on communicating fundraisers and donations (teachers could post fundraisers for sports, clubs, etc on website - so check regularly!)
- Social Media presence was successful, as Fabricland had some retired employees who donated fabric and supplies to the Drama and Cosplay teachers and these donations were put to good use and very much appreciated! Thank you to these thoughtful community members for their donations.

-THIS YEAR - What should we do?

- Should we continue with our Council Booths at school events? Should we try to survey our families about what they want and how they want to receive Council communication? How do we communicate as we grow large as a school? LET's explore this.
 - Idea about involvement and fundraising shared from a parent: previous school parents, school would (same parents show up and do things), whatever sum from each fundraiser would be divided by grade and then all students have to contribute - school fee. Rather than only the ones that show up. Lump sum for each parent and then divide it up. Thanks for this suggestion, have seen this at elementary level. As school council not a fundraiser, but we like to communicate this idea.

- Possible Survey - school population given some form of a survey (possibly on Survey Monkey) and then LBHS and will send out. Some school emails are limited for fundraising. This Council survey though would be sent to everyone.
- Typically engaged parents, read communication as well, a presence at the teacher night, possibly make the information easier by posting a QR code to the survey (don't have to log in and easy to do). An idea might be to have a COFFEE and SURVEY! To decide, WHAT PLATFORM for the survey? Will circulate a draft, Brenda will circulate. Ask which platform as well.
- An idea was brought up to increase engagement: From past experience, there was a really good Council Group in previous elementary school who have an X (Twitter) account. Easy to communicate questions as well (to announce things like our shop students offering oil changes, etc).
 - At other schools there is a Social Media presence - typically the role of a Key Communicator (not associated with school at all though). Social media is blocked in school this year. LBHS has instagram accounts run by staff Ms. Fisher, Mr. Mercer (athletics). A point was shared by a parent -as a parent, do we want students off social media, so as parents it is not hard to read emails and we would be modelling limited use of social media. To this parent, since Social Media is banned in school, using it to advertise Council seems double standard. Previously admins on Council found that the account was hard to moderate. So closed it, etc. Note, we can't moderate X. If Council chose to add a Social Media account, we need to carefully pick platform to regulate it properly. This could be a part of the survey and If the majority wants social media then there would be a spot for platforms.

B. Collaboration with Feeder Schools (see above) and we will ask this in surveys to see if there is interest

C. Fundraising communication for all school groups and trades fee-for-service

D. Meet and Greet - Student Learning Conferences on October 24 and 25th

E. ASCE Grant of \$500 - rules, parents/guardians surveys, presentation options and topics for consideration will be on upcoming survey

7. SAVE THE DATES:

- a. **Thursday, Sept 26th LBHS Highschool 101** - How to support your new highschooler 6-7:30 (for new students in grade 10) in East Courtyard PURPLE and GREEN area (Mr. Sparrow likes to affectionately call this area Hulk Room)
- b. **Monday, Sept 30th is Truth and Reconciliation Day and is a non-instructional day** for students and staff. Brenda P, our Chair, found additional activities to support learning about this day from website: FAMILY FUN CANADA.COM
 - i. Sunday, Sept 29th Heritage Park will have an event 9:30 - 5,
 - ii. Mon. Sept 30 Art Commons - 2 and 4pm Gallery Tour,
 - iii. Indigenous Maker Marek 12-5
 - iv. Calgary Public Libraries 12 - 5 will host (several of them).
 - v. The Confluence (formerly Fort Calgary) 9-10:30,
 - vi. Military Museum - tours 1 and 3pm
 - vii. National Music Centre (Studio Bell) celebrates music at 7:30,
 - viii. Commemorative walk at Peace Bridge 10am.
 - ix. Open house until 4pm at Contemporary Calgary.

(related question: Is the school doing anything to celebrate TRC? Mr. Sparrow replied that the staff going to Confluence, staff going to the Indigenous Walk. This year we have an Indigenous Graduation Coach that works here - Judy Wilkins and will be doing Orange Shirt Day and Every Child MATTERS all year, PLEASE DONATE SHOES - 250 pairs of shoes are requested and this will be, symbolic of the deaths in Kamloops and then the plan is to donate these shoes to kids after the display)

- c. **Saturday, October 12 "Cavalry Football Club Student Game & School Fundraiser"** (10% of every ticket purchased by LBHS student, parent, teacher goes back to our school!)
- d. **Wednesday, October 23 (COSC meeting)** attendees may include: Other School Council Members (up to 3 students elected by students or appointed by the Principal, representative Acadia Community Association appointed by ACA, representative Acadia Recreation Centre appointed by ARC, Up to 3 Community Members)
- e. **Upcoming jobs and Trade Fairs** are held at other highschools this year (has outgrown our gymnasium space), organised by Corrie P: October 30th (James Fowler); Nov 20 (All Saints); Feb 19 (Central Memorial), March 19 (Notre

Dame. Through these opportunities your teen gets job experiences, pay cheque while earning school credits. Lots of employers are looking and have spots for our students.

