

Elgin Park Secondary School



PAC Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026

Attendance: Michael Sweeney (Principal), Jennifer Mathieson (Chair), Victoria Gootgarts (Treasurer), Richa Balachandran (Secretary), Sheri Hardcastle (DPAC Rep) and 4 parents in class. Meeting was conducted in person, at school, and online via Zoom.

1. Call to Order 7:00

Jen Mathieson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was amended to add Ms. Janzen and her group to do a CYCLE4:ER presentation

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented

Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes, Feb 18, 2026

MOTION: That the minutes be approved as presented

Carried.

4. Reports:

i. CYCLE4:ER presentation

Ms. Janzen and her leadership kids did a small presentation on CYCLE4:ER

- This is a youth-led fundraising spin at Elgin Park Secondary on May 27th, 8:00 am–4:00 pm, an 8-hour event organized by student leaders, teachers (including Janzen), parents, and friends
- 60teams×10riders (up to 600 participants) planned; event includes stationary bikes in the gym
- Significant community participation: kids, parents, grandparents, hospital staff, coaches, and the mayor
- This will be the 6th event at Elgin Park Secondary with 17 years of legacy
- Prior 5 events raised over \$300,000 benefiting Peace Arch Hospital's ER department. This year a community family donor will match donations up to \$50,000
- Funds this year targeted towards a portable ultrasound machine and equipment for a new cardiac unit
- **Call to action:** spread the word, form teams of 8–10 members and solicit sponsorships via QR code on the website. Attached is the video link that was presented

<https://youtu.be/9F0TNx-qimQ?si=P50p1VjnazLO7S-R>

ii. Principal's Report

Mr. Sweeney shared the following updates:

- Big pothole in the parking lot patched
- During summer, some major work planned in the parking lot – work order already in place
- Report cards will be out this Friday (April 17th). They will be available online for parents to view
- If the parents have issues logging on to My Ed, please email the office staff
- Lots of activity around the school
 - Continuing with Semester 2
 - Band concert coming up
 - Spring sports on going
- If parents have any questions or have anything to talk about, please email the school / principal

iii. Chair's Report

Jen Mathieson shared the following updates:

- WestJet / Dry Gard raffles wrapped up
 - Total of 481 tickets sold for WestJet Raffles
 - Total of 283 tickets sold for Dry Grad Raffles
 - 112 families participated
- Changes with gaming licenses and fees
- Constitution By Laws were updated. Getting final signatures and then will be filed with the school district and DPAC
- Planet fitness offering free gym membership to all high school students for summer. More details to follow
- 2 more PAC meetings left for this school year. Next one in May and Final AGM will be in June when the next year's PAC committee will be voted on. Parents are encouraged to volunteer.

iv. Treasurer's Report

Victoria Gootgarts shared the financial reports covering the period from February 19, 2026 to April 15, 2026, and answered questions from the parents and committee.

- Income and Expenditure Account (Cash Book) for the period ending April 15, 2026, for the **CIBC PAC Gaming Account**. Closing balance \$ 27,790.95 . Reconciled to the bank.
- Income and Expenditure Account (Cash Book) for period ending April 15, 2026, for **the CIBC PAC General Account**. Closing balance \$34,804.02 Reconciled to the bank.
- A total of \$8,850 **Scholarships/bursaries** approved in previous years have not been claimed yet. Students have 27 months to claim their Scholarships/bursaries.
- PAC funds available to be allocated for this school year - \$4,138.28

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

v. DPAC Update

Sheri Hardcastle (DPAC Rep) shared the following updates:

February 25, 2026, DPAC Meeting: Education Session: Allyship

- **Led by Safe Schools**
 - Focused on moving beyond surface-level messaging to practical, everyday actions that build safer and more inclusive school communities
 - Tied to Pink Shirt Day
 - 60 staff focussed on safety in SD 36 (only district in BC with Safe Schools)
 - 5 substance abuse liaisons

- **Annual DPAC meetings with the Board of Education**
 - March 2: Policy Meeting
 - March 9: Budget Meeting

- **Trustee Update**
 - Ongoing budget development, awaiting final Ministry funding details

- **Provincial Budget Context**
 - Education largely protected from major cuts, with some targeted funding

- **Concerns remain around:**
 - Funding for wage increases
 - Broader public sector cost pressures
 - Capital funding reduced, which may slow future projects

- **“Connect the Dots” PAC leadership event took place Feb 28**
 - Opportunity to connect with trustees at lunch
 - Training topics included PAC Executive Roles, PAC Governance, Constitution and Bylaws, PAC Treasurer, Inclusion Committees and how to form them in your PAC

- **Community Snapshot: Budget Priorities - Key themes from parent feedback:**
 - Strong prioritization of:
 1. Inclusive education supports and staffing
 2. Educational assistants and front-line staff
 3. Mental health supports
 - Ongoing concern that schools are:
 1. Stretched beyond capacity
 2. Needing clearer communication on budget impacts and trade-offs

- There is a clear gap between budget decisions and classroom realities. Families are asking for
 1. More transparency
 2. Earlier and more meaningful input opportunities
 3. Continued emphasis on protecting; Front-line staff, Supports for students with the highest needs

- Additional Updates:
 - Gaming Grants
 1. Applications opened April 1 - June 30
 - School Trustee Elections
 1. Election October 17, 2026
 2. Positions are 4-year terms
 - Safe Schools - Vaping Session to be held at Elgin Park Secondary (discussed at January PAC mtg)
 1. PAC to select a date for a Safe Schools presentation on vaping
 2. Open to other schools to attend
 3. Next meeting: April 22, 2026

5. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting: May 20th, 2026

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