

**PHS School Council Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 26, 2026**  
**7:00 - 8:00pm**  
**Library**

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

J. Kimpson & K. Brewda

**2. Leadership Update**

House Leaders

Mya A. and Isabel V.

- Feb - Carnation Giveaways to send to anyone in school board - profits to St Mary's cardiac care
- Pep Rally Assembly
- Kindness week Feb 23 - 27 To uplift spirits
- Life Skills class food drive between period 2 classes of who can bring in the most food  
In the future may focus on Downs Syndrome
- Multicultural Week at the end of April
- Elections for next year house council: Grade 11 students can run for these spots
- Iftar Dinner to celebrate the end of Ramadan March 12 Ticket sales \$10 on school day; Everyone is welcome to the PHS Iftar Dinner. Put on by PHS Muslim Student Association

**3. Staff Update**

L. Brennan

- Course Selections on [myBlueprint](#)
  - Students have put in their request
  - Guidance Counsellors are meeting with students (will take some time)
- [Summer School 2026](#) Dates: June 29,30 July 2-24
  - Month of July, 1 credit
  - Canada Day - no school
  - 19 school days
  - In person is at Huron Heights
  - Busing (leaves from your home school)
  - On line options as well
- New Minister's Certificate of Recognition for Community Hours [Ministry of Education](#) website (50-99 hours / 100-199 hours / 200+ hours). We are creating a PHS process now. Only Grade 12 students will be asked to self-identify if they are applying for this certificate; they must fill out a PHS google form with all of the pertinent information before April 15th. Students will be asked to be aware of [ineligible activities](#).

- Career Conversations with the Business Education Partnership Volunteers: April 28 for Grade 9 & 10 classes - goal is to expose students to a variety of careers, a variety of pathways and ways people decide what is the right fit for their job

#### 4. **Principal's Report**

S. Weatherdon

- Darcy Mintz VP was transferred to Bluevale CI; Jill Mullen is a PHS staff member with her VP papers who is stepping into the role of VP. In the Fall of 2026 PHS will only have 1 Vice Principal, not two
- Lock down drill - Wednesday, March 4th at the start of period 2  
It is important to practice these drills so all know what to do.
- AI presentation 6-7pm - Francis Coral Mellon (how AI could influence career choices)
  - before our **May 6th meeting 7-8pm**
  - Promotional Materials / School Day message will be sent to feeder schools
- Google Gemini is a tool that the WRDSB is rolling out. Students will be able to access this AI tool. This will help us teach when to use it, how to critically think as you use it. This does put firewalls on this platform so it is protected.
- Human Trafficking workshop - **Thursday, April 16, 2026 7-9pm PHS Library**  
PHS will be the Cambridge Host Site for this event for community members to come to listen to this topic.  
WRDSB Staff are trained annually on watching for signs that might show a connection to Human Trafficking.
- Whole School Assembly  
Vicki Olatundun - Guest Speaker (Thurs April 23rd, 2026) Local community member; lawyer by trade. She is a black female who will speak about the Power of Words.  
At lunchtime Vicki will spend time with our Black Student Association Students.
- PHS Enrollment  
Most Cambridge high schools are in declining enrollment.  
Those from Clemens Mills have a long travel time to PHS; able to walk to St. Benedicts  
Students are choosing to go to St. BEnedicts  
In the WRDSB, we have many magnet programs that pull students away from their home high school (Fast Forward, IB International Bachelorate, IA Integrated Arts); PHS does not have a magnet program  
Why don't we have a magnet program at PHS? This will not necessarily help. Shawn has been speaking to the WRDSB about what options could exist to help with our enrollment challenges.  
The Catholic Board has a whole school model with every school offering every program; they can do that with 5 high schools. The WRDSB has 16 high school so we cannot

offer all programs in every school - that is how the magnet programs were designed to give students the opportunity to go to a program that interests them  
PHS and GCI teamed up to go over to the Grade 8 classes at Clemens Mills and staff gave a presentation on STEM and extracurricular activities at PHS for awareness purposes.

New developments in Cambridge should help PHS (Langs Apartment complex)  
New Catholic High School called Notre Dame in the Chicopee Area and our Deer Ridge families could in the future choose that 7-12 school

Is there a way we could get the message out to parents? (portables bursting, has 2 lunch hours - may not be with your friends -can't have a bbq out back at St. Benedicts)  
IDEA: Videos to share with WRDSB communications or share this on instagram with our feeder schools.

\*\*1 more year of dropping; we may be the smallest population next year and then we may start growing again.

- Joe's idea - Student/School Council Campaign "Why come to PHS"
- We did some recordings about 'What students like about being a PHS Student'.
- Our Grade 8 Night was a big success - it was much busier than last year

#### **Next Meeting Dates:**

- Wednesday, May 6th 6-7pm in the Library; followed by a Guest Speaker on AI