



EVERETT HIGH SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL: JOHN BRAGA
VICE PRINCIPALS: ROBERT DILORETO AND JAMES MURPHY

May 27, 2026
School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: May 27, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Everett High School (Hybrid: In-Person and Google Meet)

Facilitator: Dr. John Braga, Principal

I. Call to Order

Dr. John Braga called the meeting of the Everett High School Council to order at approximately 4:00 PM.

II. Attendance

Members Present (In Person):

- Dr. John Braga, Principal
- Lucy DiNatale, Assistant Principal, Grade 9
- Antoinette Blanchard, Parent Representative
- Karen Bernier, Parent Representative
- Brendan Mangan, Success Coach

Members Present (Remote):

- Mary DeFelice, ELA Director
- Lyndsay Thanawitsuk, Teacher/Teacher's Union Representative
- Eva Shkreta, Community Member / Teacher Representative

III. Approval of April 29, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Copies of the meeting minutes from April 29, 2026, were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the April 29, 2026, meeting minutes

Second: Motion seconded.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Approved minutes will be submitted in accordance with Open Meeting Law requirements.

IV. Grade 8 to Grade 9 Transition Planning

The primary agenda item focused on strengthening the transition process for students entering Everett High School from Everett's K–8 schools and from private and charter schools.

A. Current Transition Initiatives

Dr. Braga reported that he and Vice Principal Robert DiLoreto have begun meeting regularly with K-8 principals to improve alignment and communication between schools. Planned transition activities for June include:

- Visits by 8th-grade students following Science MCAS testing.
- Small-group field trips to Everett High School.
- School tours and building navigation practice.
- Presentations on:
 - Graduation requirements
 - Credits and GPA
 - Course selection
 - Clubs, athletics, and extracurricular opportunities
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways
- Introduction to Grade 9 administration and support staff.

The goal is to provide students with a clearer understanding of high school expectations before entering ninth grade.

B. Transition Challenges Identified

Council members discussed several areas that frequently present challenges for incoming freshmen.

1. Lunch and Building Navigation

Members noted that K-8 students:

- Eat lunch in assigned seats.
- Are escorted to and from lunch.
- Remain on a single floor for most classes.
- Have recess built into their schedule.

By contrast, high school students must:

- Navigate the building independently.
- Locate lunch periods and cafeteria seating on their own.
- Move between multiple floors and classrooms.
- Manage shorter lunch periods without recess.

Suggestions included:

- Providing additional building tours.
- Creating videos demonstrating lunch procedures.
- Allowing students to practice high school-style lunch procedures while still in eighth grade.

2. Student Email Usage

Members emphasized that many eighth-grade students use email primarily for logging into platforms rather than for communication.

Recommendations included:

- Encouraging K-8 teachers to require students to check their email regularly.
- Sending weekly messages and assignments that require email responses.
- Building email habits before entering high school.

3. Understanding Grades, Credits, and Graduation Requirements

Council members discussed the need for students to better understand:

- Letter grades versus pass/fail grading.
- GPA calculation.
- Graduation requirements.
- Credit accumulation.
- Consequences of failing courses.

Particular concern was raised regarding students' transition from pass/fail electives in middle school to graded elective courses in high school.

C. Student Voice and Peer Connections

The Council discussed opportunities to strengthen peer-to-peer communication.

Student Panel

Members recommended creating a panel of current ninth-grade students who would answer questions submitted in advance by eighth-grade students.

Benefits include:

- Providing authentic student perspectives.
- Allowing incoming freshmen to hear directly from peers.
- Addressing common concerns and misconceptions.

Student Mentorship Program

The Council discussed establishing a mentoring program that would connect incoming ninth-grade students with upperclassmen.

Potential features include:

- One-to-one or small-group mentoring.
- Student ambassador involvement.
- Regular check-ins throughout the school year.

- Lunch meetings and relationship-building opportunities.
- Community service credit for participating mentors.

Members agreed that mentoring could help incoming students feel more connected and supported during their first year.

D. Increasing Awareness of School Opportunities

Council members discussed the importance of exposing eighth-grade students to the full range of opportunities available at Everett High School.

Topics included:

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.
- Clubs and extracurricular activities.
- Athletics.
- Academic academies.
- College and career pathways.

Members noted the importance of continuing outreach efforts by CTE teachers, club advisors, and student leaders at the K–8 level.

E. Outreach to Private and Charter School Students

The Council discussed expanding transition opportunities for Everett residents attending private or charter schools.

Recommendations included:

- Inviting private and charter school students to transition events.
- Offering dedicated orientation opportunities when appropriate.
- Ensuring equitable access to information about Everett High School programs and services.

F. Summer Assignments and Academic Preparation

Members discussed the need for earlier communication regarding summer reading and academic expectations.

Recommendations included:

- Introducing summer assignments shortly after April vacation.
- Allowing students to select books earlier.
- Providing opportunities to meet ninth-grade ELA teachers before summer.
- Clearly communicating expectations and consequences related to summer assignments.

The English Department plans to support incoming students through book selection guidance and assignment orientation sessions.

G. Future Transition Planning

Additional suggestions included:

- Monthly transition meetings begin as early as February.

- Shorter, more focused presentations rather than single lengthy sessions.
- Topic-specific meetings addressing:
 - Academics
 - Humanities
 - Arts
 - Athletics
 - Student life
 - Technology and Aspen access

Members agreed that sustained communication throughout the year would be more effective than one-time informational sessions.

V. Future Agenda Items

The June meeting will focus on:

- Celebrating the work of the School Council during the 2025–2026 school year.
- Identifying priority agenda items for the 2026–2027 School Council.
- Providing each member with an opportunity to propose one topic for future discussion and explain its significance.

VI. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Second: Motion seconded.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:35 PM.

Next Meeting

Date: June 10, 2026

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Everett High School (Hybrid)

Agenda:

- End-of-year celebration
- Reflection on School Council work
- Development of agenda priorities for the 2026–2027 school year

Notes approved on: June 10, 2026, School Council Meeting