

Queen Elizabeth High School Council Minutes
Tuesday May 19 2026
Queen Elizabeth Learning Commons 7pm

1. Land Acknowledgement - *Ellen Parker*

Ellen Parker opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement recognizing the traditional territory and respecting the Indigenous peoples who lived on and cared for the land before us.

2. Introduction of School Council and Booster Association- *Ellen Parker*

Ellen Parker welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions from Council members and attendees both in person and online.

Attendees

- Ellen Parker – Chair
- Leslie Street – Vice Chair
- Tina Brown – Band Representative
- Dan Furst – High School Representative
- Kathy Roberts – Booster Treasurer
- Jennifer Edmondson-Neily – Principal
- Lisa Kelly – Secretary (virtual)
- Chris Peng – GATE Representative
- Sarah Brown
- Chantal Aksehirli

3. Recruitment for Next Year's School Council Members - *Ellen Parker*

Ellen Parker discussed planning for the 2026–27 school year and encouraged additional parent participation. She provided an overview of School Council and Booster Association roles within the school community. She explained that:

- the council supports school initiatives, fundraising, parent engagement, and school administration
- casino fundraising remains one of the primary fundraising responsibilities
- meetings are held every second month and last for one hour.

Council members discussed the value of parent involvement and community participation.

Current Positions

- Lisa Kelly confirmed she intends to continue as Secretary next year.
- Ellen Parker expressed willingness to remain as Chair.
- Kathy Roberts noted she would appreciate additional treasury support or a “shadow treasurer” to assist with Booster responsibilities moving forward.

Ellen recently spoke with several parents during school field trips and may have recruited potential new members for next year’s council.

Council members emphasized:

- the relatively low time commitment,
- the positive impact parent volunteers have on the school community,
- the importance of recruiting additional casino volunteers and council members.

Parents were encouraged to reach out if interested in becoming involved.

4. Principal’s Update –*Jennifer Edmondson-Neily*

QEHS Leaders, Learners and Citizens

Jennifer Edmondson-Neily update highlighted student achievement, leadership, citizenship, athletics, arts, mental health initiatives, and community partnerships.

Science Fair & Robotics Achievements

Several Queen Elizabeth students will be advancing to Nationals following success at the Calgary City Science Fair in Edmonton next week.

A student robotics project entered into Samsung’s “Solve for Tomorrow” competition achieved national recognition:

- the student became a semi-finalist,
- Queen Elizabeth received \$5,000 worth of Samsung robotics equipment,
- the student travelled to Toronto to represent the school.

Although not selected as the overall winner, the student represented Queen Elizabeth exceptionally well.

The school hosted a robotics watch party for students and staff while the competition results were announced. Samsung sponsored pizza for attendees.

Queen Elizabeth’s robotics program may be featured on CTV News later in the week.

Telus Spark Prototype Project

Grade 9 GATE students recently participated in an interactive science showcase at Telus Spark Science Centre.

Students:

- created projects explaining scientific theories and concepts,
- designed interactive learning experiences for younger students,
- presented and communicated their learning publicly.

Jennifer praised the creativity and presentation skills demonstrated by students throughout the evening.

Arts & Theatre Program

Jennifer highlighted recent successes within the arts program:

- band students attended camp in Banff,
- the school production of *The Breakfast Club* sold out all three performances.

The production was especially notable because:

- the stage adaptation was written by Queen Elizabeth teacher Mr. Sword,
- graduating Grade 12 theatre students spoke following the final performance about the importance of the theatre program and school community.

Jennifer noted that student reflections strongly demonstrated belonging, connection, and positive student wellbeing within the school.

Athletics Update

Athletics continue to be highly active across both junior high and high school programs.

Highlights included:

- Junior high badminton teams winning divisional championships,
- Queen Elizabeth hosting the divisional badminton tournament,
- Senior high badminton teams earning silver medals,
- Four athletes qualifying for senior high track championships,
- Completion of boys soccer season,
- Continued development of field hockey and flag football programs.

Discussion occurred regarding the connection between Queen Elizabeth flag football and Aberhart High School football opportunities.

Key information:

- football registration for next season is beginning immediately,
- training camp occurs later in June,
- no previous football experience is required.

Council members expressed concern that families may not yet be fully aware of football timelines and opportunities. Jennifer agreed to ensure additional communication is included in Knight Notes.

Writer in Residence Program

Jennifer provided details about the Writer in Residence program involving Grade 9 Humanities and GATE students.

Students participated in:

- a walking field study through Kensington,
- observational writing activities focused on the five senses,
- creative writing exercises centered on developing setting and descriptive detail.

Student work may later be published to the school community.

Upcoming Events & Year-End Activities

Jennifer reviewed upcoming June events and important dates.

