

Minutes
Queen Elizabeth High School Council
January 19, 2026 Queen Elizabeth Learning Commons

Meeting called to order at 7pm

1. Land Acknowledgment - *Presented by Ellen Parker*

Ellen Parker opened the meeting with a land acknowledgment.

2. Welcomes and Introductions -*Presented by Ellen Parker*

Introductions took place for all attending the meeting both in person and virtually.

3. Principal's Update - *Presented by Jennifer Edmondson-Neily*

a. Highlights from Students as Leaders, Learners, and Citizens.

Jennifer began by highlighting student leadership initiatives, noting that “it has been wonderful to see students stepping forward and taking ownership of both clubs and school culture.”

Leaders:

- The robotics team has been restarted and recently placed **6th** in their first competition. Strong student engagement was noted. Another competition is scheduled for **February 8, 2026**. Several parents commented positively on the renewed interest in STEM programming.
- The debate team achieved **gold** at the Masters Academy Debate Tournament, which was met with enthusiastic congratulations from council members.
- Senior girls’ volleyball advanced to the quarterfinals. Parents noted strong sports participation this year despite scheduling challenges.
- The Junior High Student Wellness Action Team presented to several CBE middle and junior high schools, sharing strategies related to student well-being and mental health. The principle commented that this group “has become a model for student-led wellness initiatives.” One example of this is Student feedback led to washroom safety improvements, including repaired locks and the installation of feminine hygiene products (through a community donation) Several parents expressed appreciation for the responsiveness to student concerns.
- A new **Principal Advisory Council** has been launched (following the pupil questionnaires from Spring/Fall 2025) to formalize student voice in school decision-making. There will be three students from each grade. The closing date for application is Friday 23 January.

Learners:

- The school hosted multiple post-secondary visits, including an Out-of-Province Fair. Parents asked about turnout, and administration reported strong student participation.

- Course registration for the **2026–2027** school year will take place for Grades 9–11, with parents able to view selections through PowerSchool. Parents were reminded to review course choices with their students.
- Plans are underway to expand Advanced Placement offerings, including **European History, Psychology, and Computer Science**. Parents expressed enthusiasm, particularly for Computer Science.
- Junior High and High School report cards will be issued on **February 2, 2026**.

Citizens:

- Community engagement continues through partnerships with West Hillhurst Preschool, Bethany Care Centre, and Alberta Children's Hospital.
- The annual Bike-a-thon fundraiser in support of the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation is upcoming. Parents discussed past participation and potential promotion strategies.

b. Proposed 'wishlist' from school departments

The principal presented a consolidated list of funding requests from various departments, including:

- Writer-in-Residence program (shared funding with GATE)
- Additional bike rack installation for improved security
- Junior High library refresh
- Art, CTS, science, math, robotics, photography, and environmental education equipment

She explained that requests were reviewed to align with school priorities and student impact. Discussion focused on equitable distribution of funds, prior-year expenditures (particularly for construction), and ensuring no duplication of purchases.

Motion: To approve the proposed funding requests excluding the lathe, contingent on confirmation that construction items were not funded in the prior year.

Moved by: Ellen Parker

Seconded by: Lesley Street

Action: Treasurer to cross-reference prior construction expenditures and confirm eligibility.

4. Booster Club Report – *Presented by Kathie Roberts*

- Anticipated casino funds expected mid-February 2026 based on prior timelines.

5. Updates from other School Council members

A recent standalone band concert was reported as successful, and the Purdy's Chocolate fundraiser has concluded.

Upcoming trips include:

- Alberta International Band Festival
- Mount Royal University visits
- Banff performances

Uniform updates were discussed at length. Gold ties were reported as successful; however, vests were poorly sized due to vendor issues, with no refund available. Administration indicated that future uniform purchases will be made through CBE-approved vendors. A potential model involving school-owned uniforms with rental or instructional fees was briefly discussed.

Please see below QE band proposal for the 2026/2027 school year.

QE Band Uniform Proposal for the 2026-2027 School Year

To: Parent Council, School Council

From: Heather Lai, QEBPA Representative

Date: January 19, 2026

Subject: Funding Request for Band Uniform Expansion and Maintenance

Overview

The Queen Elizabeth Band Program continues to be a cornerstone of our school's culture. Following our success at Sunpeaks and our recent performances over the 2025-2026 season, our enrollment has continued to climb. To ensure every student represents Queen Elizabeth with the professionalism our program is known for, we are requesting funding for additional uniform sets to accommodate our growing membership.

Rationale

Last year's investment in the uniform elevated our stage presence and student morale. As we enter the 2026-2027 school year, we want to target vests for the upcoming school year.

- **Accommodating Growth:** Increased enrollment in the QE Band requires vests that fit the junior and high school population.
- **Consistency:** Ensuring band members match the established look of the Senior and Junior ensembles.
- **Professional Identity:** Maintaining the "Gold Standard" appearance that adjudicators and the community have come to expect from QE.
- **Equity:** Providing school-owned uniforms ensures no student is excluded from performance opportunities due to the cost of formal attire.

Details of Request

- **Items Requested:** Additional Vests and Ties (Expansion Stock).
- **Target Quantity:** 200 vests
- **Estimated Cost Per Set:** Vest (~\$45) \$50
- **Total Estimated Cost:** \$10 000
- **QEBPA Commitment:** The QEBPA will continue to cover all costs associated with annual dry cleaning, storage solutions, and the management of the uniform sign-out/sign-in process.

Financial Request

We are asking the Council for \$5000 to cover the purchase of these additional high-quality, washable vests and ties from a CBE approved vendor. This ensures we are fully prepared for our first performance in the 2026 fall.

Timeline

- **Funding Approval:** By Monday, February 23, 2026
- **Order Placement:** will be already placed via CBE
- **Delivery:** Prior to September 2026

Conclusion

Investing in our band's uniform inventory is an investment in our students' confidence and the school's reputation. By ensuring every student has access to a professional uniform, we foster a sense of belonging and pride. We thank the Council for their past support and respectfully request your help in sustaining this standard of excellence.

Sincerely,

Heather Lai QEBPA Representative

Further updates will be brought forward at the March meeting.

6. Questions from other school council members

The Chair invited discussion on future initiatives. Ideas raised included exploring the development of a school mascot and continuing to build community and business partnerships. No motions were brought forward.

GATE Parent Representative, shared early planning for a parent education event tentatively scheduled for late February or early March. Parents expressed interest and requested additional details when available.

Meeting Adjourned: 8.03pm

Next meeting – March 16, 2026

2025–2026 School Council Meeting Schedule

- **March 16, 2026**
- **May 19, 2026**

All meetings will be held in person at the Learning Commons, with an option to attend online via Microsoft Teams.