8. Music Parents Rep (Jennifer B)

- The LBMPA is a charitable society with a long 45-year history. Mandate is to support the music program at Lord Beaverbrook High School through fundraising activities and promoting concerts.
- Last year the Band had a great year - a trip to Edmonton to play at Legislature and ended on a HIGH note as they won Gold in Red Deer at the Alberta Band Festival. They performed at Gala night at U of C. The Band and Music Program has doubled in size and is projected to continue this exponential growth because the feeder schools' programs are seeing unprecedented growth too. Band decimated during Pandemic and excited to grow!
- There are 2 teachers this year in the Band program: Mr. Ken Thackrey and Mr. Scott Campbell. Encourage everyone to join the band!
- This year they are ramping up fundraising, as there are lots of costs.
 - Sept 30th - Veggie bundles just in time for Thanksgiving (from Farm to School),
 - Oct 3 Hutterite Chickens will be for sale and eggs (like little turkeys) and a great deal! Pickup October 18.
- Casino - November 18 and 19th. Members of LBMPA have staffed this.
- New events/concerts include:
 - Vic Lewis Music Festival in Canmore (November 1-3)
 - Remembrance Day Ceremony (Thursday, November 7 @ LBHS gym)
 - Christmas band concert (Thursday, December 5 @ LBHS gym)
 - Band Trip to Vancouver and Whistler (May 1-3, 2025) to play at a Festival
- We hope the school community can join us at concerts. They are fun and free (admission by donation). The band is quite talented, and concerts are free to attend. Please join to watch! Trying to combine nights with concerts, ART, Drama and Band will partner them up and hoping more people will attend them all!

9. Grade 12 Parent Rep (Leanne B) - not in attendance, no news shared.

10. COSC/ASCA Update from June 5, 2024

- Mandate for 2024-2027 is to focus on learning excellence, well-being and Truth and Reconciliation, diversity and inclusion.
- Looking forward to seeing how they will expand this?
- You Can Make a Difference – connect with your MLA!!! Any concerns with budget not including inflation and the school is at capacity. WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE and as PARENTS WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT MLA if you have concerns. We can contact Nancy Close (Neclose@cbe.ab.ca) as she is our Trustee for LBHS. We can invite her to a future meeting.

11. New Business

- Quick question -is it normal for no hand soap in men's bathroom? Answer: Will share with facility staff who are still doing rounds at time of meeting. Ms. K will talk to facilities.
- Question - bus situations? New Brighton, McKenzie Lake, Douglasdale (buses full at 130th) Answer: It seems that bussing is under the city of Calgary and Calgary Transit. There was a school messenger about constraints with school and CBE, with express routes. Staff are monitoring bus sizes and emailing, calling downtown to partners. They are closely monitoring ridership. Constraint with buses they have to offer, driver shortage, etc. City News recently put out an article and interviewed kids (was a surprise). City rep hopes to have new buses by this Fall and continuously looking at improving ridership for the year.
 - As parents what can we do? Parents can go to the Transit Authority and 311 to launch a complaint. Ms. K has a box of cards to spread to their parents when they get home (to give info as much as they can) **TEXT CALGARY TRANSIT at 74100**. Launch a complaint by calling 311 and on 311 website.
 - Parents contacted tonight and were suggested a loop to go back to school. Mr. Sparrow is talking to CBE transport and city transport. They know, just no more money. There are other bus routes . School understands and is here to monitor and advocate about ridership. The school is getting the same answers.
 - Encourage kids to go online and share complaints too.
 - Parents reiterated that it is sad to see many students left behind. Thinking ahead to days of -30 and -40. What can school do? Yellow buses? Answer No. Yellow Bus service has not been part of high schools - always city transport. At least a temporary fix?
 - School is hearing about transport. Ultimately it is parents and student's responsibility to get to school. Many communities are far away and have no money from the government to address this issue. An issue in the past too.

Let's wait a month and they will add a bus here and there and they usually figure it out. If not, ramp up. This is all southern high school problems.

- PARENT VOICE onto Calgary transit and 311. EVERY CALL IS LOGGED as a call complaining about the overcrowding buses and not enough buses. City trying to respond but has no money. KIDS are missing school.
 - City Councillor might be a good avenue to advocate the concern. All highschools are full, especially in south Calgary. Can see next schools being planned, New announcement
- Question about LBHS capacity? Answer: School can hold 2700, right now 2000 (average class size for Math - under 40). Class size depends on the type of class. Science should have less, shops 28. Hard to average out each class.
 - Question - last year staff was removed for an extra resource block, is this happening this year? Answer:, not planning on this year. Re-jigged support system (learning lounge, learning den, etc) Better able to support whole school

12. Elections

All parents/guardians are members of the School Council and are eligible to run for any executive position. Nominations with a seconder can be accepted from the floor. Motions are approved with a 70% vote. Motions are made by show of hands.

a. Election of New Executive members (motion to approve nominations)

Vice-Chair nomination – David J. Motion to nominate David Jones as Vice Chair: Jenn S; seconded by Andrea. Motion carried.

b. Vacant positions: Grade 10 Parent Representative, Grade 11 Parent Representative, Member at Large 3,

- Motion to nominate Jaki S and Shawna A for Members at Large: Jenn S; seconded by Manabu. Motion carried.

- Motion to nominate Laura B for the other Member at Large position: Nate; seconded by Andrea. Motion carried.

C. Grade10 parent representative role gained some interest as a result of the discussion. Matthew nominated himself for the Grade 10 representative. Motion to accept Matthew as Grade 10 Parent Representative: Christa; seconded by Jenn S. Motion carried.

There were questions about the position of grade 10 rep role? The general idea of the role is to help navigate gr 10. It is a more informational role. This person represents specific interests for grade and strives to communicate to bring a collective voice. Perhaps, the survey could

ask about issues, concerns for students and families in this grade. To note, parents can't email LBHS population directly, all communication would have to be vetted through Mr. Sparrow and LBHS administration. Tonight, Member at Large 3 (filled) , Grade 10 Parent Representative role filled. Volunteer Coordinator is still needed. SEND OUT RESPONSIBILITIES in the upcoming communication/survey in hopes of getting this position filled.

13. Next Meeting of LBHS School Council: Tuesday October 15, 2024 at 6:30 pm Motion to adjourn: Nate. Seconded by Matthew. Motion carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted: minutes prepared by Kathleen R (Secretary) and approved by Brenda P (Chair)