

Elgin Park Secondary School

PAC Meeting Minutes



September 17, 2025

Attendance: Kavita Sharma (Principal), Jennifer Mathieson (Chair), Victoria Gootgarts (Co-Treasurer), Richa Balachandran (Secretary), Nina Hemmes (Co-Treasurer), Sheri Hardcastle (DPAC Rep), 7 parents in class and 16 online. Meeting was conducted in person, at school, and online via Zoom.

1. Call to Order 7:00

Jen Mathieson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented.

Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes, Jun 19, 2025

MOTION: That the minutes be approved as presented.

Carried.

4. Reports:

i. Principal's Report

Kavita Sharma shared the following updates:

- Start Up - September!
 - Total number of students in school is 1436 which is lower than projected.
 - No staff reductions for the year.
 - All classes are set and 95% of the students got the courses they selected.
- Grad Traditions:
 - Ms. Sharma shared some incidents related to old grad "traditions" which really are a form of hazing.
 - The school has a very clear boundary around pranks, hazing, and things that may cause harm/upset/etc. Elgin has taken a hard line against differentiating between traditions (things that bring us joy) and hazing (perceived as traditions b/c they've been "happening for years.").
- Some of these hazing events and rituals include:
 1. Throwing water balloons at non-consenting students and staff in the parking lot and in the community.
 2. Milk Jug Chug and white tank tops with white lies and derogatory messaging.

3. Shoot to Kill (water guns) - involves buying into a pot of money.
 4. Grad Kidnapping, Drinking, coming to school cross-dressed.
- Some parents have expressed concerns around these events. One community member called the police about an overfilled vehicle and described the students involved.
 - School and staff have to deal with such events and incidents which include:
 1. PVPs - police called us and then came in to see us... about 2 hours of time.
 2. Clerical time
 3. Response time to each parent/student email and meeting
 4. Time towards investigating
 5. Meeting with each student. Parent calls. Parent meetings. Disciplinary measures as needed.
 6. Disruption in the main office and in classrooms

This is about a full day of work that our school needed to undertake - which takes away from actually supporting teachers and students.

- Last year, we had ZERO grad issues as the grads understood that we have zero tolerance when it comes to harming others (even if it is a joke).
- School should be a safe place for everyone including the students and staff. We are putting the messaging out to the grads.

ii. Chair's Report

Following areas were discussed by the Chair.

1. PAC Introductions
 - Elections were conducted for the PAC executive committee for school year 2025-26 during June 2025 AGM. The Chair introduced the new committee to the parents.
2. Funding Requests
 - Funding Requests are coming in. Deadline for requests is October 3rd. Gaming grant is received in Oct. All requests will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting on Oct 15th after we receive the Gaming Grant money. We are looking to have Panago Pizza for attendees.
 - Note to teachers: All receipts for reimbursements are to be submitted by June 19th, 2026 to close off the year. If receipts are received after that, they will be reimbursed in Sept.2026.
3. Club Day / STUCO
 - Elections have already been held for STUCO and voting ended today
 - Club day happens in Oct. Date will be announced to the students. Tables are set up around the school by the various clubs. Students are encouraged to check out the club listings on the Orca App (currently 2024/25).
4. Communications

- Orca App, make sure you sign in and subscribe to your student's grade(s) for updates
- There are also various IG pages you can follow.
- Emails sent Mon / Wed / Fri from school on various updates.

5. New This Year

- PAC Instagram Page – Please follow for more information
- Zeffy Donations - we can no longer use School Cash Online and have moved to Zeffy and sent out donation requests. With School Cash Online, we added a \$25 optional donation which brought in 10K. This year with Zeffy is just over \$2600. We encourage everyone to donate.
- Spirit Wear - Changing vendors, open for suggestion. Look to exploring what items we want to have and roll out plan.

iii. Treasurer's Report

Nina Hemmes shared the financial reports covering the period from June 18th – Aug 31st, 2025 and answered questions from the committee. Not many transactions occurred during this period. Now the PAC will be able to e-transfer funds instead of writing checks.

The bank balance and transaction spreadsheets are available to parents at any time, upon request. Please email elginPAC@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to review the accounts.

iv. BCCPAC Update

No update for this meeting.

v. DPAC Update

DPAC meeting will be held next week. No formal report yet. But the big hot topic being discussed with DPAC and Surrey Police is educating schools around E Scooters. Not Legal in Surrey (we are not a pilot program). More details to come after the meeting.

vi. Dry Grad Update

- Boat Cruise on Sunday – Sold 226 tickets
- Donations came in and with funds collected from selling the boat cruise tickets, dry grad committee is still up by approx. \$6,000
- Snow Ball Dance – Nov
- Grad / Prom – June
- Dry Grad Party – June

5. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting (AGM): Oct 15, 2025

Questions or suggestions for future meetings? Contact: elginpac@gmail.com