



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Earl Marriott Parent Advisory Council - Minutes

Date: June 2, 2025

Time: Meeting called to order at 7:15 PM

Location: Library

PAC Executive:

Chair: Tanja Phillips

Vice Chair and DPAC Rep: Jin Thindal

Treasurer: Colette Mende

Secretary: Marina Heidt

Grad Committee Rep: Daniel Danzell

Principal: Graham Magnusson

COMMITTEES:

District PAC Representative: Jin Thindal and Chun Ge

Canadian Parents for French ("CPF"): Joy Rong

Dry Grad Committee: Christine Dalzell

PAC BBQ Committee: TBD

Attendees:

Principal, Colette Mende, Marina Heidt, Tanja Phillips (via proxy), One parent.

2024/2025 PROPOSED PAC MEETING DATES

September 23-24 7:00 pm
Oct 28-24, 7:00 pm - AGM, Budget & Elections
Nov 25-24, 7:00 pm
Christmas Break No Meeting
Jan 27-25 7:00 pm
Feb 24-25 7:00 pm
April 28-25 7:00 pm
May 26-25 7:00 pm
September 29-25 6:30 pm



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Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Collette Mende.

2. Attendance

Tanja Phillips (Chair) via proxy
Marina Heidt (Secretary)
Colette Mende (Treasurer)
Christine Dalzell (Dry Grad)
Principal: Graham Magnusson
Parent C. Li

3. Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Colette M. welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the land acknowledgment.

4. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes:

Adoption of Agenda: Motioned by Colette M., seconded by C.D.

Approval of last Minutes: Motioned by Colette M., seconded by C.D.

5. Principal's Report:

- **Commencement Celebration:**

- Thank you to the staff and volunteers.
- Special mention to Ms. Speechley, Ms. Clark, and Ms. Fraser for their incredible organizational efforts.
- This year's event will return to Chandos. The Bell Centre, although it is closer, has limited seating and a smaller stage for the EMS grad attendance requirement.

- **Matilda Musical Production:**

- Thanks to Ms. Radcliffe and the all the performers and crew.
- Excellent show; outstanding costumes and talent.
- Emphasized the importance of the arts program to serve the everyone at school.

- **Athletic & Band Programs:**



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- Strong finish for the athletic program; thanks to the athletic department for coordinating track & field, rugby, and soccer provincials.
- Band trip to New York: Led by Ms. Steiger and Mr. Heggie.
 - 38 students, along with 3 adults, visited major NYC sites.
 - Participated in jazz performances, visited the National Jazz Museum in Harlem and Montclair University for a jazz lesson.
- The district has announced no out-of-country trips for next year.
- **Update for Volunteer Drivers:**
 - Parent drivers and staff must submit a criminal record check and driver's abstract in the following school year. Details to follow.
- **Issues Raised**

Principal to send a letter to parents acknowledging the following concerns:

1. There have been misunderstandings often caused by communication gaps between the school and families. This has sometimes resulted in frustration for both parents and staff. Front office staff occasionally encounter these frustrations, even though they cannot resolve the root problems. Such experiences can be emotionally draining for staff. It was highlighted that respectful and kind interactions with all school personnel are essential, alongside the need to enhance communication channels to better support both families and staff.
2. Racism concerns within the school and district:
 - Concerns were raised regarding three reported incidents of racism, both at the school and district levels. The group acknowledged the need for ongoing improvement and discussed the importance of identifying how best to support students and families moving forward.
 - Ongoing education series via Brightspace for staff (includes Indigenous education) and identifying ways to help the international student population afflicted by discrimination.

6. Chair's Update – Tanja Phillips via proxy.

Unfortunately, the year-end BBQ will not take place this June, as we were unable to secure the necessary donated items leading to this yearly event.



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7. EMS Treasurer's Report – Colette Mende

As of May 26, 2025

EMS PAC Account Balances:

Admin Account:

- Current Balance: \$18,577.77

Dry Grad Account:

- Current Balance: \$41,954.86
- Less: Uncashed Cheques: \$3,663.76
- Reserves:
 - Seed Funds: \$2,000
 - Carryover for 2026: \$4,806.65
- Revised Balance (Dry Grad 2025 Funds): \$35,148.21

Gaming Account:

- Current Balance: \$23,263.24
- Outstanding Transactions: \$6,577.41

EMS General Account – School Fundraising:

- Balance: \$ 7.78

New motion:

- Motion requested to approve French Immersion field trip transportation cost: \$1,417.50 by the PAC for the trip organized by Mrs. Hare (CBC Trip for French Immersion students).

Moved by Christine D. Seconded by Marina H. All in favour.

8. Dry Grad Report

- **Grade 12's Elementary School Visits:** Six buses were arranged to transport Grade 12 students to visit their former elementary schools. A question was raised regarding who will cover the cost of the buses; this is still to be confirmed.
- **Duke of Earl:** Scheduled for June 4, 2025. Tickets are \$10 each and open to all. A concession will be available.
- **Dry-Grad:** Substance-free after-party will take place at the South Surrey Recreation Centre from the evening of June 21 to the early morning of June 22, 2025. Approximately 220 graduates are expected to attend following their formal dinner in Tsawwassen



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9. CPF (Canadian Parents for French) Report

No update at this time.

10. DPAC Report

No update at this time.

11. New Business

A proposal to organize a Staff Appreciation Day next year, similar to what is done in elementary schools. Support from the PAC may be requested to help coordinate the event.

12. Adjournment

Call end of meeting by Collette Mende. at 8:23 pm.

Next Meeting Date: September 29, 2025!