



Parent Advisory Council

PAC Meeting Minutes

DETAILS:

PAC MEETING	PAC Meeting
LOCATION	Library
DATE	Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7pm

PAC Executive:

PAC Chair: DJ Craig
 Vice Chair: Tanja Phillips
 PAC Treasurer: Colette Mende
 PAC Secretary: open
 District PAC Representative: open

COMMITTEES:

Canadian Parents for French ("CPF"): Joy Rong
 Dry Grad Committee: Christine Dalzell
 PAC BBQ Committee: TBD

Attendees:

Principal, PAC Executive (2), 13 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

7:05 PM Meeting to order – Tanja P

7:08 PM Move to accept agenda – all in favour

7:08 PM Motion to accept minutes from May 27, 2024 deferred to next meeting.

7:08 PM – 7:50 PM - Mr. Graham Magnusson- School Principal's Report

1463 Students registered in Fall 2024

110 International students

79 Teaching staff

16 IES inclusive education support workers

School message last year to all students – “Kindness” was central core value. What we do, look through eyes of kindness.

This school year and additional layer – “Service to Others”. Helping others and service to community. “What can I do to help things out?”

For example: Helping support elementary schools, possibly being a mentor.

Updates for this school year:

- 1) Crisp hallways initiative – keeping kids in the classroom. For example, hall passes. Trying to keep kids in the classroom where the learning happens.
- 2) Refocus in terms of how students use electronics in the school - Former thinking: If you're not engaged in learning, I can go on my device. Current thinking: Assume you can't use your device. EMS teachers have different systems to keep track of device use. Electronic devices can be a good tool for learning, however can be a distraction in class. Early feedback from teachers is that there is a small shift in being engaged in learning with the shift to limiting electronic device use in the classroom.
- 3) EMS has a large athletics program that is well underway - Football started in August, boys soccer, cross country, volleyball, swimming.
- 4) School events – Grad tradition Mariners game in Seattle – successful trip, took 100 grads this year.
- 5) Grad – Grade 12 parent evening last week, quite well attended. Information regarding grad events and expectations, as well as scholarship information
- 6) Athletic - parent meeting last week, was less well attended. Mr. Magnusson will work on communication.
- 7) Grad boat cruise coming up
- 8) This Friday - Professional development day. Plan to do goal setting for EMS for the next 5 years.
- 9) If you are thinking in getting involved at EMS - we have a dry grad committee that parents can get involved with.



Parent Advisory Council

Questions & Answers:

Q: Can we have phone free days? Some teachers have pockets that the student puts the phone into, can all teachers have this? Can we use PAC funds for hotels to supply to the teachers?

A: ¾ of the classrooms have some sort of cabinet or 'phone hotel'. There is a risk that something could go missing.

Q: I thought cell phones were banned in schools?

A: No, the government transferred responsibility to the Ministry of Education. SD36 says that phones can be used for education purposes otherwise it is expected to be put away. Generally, at EMS, if a student doesn't put the phone away when the teacher asks, it may be put into the office and would be returned to the parent. A recommended book about teens, phones and social media: *The Anxious Generation* by Johnathon Heidt.

Q: Can the teachers provide input into how many classes need phones?

A: Yes, there is some information on this which can be provided. 36% of staff don't engage in electronic devices. 64% use electronic devices, of which 67% use it weekly. Teachers would like strict controls on phones, but would still like students to have them.

Q: How is EMS in line with other SD36 with electronic device use.

A: We are similar to other schools. Our staff is committed to working with parents. Booked Jesse Miller for parent education. EMS hopes to get more information from students on their use of phones in the school.

Q: Gym lockers, kids need to bring a lock for the gym locker. Items are being stolen and not being reported.

A: This is the first that Mr Magnusson has heard of it. He will post it on the grade teams

Note: Newsletter from Principal will be coming quarterly- November; January, April, June

7:50 PM-7:52 PM – Chair Report – Tanja Phillips for DJ Craig

Thank you to DJ for the five years on PAC!

7:52 PM – 8:00 PM - EMS Treasurer's Report- Colette Mende

- EMS PAC Bank Accounts consist of 3 separate accounts, to ensure full transparency and ease of management
 1. Gaming Account – Gaming has specific rules and restrictions
 2. Admin Account- General inflows through donations and/or district payments
 3. Dry Grad Account – PAC manages to help manage and control the funds for transparency

EMS PAC Account Balances as @ May 27th, 2024:

- **Admin Account \$ 16,697.62**
 - June 6, 2024 - PAC donations \$325
- **Dry Grad Account \$ 19,292.12**

Un-cashed cheques = \$1,530



Parent Advisory Council

Revised balance \$ 17,982.12

Seed and carryovers to remain in account = \$3667.76 + approx. \$3000.00

Outstanding costs still to be processed for last year:

Approximate values:

- Bus transportation \$3K, Peace Arch News ad \$500, Ulysses Scholarship \$1K , Dry Grad 2024 Legacy Gift to School \$2K, carry over surplus to be decided on \$3K

Current amount gifted to Grad 2025 from previous grads \$3,546.15.

- **Gaming Account \$15,143.28**
 - No transactions since June 27, 2024
- **EMS General Account – School Fundraising \$1.95**
 - Balance is a donated amount to test the Square
- Additional notes:
 - PAC Budget request submissions were sent out in May.
 - 2024/2025 Budget Committee established to meet and confirm budget allocations prior to next PAC Meeting .

8:00- 8:13 PM - Dry Grad Report – Julie Johnson for Christine Dalzell.

A Dry Grad Update:

- Need parent volunteers for the events! Any grade parent can help out.
- Our Dry Grad event is taking place to offer the students one last night all together in a safe and fun environment. It takes countless hours to put this event together - Our email address: emsdrygrad2025@gmail.com email me and I will happily put them on this list.

8:13 PM DPAC

- There is currently an opening for an EMS parent DPAC representative.
- More information about DPAC is available at www.surreydpac.ca, or by contacting info@surreydpac.ca.

8:13 PM CPF – Joy R. – no report this month

8:14 PM - PAC BBQ - Was a success in the past and we're doing it again in June 2025. Would love any volunteers!

8:14 PM New Business

Social media threat update- the threat was a message tracked to another country and no specific school was named. RCMP is tracking how it penetrated to our area.

8:11 PM Move to Adjourn – 1st by CM and 2nd by CM.

****Next Meeting: October 28, 2024**