



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Earl Marriott Parent Advisory Council - Minutes

Date: September 29, 2026

Time: Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM

Location: Library

PAC Executive:

Chair: Jin Thindal

Vice Chair : Tanja Phillips

Treasurer: Colette Mende

Secretary: Jocelyn Burnett

Principal: Graham Magnusson

Member at Large: Michelle Appasani

COMMITTEES:

District PAC Representative: Jin Thindal

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

Dry Grad Committee: TBD

PAC BBQ Committee: TBD

Attendees:

Principal, Colette Mende, Jin Thindal, Tanja Phillips, Jocelyn Burnett, Michelle Appasani, and 9 parents

2025/2026 PROPOSED PAC MEETING DATES

September_29_26 6:30 pm
Oct_19_26 6:30pm AGM, Budget and Elections
November_30_26 6:30pm
December – No meeting
January_25_27 6:30pm
February_22_27 6:30pm
April_26_27 6:30pm
May_31_27 6:30pm

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Jin Thindal

2. Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

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

3. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes:

Adoption of Agenda: Motioned by Collette seconded by Ramesh

Approval of May minutes: Motioned by Jocelyn seconded by Michelle

4. Principal's Report:

- EMS this year has 1482 students 360 in the French immersion program, which makes EMS usually the largest French immersion program in the province. Largest group this year is our grade 12 group at 340 grads (40 more than last year)
- We have 2 hockey academies making up almost 100 students
- We have an international program with about 100 students and an ELL program with about 80 students.
- Other programs we have are Band program, connections program, HOPE program, and skill trades co op program
- We have one of the largest athletics program in the province
- Athletics for fall – cross country, boys soccer, volleyball and swimming
- Grad cruise happened last week. Approximately 230 students went and we also have our grad hockey game coming up in October. Tickets were 80.00 for tickets and transportation.
- Dry grad chair was secured and they will be setting up a dry grad meeting.
- Elections are coming up and EMS is a favorite spot for elections to be held and unfortunately our main gym will be closed for approx. 2 weeks in October.
- AI is a big topic right now amongst staff at EMS. Policies and expectations are being thought and talked about. Staff and Admin hope to have something out to parents in the next few weeks. It is important that students are not using AI in a way that limits their critical thinking.

5. Chair's Update – Jin

Thank you to Tanja and Collette for their years of service on the PAC and for attending this first meeting even though their children have now graduated. Also thank you to all the parents who came out tonight.

Grad parent night happened last night with lots of information regarding grad and scholarships

We received a request for a school trustee candidate to come and talk to the PAC. It was voted on and unanimously agreed that the PAC meeting is not a place for promoting candidates.

Following a discussion on the use of technology and AI in school, it was decided that this should be an agenda item possibly in the November meeting.

6. EMS Treasurer's Report – Colette M.

\$30,600 gaming grant approved 20.00 per student

Budget requests from teachers due Sept 30

Budget committee sign up sheet went around Collette will email to set up a Budget meeting date with those who signed up

EMS PAC Account Balances:

Admin Account:

- Current Balance: \$4478.71

Dry Grad Account:

- Current Balance: \$18214.42

Gaming Account:

- Current Balance: \$4438.29

EMS General Account – School Fundraising:

- Balance: 394.18

7. DPAC Report by Jin T.

- DPAC meeting is usually split into two sections. The first being a learning session, this past month it was on constitutions and bylaws of PAC. During the second half of the meeting District Superintendent Marc Permean attended and outlined AI and the surrey school district. The district is looking at a tech plan. He also mentioned that enrollment numbers won't be finalized until Sept 30 but the surrey school district is predicting a decline in enrollment for the second year in a row. The school board also passed a 7 million dollar budget for tech.

8. CPF (Canadian Parents for French)

- Julie attended and is an EMS parent who is also the president of the CPF.

- There is a CPF Christmas skating event on December 29. The CPF is looking at how they can get greater attendance and how they will advertise to high school students.

9. Dry Grad Report

- Questions? Please email emsdrygrad2026@gmail.com

10. PAC Events

- PAC does 2 events during the year. Hot Chocolate at the waffle breakfast on the last day before winter break and the PAC BBQ that happens toward the end of the year.

11. Questions

- No Questions

12. New Business

- Cell phones at school came up and is an ongoing discussion that will be discussed more at the upcoming meetings.

13. Adjournment - Call end of meeting by Jin T. Seconded by Tanja P. at 8:35 pm.

Next Meeting Date: October 19, 2026 at 6.30pm