

Elgin Park Secondary School



PAC Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025

Attendance: Kavita Sharma (Principal), Victoria Gootgarts (Co-Chair), Jennifer Mathieson (Co-Chair), Mike Jiang (Treasurer), Sheri Hardcastle (DPAC Rep), Richa Balachandran (Secretary), 10 parents in class and 17 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 7:00pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of Minutes, Feb 19, 2025

MOTION: That the minutes of Feb 19, 2025 be approved as presented.

Carried.

4. Reports:

i. Principal's Report

Kavita Sharma shared the following updates:

- Scholarship Funding Request for \$5000 for grad students. It breaks up into 13-20 scholarships depending on what the scholarship committee sees the need for. This directly goes to the students.
- VP Change – Mr. Snead has moved to Kwantlen Park Sec. Ms. Rondalyn Fitz will be joining the school as VP for the remaining school year.
- Report Cards – Will be coming out Thursday April 17th. Email will be sent to the families to help them understand the report card better. Please email the teachers if you have any questions or concerns. Parents can also contact counsellors and VPs if needed.
- Traffic on 24th – Ongoing traffic issues on 24th. Traffic is getting worse considering it's a single lane road, small parking lot and many speeding vehicles. Schools reps from Elgin Park, Chantrell Creek and Crescent Park will be meeting with the city next week to discuss the bylaws and see what their engineers recommend. Parents can directly complaint to the city regarding this issue.
- No extended day projected for our school at least for another year. We will reassess the situation next school year.

- Sway coming out soon for the year end. It will have information on grad dates, tickets, Easter, pro-d days etc.
- Hybrid learning – School will pilot Hybrid learning in the following 3 courses
 - PE 10-12
 - CLE-10
 - CLC-12

ii. Co-Chair's Report

Following areas were discussed by the Co-Chair.

- PAC Funding Requests
 1. Scholarship Funding Request for \$5000 for grad students. It breaks up into 13-20 scholarships depending on what the scholarship committee sees the need for. This directly goes to the students.
Details were shared around the request.
PAC committee and parents present were asked to vote to pass this motion.
MOTION: That funds be allocated as requested and agreed by PAC & Parents
- PAC Funding Requests from Dry Grad Committee
 1. Requesting ~\$5000 for various activities such as photo booth, tattoos, globe party rentals etc.
Details were shared around the request with discussion around the total budget and fundraising efforts by the dry grad committee.
PAC committee and parents present were asked to vote to pass this motion.
MOTION: Request deferred until the next meeting. Dry Grad Committee needs to provide more information regarding the allocation of funds and total budget.

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.

iii. Treasurer's Report

Mike Jiang shared the financial reports covering the period from February 19 to April 16, 2025, and answered questions from the committee.

- 1) Income and Expenditure Account (Cash Book) for the period Ended April 16, 2025, for the CIBC PAC Gaming Account. Closing balance \$ 24,369.47. Reconciled to the bank.
- 2) Income and Expenditure Account (Cash Book) for period Ended April 16, 2025, for the CIBC PAC general Account. Closing balance \$ 13,173.71. Reconciled to the bank.
- 3) A total of \$3,150 Scholarships/bursaries approved in previous years have not been claimed yet. Year 2022/23(\$1,000) and 2023/24(\$2,150). Students have 27 months to claim their Scholarships/bursaries.

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.

iv. BCCPAC Update

No update for this meeting.

v. DPAC Update

Notes from Sheri Hardcastle (DPAC rep) from the DPAC meeting:

- **Surrey PACs and Education Funding**

Discussion on funding: what is your PAC funding for your school (or being asked to) and where would you like the district to prioritize funding.

- Surrey DPAC will be launching a survey of all PACs to gather data on exactly how much PACs are subsidizing education, equipment and other needs and what types of requests are being made by your school.
- We will look at what areas are priorities for your school community so that we can take your voice back to the district board and staff.

- Surrey Schools **Budget** to be presented at the May board meeting

- Board has a legal obligation to pass a balanced budget. **Currently facing a \$16 million shortfall for 2025/2026 school year.**

- **Ombudsperson's** investigation into school exclusion , continue reporting exclusion
**“Due to the large volume of responses that we are receiving, we will be keeping this questionnaire open. We will provide further updates on the cut off for submissions at a later date.”

- **Insurance coverage** for PAC volunteers; DPAC and District investigating

- **BCCPAC AGM** - location move and what that means

- Upcoming AGM - LOCATION & DATE Prince George, May 23-25

- **Updates to the Surrey DPAC Constitution and Bylaws**

- Will be looking at proposing amendments to allow for online meetings and online voting, **PACs should look at this as well in C&Bs**

- **Strategic Planning Consultation:** March 4 (DPAC/STA/CUPE/SPVP/Students/District staff)

- Opportunity for district to receive feedback form various community partners of progress and concerns of Surrey School District's Strategic Plan initiatives: Inclusive education, Racial Equity, Indigenous Learning, Social ...

- **Liaison Meeting: April 22 (BOE/DPAC)**

- DPAC will be bringing topics forward to the Board of Education that impact student well-being and parent voices

- Surrey Schools New Secretary Treasurer and CFO – Ray Velestuk effective March 5th
- **Overcrowding impacts:** announced at board meeting March 12
 - Extended day 6 secondary schools this year
 - 2 being added for next year: Fraser Heights and Sullivan Heights
 - Bayridge, Forsyth, Don Christian closed to in catchment
- Youth led **March for Education** was held on Sunday, March 13th in White Rock. Students raised voices about impacts of underfunding in the Surrey School District. (organized by the Future Entrepreneur Society)
- **Growing student support impacts of underfunding:**
District will be cutting between 40-50 full time IESW positions through employee attrition, these vacant positions will not be filled with new hires.

We have already seen cuts to student bussing, Learning Centres, and the Strong Start program.

- **Field trips:** Surrey School district has placed a pause on future U.S. field trips to ensure student safety amid political and security tensions

*5-year enrolment projections for the four secondary schools in the South Surrey/White Rock area.

Projected Enrollment	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Elgin Park	1479	1544	1635	1678	1736
Grandview Heights	2070	2256	2473	2701	2928
Earl Marriott	1583	1649	1715	1788	1854
Semiahmoo	1682	1747	1790	1831	1888

5. Adjournment

The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Next meeting: April 30th, 2025

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