



Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting Minutes

PAC MEETING

PAC Meeting

LOCATION

Library

DATE

Monday, November 25, 2024, at 7 pm

PAC Executive:

Chair: Tanja Phillips

Vice Chair: Carolyn Smyth

Treasurer: Colette Mende

Secretary: Marina Heidt

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, PAC Executive (5), 2 parents

2024/2025 PROPOSED PAC MEETING DATES

September_23_24 7:00pm
Oct_28_24, 7:00 pm – AGM, Budget & Elections
Nov_25_24, 7:00 pm
Christmas Break No Meeting
Jan_27_25 7:00pm
Feb_24_25 7:00pm
April_28_25 7:00pm
May_26_25 7:00pm
September_29_25 7:00pm



Parent Advisory Council

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Tanja Phillips.

2. Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Tanja welcomed everyone to the meeting and land acknowledged

3. Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented made by Tanja P, moved by Carolyn and seconded by Colette. Motion carried.

4. Approval of October 28, 2024 Minutes:

Motion to approve the amended minutes made by Colette and seconded by Jin. Motion carried.

5. Principal's Report:

The First Formal learning update (formerly Midterm Report Cards) was sent out on Friday, November 22. Some parents experienced difficulties accessing the site MyEducationBC.com, but these issues have been addressed.

The 2nd Parent Learning Evening with Jesse Miller from www.mediatedreality.com will be held this Thursday, November 28. Admission is by donation and proceeds will go to the Alex House.

EMS will be hosting the AAAA Senior Girls Volleyball Provincials in the gym starting Thursday until Saturday.

The One-Acts Play Festival will take place on December 4th and 5th at 7:00 PM in the Wheelhouse Theatre. Everyone is invited to attend and support the students.

The Waffle Breakfast will take place on December 20 (Friday), hosted by EMS staff. EMS PAC will provide hot chocolate.

Other important issues:

a. School Information Requests

- PAC members are encouraged to submit specific information requests to the principal for discussion at the next meeting.

b. Upcoming changes for consideration to the French Immersion program for Grades 8 to 10:

Considering the possibility that Math will be taught in English instead of French and Physical Education (PE) will be taught in French, replacing Math in the French Immersion course load.



Parent Advisory Council

These changes aim to address student feedback regarding challenges with Math in French and to help with the retention of FRIM students.

This will allow French Immersion students to have access to Workplace Math, not previously available to them.

The principal is currently seeking a qualified French-speaking PE teacher to lead the new course, hoping to implement the change next school year.

Additional details, and rationale as implementation plans are still being finalized for these changes will be communicated to FRIM parents next week.

The principal noted that similar changes have been successfully implemented in other district schools.

The principal encouraged students to consider writing the DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) exam, which is a recognized French language proficiency test. The exam is administered by Delta School District, and students can earn up to three senior credits. <https://ce.deltasd.bc.ca/personal-development/delf-diplome-detudes-en-langue-francaise-exams-grades-8-to-12/>

c. School Budget Report

The principal presented the school budget, outlining the various revenue streams the school receives and explaining how these funds are allocated to cover school expenses. The principal also addressed and clarified any budget-related questions from the attendees.

For more details, please refer to the attached PDF, which provides a comprehensive breakdown of the budget report. Any further inquiries regarding the budget can be directed to the principal.

6. Chair's Update

No new updates.

7. EMS Treasurer's Report – Colette Mende

As of November 25, 2024

EMS PAC Account Balances:

Admin Account:

- Current Balance: \$16,597.62
- Less: Payment for Yearbook Cameras: \$4,200.00
- Closing Balance: \$12,397.62

Dry Grad Account:



Parent Advisory Council

- Current Balance: \$22,086.13
- Less: Uncashed Cheques: \$6,624.27
- Reserves:
 - Seed Funds: \$2,000.00
 - Carryover for 2026: \$4,806.65
- Revised Balance (Dry Grad 2025 Funds): \$8,655.21

Gaming Account:

