



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Earl Marriott Parent Advisory Council - Minutes

Date: September 29, 2025

Time: Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

Location: Library

PAC Executive:

Chair: Tanja Phillips

Vice Chair and DPAC Rep: Jin Thindal

Treasurer: Colette Mende

Secretary: Marina Heidt

Principal: Graham Magnusson

COMMITTEES:

District PAC Representative: Jin Thindal

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

Dry Grad Committee: Erin Harvie

PAC BBQ Committee: TBD

Attendees:

Principal, Colette Mende, Jin Thindal, Tanja Phillips, six parents.

2025/2026 PROPOSED PAC MEETING DATES

September_29_25 6:30 pm
Oct_27_25, 6:30 pm - AGM, Budget & Elections
Nov_24_25, 6:30 pm
Christmas Break No Meeting
Jan_26_26 6:30 pm
Feb_23_26 6:30pm
April_20_26 6:30 pm
May_25_26 6:30 pm
September_28_25 6:30 pm



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1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Tanja Phillips.

2. Attendance

Tanja Phillips (Chair)
Jin Thindal (Vice Chair and DPAC representative)
Colette Mende (Treasurer)
Principal: Graham Magnusson
Six Parents

3. Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

Tanja welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with the land acknowledgment.

4. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes:

Adoption of Agenda: Motioned by Tanja P., seconded by H.
Approval of June 2, 2025 Minutes: Motioned by Tanja P., seconded by Jin T.

5. Principal's Report:

- **Student Population:**
 - 1537 students at EMS as of Sept 29, 2025
 - 18% special designation, 10% ELL, 6.5% indigenous.
 - 40 student increase from last year, mainly due to the Hockey Academy.
- **Activity fees:**
 - The student activity fee and the list of additional enhancement fees were included in the August 2025 newsletter.
- **Hockey Academy:**
 - Runs in Semester 2, with grades 8 to 12.
 - There is an additional cost to participate in hockey academy.
 - Emphasized the importance of the arts program to serve the everyone at school.
- **Q&A:**

Q: Are number of students appear to be trending up or down?

A: Surrey as a district has seen a decreased in students this academic year.

Q: With just over 1,500 students, is EMS at capacity?

A: We are nearing capacity, however not at the stage where we need to think about a staged bell schedule. SD36 would decide if any school needed to go to a staged bell schedule.



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Q: How many portables are being utilized on the school grounds?

A: Three portables are being used: Hockey Academy, Hope Program and Hub Program

Q: When are the DELF exams?

A: Typically they are held in November and April.

Q: Any Cell Phone Policy updates?

A: No new updates. Please know that should a parent need to contact their child, the office will take messages to the class, you do not need to call or text your child during class time.

Q: Regarding Grade 8 band students, why was Skills class replaced with Digital Literacy?

A: As band is a year-round class, those students need to rotate with 1 class and Skill is a rotation of several classes.

6. Chair's Update – Tanja Phillips

We are looking forward to another great year at EMS. September has already started full of activities for our EMS students. The PAC helps with two events at the school, serving hot chocolate at the waffle breakfast (last Friday before the winter break) and the PAC BBQ in June, where we serve up hot dogs for the school community.

7. EMS Treasurer's Report – Colette Mende

As of September 29, 2025

EMS PAC Account Balances:

Admin Account:

- Current Balance: \$17,835.77

Dry Grad Account:

- Current Balance: \$12,849.73
- Reserves:
 - Seed Funds: \$2,000
 - Carryover for 2026: \$4,806.65
- Four transactions not cleared from 2025 Dry Grad (Peace Arch News Ad, School Security, school busses, Legacy Gift)

Gaming Account:

- Current Balance: \$10,789.94
- Outstanding Transactions: \$421.49

EMS General Account – School Fundraising:

- Balance: \$ 1,159.17



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- \$1,151.39 is for a fundraising event and will be transferred to the appropriate account at EMS. The remainder (\$7.78 is donated test money for the square).

Other:

- Gaming Funds 2025-2026: emailed received today confirming gaming funds if \$29,060 to be deposited into PAC gaming account.
- Budget 2025-2026: awaiting formation of the budget committee.

8. Dry Grad Report

- **Dry-Grad:** Substance-free after-party will take place at the South Surrey Recreation Centre from the evening of June 13 to the early morning of June 14, 2026.
- **Questions?** Please email emsdrygrad2026@gmail.com

9. CPF (Canadian Parents for French) Report

- Discuss district advocacy presentations.
- Grade 12 awards to be done this year.
- Socio Cultural grants – ice skating, drum circle workshops, Immersart and Culture en class.
- Concour d'art Oratoire medals ordered.

10. DPAC Report

- Oct 18 – PAC exec training day. DPAC encouraged all PAC execs to attend.

E-Scooters and safety for riders and bystanders (helmet safety, legality, safe usage). School District Budget surplus after predicted 60 million deficit. Most of surplus to be spent digital infrastructure and updating systems. No money to reintroduce additional support or reopening Learning Centers or rehiring or elementary music band.

- Multiple issues raised at the BCCPAC conference.

Conference was very valuable such as addressing vaping across the province and greater student involvement, but AGM was a sham and unfinished hence an EGM requiring extra cost to attend to be able to vote.

11. New Business - No new business

12. Adjournment - Call end of meeting by Tanja P. Seconded by Colette M. at 8: 30 pm.

Next Meeting Date: October 27, 2025!