

GRAD 2025 MEETING MINUTES
October 2, 2024

INDIGENOUS GRAD: June 4, 2025

Separate communication will come from MSS Indigenous Student Advocates with more details.

MSS GRADUATION CEREMONIES: Thursday, June 19, 2025

PROM / PARADE: Saturday, June 21, 2025

GRAD PHOTOS: November 23-29, 2024 (Retakes – March 3-5)

- **Appointments:** An email from Crystal Ward-McGowan will be sent with details on making an appointment. This will be done online.
- **Sitting Fee:** Past sitting fees have been \$25.
- **Appointment Day:** Typically, the photos take place in the MSS Upper Gym and goes continuously through the week. You will get proofs to order from and should be able to order before winter break. Caps and gowns are provided by photographers, as students will not be getting their cap and gown until June, and MSS provides beaded caps and gowns for those that want one.

GRAD FEES: \$225 for 2025 (increased \$25 from last year)

What are grad fees for? Last year we collected \$24,000 in grad fees and had only \$600 leftover. The budget is very tight, and venue expenses have gone up quite a bit, which is why we are looking at an increase this year.

Covered in Grad Fees (collected by MSS):

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| - Arena Rental | - Certificates |
| - Sound, Video, Live Stream during Ceremonies | - Program and invitations |
| - Décor during Ceremonies | - Ads in the Newspaper |
| - Insurance for Grad Walk | - Yearbooks |
| - Grad Caps and Gowns (students keep) | - Smaller expenses |

Other possible outstanding fees:

- Student fees are \$30 yearly.
- Library or textbooks
- Athletic fees

All outstanding fees must be paid to get your students Cap and Gown for the Ceremonies.

Indigenous Bands usually pay grad fees. Reach out to your band education coordinator.

PAYMENT:

Please contact Angela Russell at MSS for a statement of your accounts in the office, at 250-315-1121 or by email arussell@365.sd58.bc.ca.

Payments can be made by cash at the school, cheque or by etransfer to:

mssaccounts@365.sd58.bc.ca

PEER SUPERVISION:

We are still accepting volunteers for peer supervision.

Students volunteer to give up lunches for \$\$ to go towards grad fees, etc. \$15.50/hr. Please see September meeting minutes for more details or contact Inder Mattoo (VP) in the office, by phone 250-315-1117 or at bmattoo@365.sd58.bc.ca.

COMMUNICATION:

Please make sure students and families check emails all the time. We send out frequent emails with info.

The School Website and Facebook are also updated regularly with information regularly.

PARTICIPATION IN GRAD CEREMONY:

Student participating in the Grad Ceremony is based on the following criteria:

1. Student must be on track to grad as of June 1st. That means if you don't have a total of 80 credits or on track to pass 80 credits, then you will not be on the grad list. SCIDES/Distance Education courses must be $\frac{2}{3}$ completed, in order to count towards your 80 credits, by June 1st. If students are not on track families will get an email from Mr. Andersen letting them know.
2. Provincial Assessments are also required to be completed. First date: Oct 29th A-L / 30th M-Z Literacy Assessment. Student MUST complete to participate in Grad. Completion is mandatory, score is not essential. Questions direct to Lia Larson llarson@365.sd58.bc.ca

Grad lists indicating those students eligible to participate will be posted in October, after Term 2 and 3, with a final list posted one week ahead of the deadline.

GRAD WEAR:

Our fall order for grad wear is due October 4th – this Friday. There will be another round of ordering early next year.

HONOR CORDS:

Administration is looking at reviewing the criteria for honor cords. One of the criteria options is that students must be graduating with 92 credits (3 extra courses) in order to get the honor cord. There will be an update on this criteria at a later date when it is finalized.

YEARBOOK:

Good news, enough students have signed up/changed their courses that we will be getting a yearbook this year.

GRAD EXECUTIVE REPORT – Tina Etchart, President

We had our first meeting tonight.

Preliminary Budget Information:

As an Executive we don't charge fees, we fundraise and volunteer.

We are looking at 20-25,000 for everything and are hopeful that our first event will cover a big chunk of that.

