

Fraser River Middle School
Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
General Meeting

June 3 2025 7pm - Meeting Minutes
Location: Zoom (online) and Learning Commons

2024 - 2025 Executive:
Chairperson: JC Valeros
Treasurer: Laura Le
Secretary: Andrea Arnold
DPAC Rep: Temitope Adewale

Guest speakers:
Principal: Chris Evans
School Board Trustee: Cheryl Sluis
NW Youth Rep: Ana Campos Santin

Call to Order

JC Valeros

- Territorial Acknowledgement and Welcome.

Attendance

JC Valeros

- All executive members in attendance.
- 6 online attendees (7 at peak after attendance taken).

Approve Agenda

Andrea Arnold

- No proposed additions or deletions.

Motioned: Andrea Arnold. **Seconded:** JC Valeros. **CARRIED.**

Pass previous minutes

Andrea Arnold

- Proposed deletion from Andrea Arnold to remove DPAC report minutes attachment, which were from the wrong month.

Motioned: JC Valeros. **Seconded:** Laura Le. **CARRIED.**

English Language Learners Teachers' Report

Amanda Maccaskell and
Yashfa Daredia

- On behalf of all staff, appreciate all that the PAC does and support for all the clubs
- This year, 300 dollars was allocated towards the ELL program.
- English Language Learners are students who are either newly arrived in Canada, or new to the community. One-third of FRMS students receives ELL support; of those, half are newcomers
- Next year, the program is starting to use a new technology platform – ELLII. Using this software, teachers can individualize to student's needs. Not textbook based, changes and updates are frequent. Will use the platform for all learning levels.
- ELL teachers utilized the PAC's allotment of 300 dollars for headphones, which is needed to use the software.

So far there are purchased 11 headsets, needing 5 more (\$25 dollars + tax per item).

- Further needs in future: Hope to have teachers allow students to use ELLII within the classroom.
- Second request for PAC consideration: Fluidtalk translator device. The device is the size of a phone and sturdy to use. Not phone based, so less distractions.
- Amanda will send a link to the presentation about the device. There are 40 languages on the device, with two main options – talk into it, will translate who is talking and use it for conversing with others. It can also take a picture of text and translate. It does not have typing capacity; however, students can use Chromebook to do this.

School Trustee Report

Cheryl Sluis

Board meeting highlights:

- Presentation on literacy: Discussed money awarded for learning grants to enhance learning outcomes, Our district received \$250,000 and will be used towards an early learning K-3 screener. Screeners are Critical for assessing where learners are. Opportunity for targeted intervention, learning opportunities for teachers and staff, communications to parents/guardians. Rollout will happen strategically.
- ICY (integration child and youth) mental and substance abuse care. Connecting with other districts to learn from and to build a framework in our district. Discussing with the ministry for support.
- Motion brought forward last week: voted to begin negotiations with the New Westminster Police Department (NYPD) for a new relationship. This is not a return to the school officer program. Motion was focused on what values we want to incorporate into a new program. More families are struggling, sometimes showing up as youth in crisis or misbehavior. Important to have trained professionals to wrap around support, including officers that are trauma informed.
- Superintendent update: Working with NYPD on a Memorandum of Agreement with a subcommittee of trustees and will bring back a working draft to board. There will be opportunity for public feedback.
- Capital/advocacy:
 - Top priorities remain the same. Using time with ministers for more operating dollars, and need for more funding for physical/mental health supports.
 - Recent meeting with M. Baird was onsite at Ecole Qayqayt to show them in person the capacity crisis.

New Westminster Youth Services

Ana Campos Santin

- Last drop in on Friday, June 20th for the year
- This Friday: grade 5 day, free pizza, party, and DJ for grade 5s starting at FRMS in September.
- They can start to come to the Youth Centre during summer. Will include: arts, baking, sports days during summer. Monday to Friday – 1pm to 9 pm during summer. Go to Active Living Guide for details.
- Information on the Talk to the Mayor event: <https://www.newwestyouth.ca/post/mayor-s-state-of-the-city-youth>

Email or call 778-789-4362 if you have questions.

