

Elgin Park Secondary School

PAC Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023



Attendance: Victoria Gootgarts (Chair), Elaine Brooker (Vice-Chair), Mike Jiang (Treasurer), Meredith Laird (Secretary, pro tem), Kavita Sharma (Principal), and over 15 other parents.

1. Call to Order 9:00

Meredith Laird called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Victoria Gootgarts joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m. due to technical issues.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented.

The motion carried by unanimous consent.

3. Approval of Minutes, September 20, 2023

MOTION: That the minutes of September 20, 2023 be approved as presented.

Carried.

4. Reports:

i. Election of PAC Secretary

The Chair described the position of Secretary on the Board and shared that Richa Balachandran had volunteered to serve in this role.

The Chair called for other nominations from the floor.
No other nominations were received.

MOTION: That Richa Balachandran be elected to the position of Secretary.

Carried.

ii. Election of BCCPAC representative

The Chair described the position of BCCPAC representative and her experience in attending the conference and AGM in 2023. Meredith Laird shared that the volunteers in this role could apply to have their attendance at the Conference and AGM funded by the PAC, and that this event will take place in Richmond this year.

The Chair called for nominations from the floor.
First call: No candidates.
Second call: No candidates.
Third call: No candidates.

The Chair encouraged parents to reach out if they have any questions about this role and she will bring this back to future meetings between now and the May event so that someone would attend and could vote on behalf of the parents of Elgin.

b. Treasurer's Report

Mike Jiang shared the financial reports from September 1, 2023 to the current date and answered questions from the committee. He shared that the PAC Gaming Funds have already been received for this school year and that funds that are allocated towards scholarships over the past several years will be held separate in case they are claimed before the deadline, which is two years after they are awarded.

c. DPAC Update and Report

Sherri Hardcastle provided a report on the DPAC meeting that took place on September 27 (7:00pm-9:00pm). Minutes from the meeting are as follows:

i. Land Acknowledgement

- Respectfully removed “play” from Land Acknowledgement

ii. Student Assessments and Reporting: BC's redesigned curriculum

(30-minute presentation from Surrey Schools / Curriculum Instruction Team)

Shifts in Student Reporting (slide presentation)

- A presentation from Board Vice-Principals about the shift in reporting for secondary students away from letter grades and towards proficiency scales
- This is new to Secondary Schools. Elementary Schools have been using since 2019.
- Grades 10 – 12 students to receive a graduation status on report cards showing child's progress.
- K – 9 will use Proficiency Scale / 10 – 12 will use Letter Grades and Percentages

iii. DPAC Scholarships

- Announcements will be made via post and email and will be circulated once it is made public so that Elgin students may apply.

iv. Portables

- 361 portables in Surrey
- DPAC is asking for volunteers to help the cause in voicing growing concerns about portable conditions, overcrowding, expense taking away from teachers and student supports. Teachers Association is partnering with Surrey DPAC
- Plan of Action: Petition Ministry to make Portables a Capital Expense
- Trustee Holmes not in attendance to speak about portables
- We have reached a state of crisis with too many portables overtaking our school grounds.
- Parent representatives from Walnut Grove Elementary have started a petition due to major space and resource shortages. Please sign and share with school parent community.
- Expedite Portables Delivery & Find Long Term Expansion Solution for Surrey Schools

v. **DPAC Executive Elections**

- Executive Team voted in for 2023/2024 school year. Rina Diaz to continue as Chair and several other positions filled as well

*Next DPAC Meeting October 25, 2023 (on the agenda: Communication with Schools, Screen Time for Students, Bike Rack Funding, Portables)

The DPAC representative shared a link to this presentation. Members of the Board joined the meeting to provide a presentation and answered questions of parents. Principal Sharma confirmed that Elgin is currently using 4 portables, and that they are relatively new and in good shape.

5. PAC Budget for 2023-24 (Review of Gaming Grant Applications and Vote on Disbursements)

The Chair described the process for teachers and clubs to request funds from PAC for activities, events, or materials to benefit the students of Elgin. She described the restrictions in use of gaming grant funds and for the second PAC account that is administered by the parent council. She reminded parents that the request to parents for donations to PAC through SchoolCashOnline had been reinstated this year, and that these funds are not subject to the restrictions of the gaming grant monies. The Chair explained that the PAC executive had met with the Principal to review all of the requests and have arrived at a suggested budget. She shared the recommendation and reviewed which requests are recommended for the full amount requested and which were recommended for only a portion of their requested amount. The Chair confirmed that approximately \$5000 in the accounts will remain if all funds requested are disbursed by the end of the year. The committee discussed donations to the grad committee, which would be requested in the spring, if needed, to support plans for graduates.

MOTION: That the recommended budget be approved as presented.

Carried by unanimous consent.

6. Principal's Report

Kavita Sharma shared that the booking calendars for Oct 26 parent teacher meetings are open now to accept bookings, and if any teachers are unavailable to meet on that evening, they will make themselves available to parents either by telephone or in another way at a different time upon request. Other agencies and resources in the community will be in the main hallway and cafeteria that evening. The Principal asked the membership if parent information nights about particular topics would be something of interest. The membership provided the feedback that shorter sessions, a hybrid or online format, and recording the sessions might permit more parents to access the information.

7. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:42 a.m.

Next meeting: November 15, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. IN-PERSON IN THE SCHOOL

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

Kindly submit items for November meeting by November 8, 2023.