Upcoming activities include:

- Grade 8 sailing trip,
- Heritage Park and swimming trips for Grade 7 students,
- Grade 9 Royal Tyrrell Museum trip,
- Grade 9 year-end celebration at Calaway Park.

Important scheduling reminders:

- June 2 remains a non-instructional day due to graduation ceremonies,
- June 9 is the final regular instructional day for high school students,
- PAT and diploma exam schedules have been posted.

Council members suggested future communications more clearly indicate that the graduation closure applies to the entire school, including junior high students.

Mental Health Initiatives & Community Partnerships

Jennifer highlighted several mental health initiatives completed this spring.

Mental Health Week

Students:

- participated in wellness activities,
- discussed positive mental health and mental health literacy,
- raised approximately \$700 for Kids Help Phone.

Bike-a-thon & Summit Partnership

The annual Bike-a-thon raised over \$10,000 for Summit Centre.

Jennifer also discussed expanding partnerships with Summit:

- workplace practicum opportunities for students,
- volunteer opportunities,
- café training through Phil & Sebastian Coffee,
- horticulture-based volunteer projects.

Students in the Knowledge & Employability stream may participate in work experience placements connected to these programs.

2026–2027 School Enrollment & Staffing Update

2026/2027 Enrollment Projections

Current school enrollment is approximately 934 students.

Projected enrollment for 2026–27 currently exceeds 1,000 students.

Enrollment trends include:

- significant increase in Grade 7 enrollment,
- stable Grade 8 and Grade 10 enrollment,
- growth projected in Grades 11 and 12.

Jennifer explained that increased enrollment improves:

- timetable flexibility,
- course availability,
- scheduling opportunities for students.

Staffing Update

Staffing levels are currently expected to remain stable:

- no funding reductions anticipated,
- no teacher retirements expected,
- minimal staff turnover anticipated.

Jennifer explained:

- if enrollment remains above projections in September, additional teachers may be hired,
- administration prefers waiting until fall to avoid overstaffing if summer enrollment shifts occur.

Discussion also occurred regarding:

- student retention from Grade 9 to Grade 10,
- transfers for IB programming,
- athletic pathways,
- Queen Elizabeth's unique Grade 7–12 structure,
- advanced placement and Capstone programming opportunities.

Jennifer emphasized that Queen Elizabeth students transition smoothly into high school due to the school's structure and academic preparation.

Next Year Meeting Dates

Council reviewed proposed meeting dates and discussed planning for next year.

- September 21 2026
- November 16 2026
- January 18 2027
- March 15 2027
- May 17 2027

Council agreed that:

- 7:00 PM remains the preferred start time,
- earlier meetings are difficult for families due to dinner and commuting schedules,
- virtual participation continues to be valuable for accessibility.

Meet the Teacher Night

Meet the Teacher Night is scheduled for September 10, 2026.

Council discussed creating a stronger community event atmosphere through:

- PAC information tables,
- popcorn and snacks,

- possible food trucks,
- volunteer student involvement.

Lisa Kelly will explore possible food truck partnerships through the community centre.

First Day of School Welcome Table

Council discussed organizing:

- coffee for parents - Lisa Kelly volunteered to organize coffee for the morning.
- a PAC welcome table for Grade 7 and Grade 8 families,
- volunteer recruitment opportunities on the first day of school.

5. Updates from Other School Council Members

Booster Treasurer Update – Kathy Roberts

Kathy Roberts provided a financial update:

- finances remain stable,
- previously approved teacher requests have been ordered,
- final purchasing reconciliation will occur over the summer.

Kathy also confirmed:

- Queen Elizabeth has received its casino slotting letter for Q2 of 2027,
- volunteers will be needed next school year.

Casino Funding Discussion

Council discussed recent questions regarding AGLC casino funding regulations.

Topics included:

- restrictions on infrastructure and staffing expenses,
- allowable technology purchases,
- differences between AGLC restrictions and Calgary Board of Education restrictions.

Chris Peng noted recent AGLC handbook updates from March 2025.

Jennifer agreed to review updated regulations and provide clarification if needed.

GATE Parent Association Update – Chris Peng

- the GATE Parent Association recently hosted an educational presentation by Dr. Matthew Makle from the University of Calgary,
- the presentation focused on evaluating expert research and information,
- a recording of the webinar will be circulated to families.
- The GATE Parent Association is organizing a year-end fundraiser.

6. Questions from Attendees

Questions and discussion topics throughout the meeting included:

- football registration and communication,
- Grade 9 to Grade 10 student retention,
- IB programming transfers,
- athletics and transfer policies,
- parent communication regarding non-instructional days,
- casino funding regulations,
- opportunities for increased parent involvement.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM.

Next Meeting: September 21 2026 AGM

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