See: <https://www.newwestyouth.ca/> for upcoming activities.

Principal's Report

Chris Evans

- Email teacher if you are concerned about any incomplete assignments
- Lots of field trips going on, parent volunteers needed. Contact your child's teacher if you are able to help. Some trips are tied to the course curriculum, others just for enjoyment. There's a financial aspect to field trips – if you are not in position to pay, let your teacher know.
- June 26 Wednesday: Leaving ceremony for Gr 8. Limited on space, bring 1 or 2 people with them. Will be in the afternoon.
- PAC Staff Appreciation event is coming up - if I can't see you there, just wanted to say thank you to the parents.
- We are setting up classroom makeup together for next year. That information will come last week of August for details. Gr 6 and 7s first day only comes for 1 hour, while Grade 8s are there for the whole day. May work with Ana to put together events for that day

If your child doesn't end up with their preferred person, and you might ask why – it's

worth asking. Work with your child for coping strategies if their classroom pairing ask doesn't happen. Note that few changes can be made once school starts.

- Sports Day coming up June 24: Students putting in options for what they want for lunch. Lunch is organized by PAC.
- Leaving ceremony: decorating volunteers in the morning needed. Mr. Steve Diamond is the grade 8 teacher organizing.

DPAC Representative Report

Temitope Adewale

See attached for the report.

Treasurer's Report

Laura Le

- Revenue: received Little Miss Coffee Company from Nov 29 and Apr 11 fundraising events, \$80 proceeds
- 2 cheques issued: Youth Care - Mark Davis for \$79 and \$104.35 to Ms. Kimberley
- Gaming Grant for 2025 - 2026 projected at \$14,020 (701 students)
- The Gaming Grant Summary Report will need to be submitted within 90 days of year end
Will start work on this.

Chair Report

JC Valeros

Draft Budget for next year:

- Exec has reviewed what was working this year, and looked for opportunities for next year's budget
- Proposed budget changes for next year:
- Google Premium Plan to run PAC meetings.. Currently on a 30 day trial. We don't currently own the Zoom license, sharing with DPAC but DPAC is moving away from Zoom. Looking to add Premium Plan, cheaper than \$200 Zoom licence
 - Look at increasing field trip amounts for all divisions.
 - Add \$1500 to a school wide presentation.
 - Student clubs – currently 150 dollars per club, looking to decrease to 80 dollars in order to increase field trips. Classrooms are fundraising for some field trips currently.
 - Add International Reading Library: 2 languages in one book (dual language) - \$200
 - Sports equipment may not be in budget, leave for ad hoc requests, based on fundraising.

Budget to be finalized at AGM in September 2025 for the new school year.

Motion to approve draft budget: JC Valeros. Seconded: Temitope Adewale. 6 voted, no objections. CARRIED.

Events upcoming (volunteers needed):

- Staff appreciation event – June 18th. PAC is hosting a brunch bar. Families will be asked to donate breakfast items. Will have a list of all items being requested. Will send an email out for signup.
- Spring Event concert June 10th – need help with buying the treats, will be reimbursed.
- Sports Day June 24 th – need volunteers to grill hotdogs
- June 26th - parent volunteers needed for Gr 8 decorating for leaving ceremony
- Will need volunteers for sorting Sagewear order. Total of 107 orders.

School donation

- School received a parent donation for board games – Games to Go. Will be shared between school and NW Youth Services.

Next PAC meeting is the AGM on September 22. If you are interested in being an executive, please reach out to admin.frms.pac@gmail.com.