Volunteers – please consider joining us.

Please reach out to us if you have volunteers that can help support. We are always looking for more help.

Donations - welcome toward grad class. Many options available. Can be food, services, items, money, etc. There is not an obligation, but it costs an estimated \$200-\$250 per person to put on the grad events.

Ideas – If you have any additional ideas for Grad, please reach out to anyone on the Grad Committee (contacts below). Our Executive Committee meetings (1 hr before regular information meetings) are open for anyone to attend, so please feel free to come in early.

Accounting – Ryan Dell

We are just starting out and have \$2,400 in our Grad Account.

It sounds like we will be in the negative shortly as initial expenses are coming in.

Fundraising – Jacqueline Klassen

Online Bingo coming up – date tba. Prices coming soon. \$5/sheet.

Bottle Drive coming up – date tba. Save your bottles. Looking at end of Oct/beginning of Nov.

Return it Depot – Grad account setup. Just put “Grad 2025” on your returns the Depot will allocate it to us. Contact a grad to bring in your donation if you can't.

Halloween Dance (Adult / 19+) – We have a light up dance floor. Dress up or don't. We need to sell 200 tickets. If we sell more, we get more for grad events. We have an option for groups to keep it cheaper.

Online Auction – End of November. Definitely need donations. (ie. Restaurants, etc.) Jill Schultz organizing collecting.

Xmas Greenery – Coming soon.

Jacqueline is hoping to have a thermometer to see what we have raised and be transparent with it.

Haunted House – Lili Park

Volunteer sign up still in the hall on the Grad bulletin board.

Need donated props and costumes:

- Zombie Props
- Mad Scientist: rope/fake beakers/needles
- Stuffed animal donations that can be shredded
- Large Cardboard boxes
- Cute teddy bear for living doll
- Vintage doll
- Single or double bed

Pumpkin Hour: No children, because it will be too scary.

Grad Hockey Game – Molly Brigden

Date: Wednesday, February 19th

Dry Grad – Catherine Holmes

Looking for ideas from students.

Get in touch with your student reps for ideas, Nan, Kelsey and Marcy. They are setting up a survey in school to get ideas on various things.

CONTACT INFO:

(See attached)

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 6th – MSS Library Learning Commons

Grad Executive: 6:00 (All welcome to join)

Grad Information Meeting: 7:00

2025 GRAD CONTACTS

POSITION	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
MSS Grad Coordinator	Dave Andersen	dandersen@365.sd58.bc.ca
MSS Grad Coordinator	Crystal Ward McGowan	cwardmcgowan@365.sd58.bc.ca
2025 Grad Executive		
President	Tina Etchart	tinaetchart@gmail.com
Vice President	Wasanthi Wainwright	wwainwright@365.sd58.bc.ca
Secretary	Brandy Striemer	bstriemer@365.sd58.bc.ca
Treasurer	Ryan Dell	rgldell@icloud.com
Dry Grad Committee Chair	Catherine Holmes	holmestribe@hotmail.com
Prom Decorating Committee Chair	Danielle Ortiz	danielleortiz@hotmail.ca
Fundraising Committee Chair	Jacqueline Klassen	benandjacqueline@hotmail.com
Vehicle Procession & Prom Security Chair	Laura Sware	luvthemama74@hotmail.com
Grad Hockey Game Chair	Molly Brigden	mbrigden@365.sd58.bc.ca
Food Committee Chair	Maria Thuveson	christopherandmaria@hotmail.com
Grad Photos in Businesses Chair	Jocelyn Mathias	jock1982@msn.com
Haunted House Chair	Lili-Kay Park	lili.kayy.park@gmail.com
Staff/Parent Liaison(s)	Brandy Striemer Molly Brigden	bstriemer@365.sd58.bc.ca mbrigden@365.sd58.bc.ca
Student Rep(s)	Kelsey Cleaveley Nanditha Vinoj Marcy Chenier	kcleaveley907@sd58.bc.ca nvinoj525@sd58.bc.ca mchenier683@sd58.bc.ca