

Elgin Park Secondary School



PAC Meeting Minutes

Nov 20, 2024

Attendance: Kavita Sharma (Principal), Victoria Gootgarts (Co-Chair), Jennifer Mathison (Co-Chair), Mike Jiang (Treasurer), Richa Balachandran (Secretary), 3 parents in class and a few parents online. Meeting was conducted in person, at school, and online via Zoom.

1. Call to Order 7:00

Victoria Gootgarts called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of Minutes, Oct 16th, 2024

MOTION: That the minutes of Oct 16th, 2024 be approved as presented.

Carried.

4. Reports:

i. Principal's Report

Kavita Sharma shared the following updates

- Snowball Dance – Coming up. Timing would be 7pm-9pm
- Sway newsletter coming up by end of the week. Mental health resources (for parents to access) and dates and events for the next few months, will be included in the Sway newsletter
- Nov 15th is the 1st reporting period. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the teachers in case of any questions or concerns

ii. Chair's Report

Following areas were discussed by the Chair.

- Angel Tree – Charity gift drive begins Nov. 25th. This is an initiative by Create Change Cub. This is an event where Elgin Community comes together to buy specific gifts and items needed by shelters during Christmas time. This is a way to give back to the community. Parents are encouraged to sign up for gifts that they want to donate.

iii. Treasurer's Report

Mike Jiang shared the financial reports covering the period from October 16th to November 20, 2024, and answered questions from the committee. No income was received during this period. Only expense that was incurred was \$100 annual membership fee for the BCCPAC. There were no other transactions during this period.

The bank balance and transaction spreadsheets are available to parents at any time, upon request. Please email elginPAC@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to review the accounts.

- **PAC Funding Requests**

The Chair shared following funding requests made to PAC. Details were shared around each request along with the amount of funds requested.

PAC committee and parents present were asked to vote to pass this motion. Each request was passed as a separate motion.

1. Science Club - \$3500 (needed for chemicals, equipment, specimens, prizes etc.)
2. School Spirit Committee - \$400 (needed for noise makers, spirit wear, prizes etc.)
3. Language Department - \$1000 (needed for performances for kids, African culture dance and music)
4. Business Club - \$200 (needed for thank you gifts for guest speakers). This request was denied for now. Need to see a plan / a list of potential speakers. They are welcome to resubmit the request for funds later.
5. Dance Club - \$600 (needed for a bigger mirror). This request is denied for now. The club needs to look for something within the funds previously allocated. Ms. Sharma will help if they can't find anything.
6. Dry Grad – Request by Michelle Smyth. No funds needed at this time. This is a heads up to PAC in case the Dry Grad Committee needs funds in the future.

MOTION: That funds be allocated as requested / agreed by the PAC & Parents

Carried.

Details around all the above requests are available to parents at any time, upon request. Please email elginPAC@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to review the details.

iv. BCCPAC Update

No update for this meeting.

v. DPAC Update

Co-Chair, Victoria Gootgarts, provided an update on the DPAC meeting on behalf of Sheri Hardcastle (DPAC rep). DPAC meeting was held on Wednesday Oct 23rd, 2024. Some of the highlights from the meeting:

Education Session

- Provincial Capital Funding for Education & Impacts to Surrey Schools
- Surrey DPAC has been raising focus on the chronic underfunding of capital projects in education and how that has impacted our students.
 - 2 guest presenters:

1. Trustee Bob Holmes has done extensive work on this topic with the BCSTA Capital Working Group. He will be sharing some of their key findings.

- <https://bcsta.org/media-release-report-highlights-urgent-need-for-school-maintenance-funding/>
- \$550 million year for entire province, Surrey needs \$1 billion a year
- We need funding that matches growth
- We need funding for portables
- School site acquisitions and flexibility in how to handle growth

2. District Principal Raj Puri will be giving information about the consultation to the traditional school choice programs in Surrey. The school board is considering converting the three public traditional schools into regular catchment elementary schools.

- <https://www.surreyschools.ca/page/129/consultations>
- Oct 28 and Nov 6 - Community forums
- Have been doing community consultations with students and PACs at the traditional schools

- Article about the concerns raised by Cloverdale Traditional School PAC: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/surrey-school-district-traditional-elementary-schools-1.7351745>
- DPAC update on the work of the BC DPAC Coalition and the open letter “Open Letter: Fund Portables, Build Schools, and Fix Education Funding –BC Families Demand Action”
- <https://medium.com/@bcdpacs/fund-portables-build-schools-bc-election-2024-4bfc4498b3ef>
- Parents can advocate for funding for schools and raise other issues in education by talking to MLAs, and other government officials

Update from meeting with the Superintendent & Deputy Superintendent

- What is the update on bussing for students
 - Bussing price contract increase of 41% cost
 - District is working on solutions, but some children are getting to school 2 ½ hrs late, or are at school from 7am-3:40pm because of early pickup/drop-off times

- Of the modular announcements, how many are incremental spaces? Of the 95 modulars, ½ are replacing portables, they are not creating incremental space and seats
- How has the district organized EA support with a growing district? And how can it be sustained? Was inequitable distribution of support due to parent advocacy. There is a hiring freeze on IESWs
- Extended days costing \$200,000-\$400,000 per year
Does not save district money, but does increase space for students by about 15-20%

Updates on BCCPAC

- Elections Group and Facilities Group have left BCCPAC
- Bi-Election possibly soon as Executive seats are not filled and must be per terms of reference

Update on BC DPAC Coalition - provide value to DPACs and PACs

- Support, provide guidance, develop and share resources
- Surrey is active in the coalition

Open applications for Inclusion of Diverse Learners Committee coming soon

- [Committee Terms of Reference](#)

District-wide PAC event in the new year

- Education, C&B, meet district staff
- Give school families chance to meet and network

5. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting: January 15th, 2025

Questions or suggestions for future meetings? Contact: elginpac@gmail.com