

February 3, 2015

Dear Mr. Celebrezze,

It has recently been brought to my attention that Prom will not be taking place on May 30th, as it is listed in the planner and on the school website, but instead will take place on April 25th. The reason for it taking place on the 25th of April, as stated by you, are as follows:

- It is too busy of a time of year and there are too many activities that take place the last week of school for Seniors.
- It will improve the safety of students and cut down on the teen alcohol and drug abuse during prom.
- It will allow students to use the time before the last week of school to study and focus better on their finals.

While all of these are very legitimate and purposeful points of interest, I do not believe that changing the date of Wenatchee High School's Prom will help to improve these or affect them in a positive way at all. That is why I am submitting this formal complaint.

While late May is a rather hectic and busy time of year it is not nearly as busy as the weekend of April 25th. During this weekend students from both the choir and band programs will be attending the Washington State Solo/Ensemble Competition in Ellensburg. By this time students will have been working months to perfect their art and perform in front of judges and their peers. About 30 kids, mostly Juniors and Seniors, will be attending this all day competition. The same day DECA students will be leaving to attend the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida. Students also work for months before hand in preparation to compete and be among the top DECA students in the world. Last year 13 were sent and the amount of students sent this year is expected to be the same, also mostly Juniors and Seniors. Along with the State Solo/Ensemble and DECA National competitions the State Sports Medicine Competition/Symposium is taking place from April 24th-25th in Spokane. For this around 30 students will be sent to compete with students from around the state in their sports med field. This is yet another competition that students will have worked months to participate in and mostly Juniors and Seniors will be attending. In addition to all of these competitions the Fashion and Textile class is planning to take a field trip on the 25th of April. 10-20 students are expected to attend. All of these activities will interfere with the students ability to attend Prom 2015. After adding it all up as many as 90 people could be missing out on Prom. Not only would they be missing out on the experience, but the ASB will be missing out on as much as \$2,250, that is assuming that they all go alone.

While Prom is supposed to be a fun, safe time it is inevitable that some students will be participating in illegal activities such as underage drinking and drug use, but I do not understand how changing the date of Prom will influence the student's choice to participate in such activities. Whether it's homecoming or Prom there will always be problems with teen intoxication, but changing the date is not a way to crack down on this behaviour. Instead we should hire security to take care of intoxicated students and serve as a reason for students not to show up to Prom intoxicated. If you want teens to be safer around prom you're either going to have to hire people to help with the problem or cancel Prom as a whole.

Lastly, there is the issue of Prom distracting students from their studies, therefore giving them less of an advantage on their finals. This argument makes the least sense of the three. Prom doesn't usually start until 9:00 PM or later. It doesn't matter what Saturday night it is, you will never find your average student studying at 9:00 PM on a Saturday evening. Not only that, but Prom is a great time for students to just let go and have some fun before their last week of High School. It is a moment to take in the warm evening and live it up with friends. It is a moment to make some of the best memories that I will be left with from high school. It is a moment that most have been looking forward to since their freshman year. To me and many others there is no better way to start off our last week of high school than dancing and having the time of our lives with the people we've grown up with.

I hope you take the chance to consider moving the date of Prom back to May 30th. If it can't be at the Town Toyota Center why not the Performing Arts Center or even our own gym? Seniors have had enough change this year with the loss of the beloved Apple Bowl for graduation and the radical change to scheduling. I speak for all of the Senior class when say we deserve to have Prom on May 30th.

Sincerely,

Andrew Johnson
Senior Class President