

**CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2026 – Canon-McMillan High School**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

November meeting minutes will be approved at the February meeting.

3. Principal and School Updates

Presenter: Ms. Taylor

- Ms. Taylor recognized the Cheerleading Squad for winning the State Championship.
- Building-related updates were shared.

4. Guest Speaker & District Updates

Presenter: Julie Hughes, School Counselor

A. Dual Enrollment Opportunities

Program Definitions

- **Dual Credit** – Students earn both high school and college credit simultaneously.
- **College in High School (CHS)** –

Courses taught by Canon-McMillan teachers who have been approved by partner universities.

Partner institutions include:

Carlow University, University of Pittsburgh, Robert Morris University, and Seton Hill University.

Courses are offered across multiple subject areas including theater, business, international relations, law, and accounting.

- **Dual Enrollment (External Model)** –

Students enroll directly with a college and take courses online or on campus. These courses typically earn college credit.

Costs & Structure

- CHS courses generally cost approximately \$300 per class.
- Traditional university courses may cost approximately \$3,000 per class.
- Courses may be semester or full-year in length.
- Final exams are typically required.
- Courses are included in weighted GPA calculations.

Benefits of Dual Enrollment / Dual Credit

- Helps students build time management and self-discipline.
- Provides early exposure to college-level expectations.
- Students are statistically more likely to complete a bachelor's degree.

- Students often achieve higher first-year college GPAs.
- Potential tuition savings of approximately \$200–\$300 per credit.
- Students may graduate one to two semesters early.

Credit Transfer Considerations

- Most institutions require a grade of C or higher.
- Transferability varies by college or university.
- Families are encouraged to research transfer policies.
- Credits may count as electives or toward major requirements depending on the institution.

B. AP vs Dual Enrollment

Advanced Placement (AP)

- Standardized curriculum governed by College Board.
- Credit dependent on AP exam performance.
- Exams administered in May.
- District pays for AP exams.
- Widely accepted by selective institutions.

Dual Enrollment / CHS

- Credit based on course grade rather than exam score.
- Curriculum determined by partner universities.
- Viewed as strong evidence of college readiness.
- Becomes part of the student's permanent college transcript.

Key Takeaway

- AP and Dual Enrollment serve different strategic purposes.
- Many students benefit from a hybrid approach.

Eligibility & Timing

- CHS participation depends on course prerequisites.
- Some opportunities available beginning in 10th grade.
- Many courses typically taken in 11th or 12th grade.
- Dual Enrollment commonly available starting in 10th grade.

Additional Student Benefits

- Students remain in a familiar high school support environment.
- University transcripts available at reduced cost.
- Access to tutoring and academic support systems.
- Opportunity for academic exploration.

5. District Updates – Dr. Scott Chambers

- August 20 was presented as the proposed first day of school (pending Board Agenda).

Final Exam Implementation

- Final exams will be required in all semester and year-long courses at the high school.
- Finals will account for 10% of the course grade.
- Semester grades will combine marking periods with final exam components.

College in High School Growth

- Significant growth in CHS participation was noted.
- Benefits of program expansion were discussed.

Technology Updates

- District website functioning reliably.
- Mobile app experiencing problems for some families
- Families encouraged to contact technology support for assistance.

Safe Arrival Procedures

- Early dismissals must be entered before 8:25 AM for the high school
- Alternate procedures apply after that time.

5. Old Business

No old business.

6. New Business

No new business.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.