

Elgin Park Secondary

PAC Meeting Minutes



September 21, 2022

MS Teams meeting

Attendance: Meredith Laird (Chair), Elaine Brooker (Vice-Chair), Simon Padgett (Treasurer), Victoria Gootgarts (Secretary), Principal Kavita Sharma (Principal), and over 20 other parents.

1. Call to Order – Meredith Laird called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Meredith Laird, PAC Chair, welcomed parents to the first PAC meeting of the new school year, both returning families and those new to Elgin Park Secondary and gave a brief introduction to the purpose and meeting schedule for the PAC. Members of the executive and the school's principal, Kavita Sharma, introduced themselves.

3. Agenda: Agenda accepted as presented by unanimous consent.

4. Minutes from May 18th, 2022: Simon Padgett moved, Elaine Brooker seconded that the draft minutes of May 18th, 2022 meeting be approved as presented.

The motion carried.

5. Reports:

a. Chair's report:

Treasurer position will be vacant, Chair gave notice of election to take place at October meeting, interested candidates may email the PAC email to self-nominate or may nominate from the floor at the next meeting. We have one parent that has already expressed an interest in volunteering.

Election will also be held for DPAC and BCCPAC reps (these are the district-level and provincial level parent councils, and connect with School District and Provincial Ministry representatives, respectively). DPAC meets one evening per month. BCCPAC has a website on which announcements are shared, and an annual convention/AGM.

Schedule of PAC meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the month throughout the school year, but no meetings in Dec/Mar/Jun.

October meeting will have most of the time dedicated to discussion of funding requests so that budget can be produced for the year, by the time of this meeting, the PAC has usually received its gaming grant allocation, so the money available will be known. The money is distributed to various clubs at the school. We also look at what we want to do for the school. Last year we bought and paid for the installation of 6 picnic tables.

b. Treasurer's report:

Simon Padgett presented his report for the last year. We have received the Gaming Grant funding from the province. The bank balance and transaction spreadsheets are available to parents at any time, upon request. Simply email elginPAC@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to review the accounts.

c. Principal's report:

Principal Sharma noted that any changes to the parking lot are managed by the School Board's Facilities department, and are not at the discretion of the school (or school's principal). Encouraged parents to arrive before 8:15 a.m. or after 3:05 p.m. to find lighter traffic. The school is open and staffed starting at 7 a.m. on weekdays, and students are welcome to come inside at that time.

Students who are new drivers; parents, please remind your children to drive safely when on school property and around the school. Grade 11 and 12 students are having discussions in their classrooms regarding road safety.

Clubs are returning to face-to-face meetings this year, there is a full student council and students are encouraged to sign up for other clubs.

This year there are no specific Covid requirements. Approx. 30 – 40% of students and teachers are opting to continue wearing masks. Students are asked to continue to do their health self-check every day and to stay away from school if feeling unwell. Masks are available at the office.

Visitors and/or parents are allowed in the school.

Assessment practices will be shifting in secondary schools in Surrey, so that grades 8 and 9 will have proficiency scales rather than letter/number grades. This will be familiar to families whose children were assessed this way in elementary school. Once there is information to share with families, the principal anticipates holding an evening information session.

Emphasis for September is on belonging, assisting students in developing a structure for self-regulation, supporting mental health.

Careers department wished to emphasize the GreenThumb and WorkBC events.

Principal Sharma asked for feedback on the SWAY newsletter, which is much more efficient for her and the office staff, and hopefully is easier for parents to access and review. Our school currently has 1270 kids enrolled.

Principal Sharma is also encouraging all parents to ask their kids about the monthly theme that is communicated through the newsletter.

6. Any Other Business

Committee discussed when to return to in-person PAC meetings, Principal Sharma assured these can begin any time, also desire to hold meetings outside of regular business hours. Executive will take this suggestion away and work with the Principal to establish a schedule of meetings and will publish this on school webpage.

PAC Meetings suggestions included keeping meetings hybrid (on-line), as well as potentially having some morning/evening sessions. Principal Sharma has offered the PAC Committee space in the library to hold meetings.

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.