- Current Balance: \$41,423.28
- Outstanding Transactions:
 - BCCPAC: \$100.00
 - Oddball Workshops: \$3,503.36
 - Math Contest Registration: \$430.00
 - Music Council Decorations: \$100.00
- Closing Balance: \$37,719.92

EMS General Account – School Fundraising:

- Balance: \$3.89 (this is a donated amount for testing the Square payment system)

Other:

Motion to approve an additional \$25.00 to cover the increased BCCPAC Annual Fee was made by Joy and seconded by Jin:

- Budgeted amount: \$75.00
- Actual Cost: \$100.00
- Additional Funding: \$25.00

A brief explanation was provided on the PAC budget process: At the first meeting of the school year (September), a budget committee is formed. The committee then sends a request to teachers for their item needs. After collecting the requests, the committee finalizes the budget, which is presented and approved at the October PAC meeting. Any subsequent changes to the budget must be presented and approved at the next PAC meeting.

8. Dry Grad Report - by Christine D. - not present

The following update was provided:

Purdy's Fundraiser has raised approximately \$1,600 in profit so far, and it ended this Monday night.



Parent Advisory Council

a. Pasta Night

- The event had a good turnout, with over 200 people attending. Although this was a bit lower than in previous years, the generous donations for the Silent Auction ensured that the profit will still be strong, with the event generating around \$10,000 in revenue.
- The exact expenses are still being calculated, but nearly all of the food, including the lasagna, was donated.
- The evening was a success and received many compliments from attendees.

b. Upcoming Events:

The next big event is the Fashion Show in March. Starting in the new year, the Dry Grad committee will begin looking for items for the Silent Auction. Volunteers and donations will be crucial for the success of all the Dry Grad events, especially the Fashion Show Silent Auction.

g. DPAC

Surrey Chapter meeting is this Wednesday, November 27th. Jin will report back on our next PAC meeting. All general meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday monthly (except December and March).

10. CPF (Canadian Parents for French)

Joy reported on the CPF Surrey AGM Meeting held on October 29, 2024:

French Immersion (FRIM) enrollment in BC has declined below 9% of total enrollment for the first time in over a decade, with approximately 52,000 students out of a total of 604,000 students in BC in the 2023/2024 school year. Vancouver, Surrey, Coquitlam, Burnaby, and Langley account for about two-thirds of this decline.

CPF membership has increased significantly due to its free membership. The BC/Yukon chapter alone saw a 42% increase (829 new members) to 1300 total since September 1.

Funding Opportunities:

- Socio-Cultural Grants: \$58,000 available for the year, with an October 20 deadline for most events for the entire year.
- [Culture en Classe](#): Provides 50% of funding to support cultural programs (can be combined with SC events for full coverage).
- [ImmersART](#): Offers up to \$1,500/school for Grades 6-12 events.
- There is an additional \$500 for an SCG event if it involves a new teacher (less than 3 years with the district) to improve teacher retention. \$7500 available for the year.



Parent Advisory Council

Inquiry from the PAC about whether schools and French immersion teachers are fully utilizing available funding to enrich their programs. Reference for funding opportunities: [BC French Funding Guide](#)

The date for the Winter Skate in French at Cloverdale Arena needs to be confirmed. Check their FB page for updates <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianParentsForFrenchSurreyChapter/>

Other programs for FRIM students were mentioned. <https://englishfrench.ca/> and <https://experiencescanada.ca/>

CPF provides pins for the EMS FRIM graduates at their Grad ceremony.

There was some talk about graduation requirements. More info:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/graduation-credentials-for-francophone-and-french-immersion-students>

11. New Business

a. Waffle Breakfast (December 20)

Volunteers are needed to help with hot chocolate and marshmallows for students. Please contact Tanja if you would like to help.

b. Cell Phone Restrictions Update

An inquiry about the effectiveness of the cell phone restrictions. The principal acknowledged that there have been challenges in enforcing the restrictions. He noted that he is holding regular meetings with the staff and Student Council to discuss ways to improve compliance and raise awareness about appropriate cell phone use during school hours.

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Moved by: Tanja P

Seconded by: Marina H

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm. Next Meeting Date: January 27, 2025