

December 16, 2025 Dry Grad Parent Committee Meeting Minutes Cariboo Hill Secondary School

Attendees: Meena Mangat (Vice Principal), Katrina Craig (treasurer), Lisa Young (chairperson), James Choo (committee member), Karen Bajwa (committee member), Namita Sahni (committee member), Sonia Loretan, Olga Barabakh, Olga Otero, Maggie, Khoal, Jesse Momrath, Julia Craig (grade 12 student and grad council co-chair), and Simranjit Kaur (grade 12 student and grad council co-chair)

Regrets: Laurie Kravski (communications lead),

Agenda

Welcome & Introduction

Review of Previous Action Items – Lisa

- Lynch buses booked & deposit paid
- Purdy's Fundraiser complete - \$1,060 profit
- Sonia Loretan researching entertainment; grad wish list shared

Entertainment research update from Sonia Loretan

- Sonia reported having contacted 6 entertainment companies.
- To finalize a plan, she asked for budget information and estimated attendance numbers.
- Roughly 100 students are expected to attend, based on past dry grad and winter semi-formal attendance numbers; however, as there is no change in venue this year, an assumption has been made that all/most students attending the dinner and dance will likely stay for dry grad.
- Katrina (treasurer) confirmed the allotted entertainment budget is \$4000.00.
- Out of that \$4000.00, we will need to cover the incremental cost for the DJ (who will provide another 2 hours of service beyond the dinner and dance).
- The DJ is also providing a photo booth.
- The grad council members confirmed that as of now, the students prefer casino entertainment.

Grad Council Update (Simranjit and Julia)

- **The Krispy Creme fundraiser is** now scheduled for January 20, 2026, and not January 10, 2026, at Walmart.

- **Other updates:** Grad merchandize sales have been extended to the week of December 15, 2025; purchases will be delivered in January of 2026.

Clothing/Bottle Drive Fundraiser Update -Rahul & Namita

- Event scheduled on January 10, 2026
- Status - booking with recycling company and Big Brother confirmed
- Volunteers required (so far 10)
- Shifts (in between 8-3 pm)
- Flyers distribution (this week)
- Snacks, lunch, drinks for volunteers (TBC)
- Fundraising Goal: \$1,000 (last year: \$1016)
- Namita drafted a fundraiser flyer and forwarded it to Ms. DaSilva, who has forwarded it to a different school contact for distribution (as she is not responsible for this)
- There are 10 volunteers to date; shifts are 8 to 3pm, and more volunteers are needed
- Katrina noted that the previous year had 25 volunteers and iterated the need for both parents and students to help.
- To recruit more volunteers, Katrina is sharing the volunteer recruitment email with Julia (grad council), to share with the grad students.
- To those parents on the call that have offered to help in general, Katrina asked that they help with the bottle drive and send their contact information to the dry grad email.
- Bottle drive will be in the back parking lot
- Rahul indicated the Big Brother rules for the clothing drive: they will pay by the pound for clothing and accessories (i.e. shoes); household appliances are not accepted.
- Rahul will confirm with Big Brother that they will accept bedding/blankets/towels
- In her message to the grad students, Julia will ask them to donate clothing in addition to bottles.
- As grad students will be required to distribute fundraiser flyers, Julia noted they will require them ASAP.
- Ms. Mangat confirmed that the flyers will be available for students to distribute in the first week of school, after the winter break (January 5).
- Ms. Mangat will also send a fundraiser notice to the other schools in the first week back

Questions for Ms. Mangat

- **DJ costs** - Katrina will need the DJ contact details and the quote to extend services from 11pm - 1am
- **Dry grad fees to be determined**
 - Previously set dry grad fee cancelled (as no change in venue)

- An incremental fee (i.e. \$10.00 or \$15.00) is being considered for Dry Grad; once the amount is confirmed, it will be determined how fee will be collected.
- The school intends to refund those students who already paid the original fee (and they will not ask if we can keep as donation).
- Under 25 students had already paid.
- Meena will follow up and confirm whether guests attending the dinner/dance can stay for dry grad.
- It is confirmed that guests can stay for dry grad, they will be charged an attendance fee.
- Katrina explained that if parents want to make a dry grad donation, they can make the payment to the Burnaby school district, who will forward the funds to Cariboo dry grad council

Midnight buffet cost – Pinnacle

- Katrina researched costs of food provided by the Pinnacle and it will be more costly (i.e. a bare minimum of cheese platters will exceed the \$1000.00 budget)
- this leaves no funds to provide more substantial snacks i.e. pizza
- Meena suggested that the students be encouraged to eat properly at the dinner and dance (which they can neglect to do so), as minimal snacks will be available at dry grad.
- Katrina asked Meena if she could, in any way, negotiate dry grad food costs with the venue (i.e. reduce costs of snacks or allow dry grad council to bring in snacks from a different provider/s)

Budget Overview – Katrina

Katrina provided a budget overview and in light of costs and the need to reserve funds for a scholarship and next year's grad class, Katrina asked parents to ask community businesses, friends and family for charitable donations.

Next Steps/action items

- Katrina will forward the bottle drive google link to Julia to share with grad students to gain traction for volunteering and donations.
- Sonia will obtain and present entertainment information at the next meeting so that we can secure bookings ASAP, in light of rivaling schools.
- Rahul will draft another bottle and clothing drive email to Amber Seel so she can send it to school community on Thursday, December 18.
- Flyers will also be distributed in the week of January 5, 2026.
- 50/50 raffle to be planned as another fundraiser

- Meena mentioned that crispy cream sales (from 6 to 7 pm) at last year's open house night was successful.
- Jesse Momrath volunteered to run crispy cream at this year's open house night on January 20, 2026
- Katrina explained that the organizer can contact Crispy Cream to make arrangements.
- As of now, this will be a cash only event, but Meena will ask the theater teacher if it is possible to extend the use of the tap machine (for theatre production sales) to the dry grad committee for crispy cream sale.

Next meeting January 13, 2026 (moved up to touch base on entertainment planning and the crispy crème fundraiser)

Contact email drygrad.cariboo@gmail.com.

Email information for December 16, 2025 meeting attendees:

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