Adjournment

JC Valeros

Motioned: JC Valeros **Seconded:** Andrea Arnold. **CARRIED.**

DPAC MEETING ON MAY 15, 2025

Meeting Preliminaries and Introductions:

- The meeting began with standard Zoom participation protocols, followed by introductions of attendees and those sending regrets.
- Key attendees included representatives from EXACT, district guests like Sandra Singh (Director of Instruction Learning Innovation), and Trustee Connelly
- The meeting agenda was amended to include an item about City of New West event requirements.
- Previous meeting minutes from April were adopted.

Literacy Support Plan Presentation by Sandra Singh, Director of Instruction and Learning and Innovation

- Sandra Singh presented on the K-12 District Literacy Support Plan, emphasizing literacy as more than just reading and writing, but also critical thinking and communication.
- She discussed the importance of literacy for lifelong learning, academic success, employability, and self-esteem.
- She mentioned that all readers are decoders and decoding should be taught until students are able to accurately decode and independently be able to read. It's the student's ability to lift words off the page very easily when reading.
- Comprehension is essentially the goal of reading, which draws on multiple skills including a solid foundation of vocabulary and background knowledge.
- The presentation covered evidence-based instruction, key literacy skills (phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension), and the Ministry of Education's funding for literacy initiatives.
- Early learning screening tools and interventions were discussed, along with examples from Ontario's literacy programs.

Board Update and Trustee Report:

- Superintendent Mark Davidson was not at the meeting; therefore, no board update was provided.
- Trustee Danielle Connelly was at the meeting and provided an update. She thanked Sandra for the presentation, noting the work on numeracy initiatives, and recognized the district team for the work being done in our schools. At the last board meeting, they received an update on numeracy initiatives in the district.
- She addressed the tragic loss of Kira Salim and the support provided to the district. She mentioned receiving a report from the Superintendent that there is ongoing work, concern and care being taken for those impacted by this huge loss in our community, as well as the impact on students who may have witnessed or lost in their own communities. The flags will continue to fly at half mass until Kira's service.
- The Annual Facilities Grant Expenditures Plan was received and discussed. This included the formation of a provincially mandated Accessibility Committee, which has begun audits at the first two schools to identify improvement areas and assess potential funding challenges for required upgrades.
- Budget cuts were mentioned, including reductions in EA staffing, the climate coordinator position, mentorship, and behavior interventionist. However, it was noted that programming like band, arts, and athletics would continue.
- Advocacy efforts regarding public education funding were highlighted. Trustee Connelly is encouraging

folks to continue raising voices and push forward to get the word out about the critical time we're at in public education.

- There was a discussion about the accessibility act and concerns about non-physical disabilities.
- Concerns were raised about the impact of losing EA staff and the behavior interventionist. At the district office, they are going to be reduced by four staff positions.
- Questions were asked about the district's strategy in navigating these changes and how the need for support staff will be managed.
- Advocacy for increased funding and acknowledging the impact of support staff cuts were emphasized.

DPAC, Laura Kwong

- The Soji committee is active, and moving forward at a nice pace. The progress pride flag has been delivered to every school with the intent to play prominently in every district building in common areas or somewhere that just makes sense. This is to support the motion passed by the board and then for the 2003, about increasing visual representation of acceptance, knowledge and development.
- International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Bisexuality was mentioned, along with rallies and advocacy visits.
- Advocacy efforts to Victoria and meetings with elected officials were discussed.
- The BCCF Parent Ed conference was attended, with a focus on advocacy work and messaging.
- NW DPAC is part of a DPAC coalition that's been invited (LK applied on our behalf) to present to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services regarding budget concerns. The committee is made up of MLAs and put the provincial budget together for the next year. LK acknowledged MLA, Jennifer Whiteside for giving her support and advice in getting the application done. The meeting is held virtually on June 18th at 2pm. DPAC gets 5 minutes to present, and the group has 5 minutes to ask questions. Only three requests are allowed; increase base per student funding, funding increase for inclusive education and maintenance and capital requests.
- A motion regarding a memorandum of understanding with the New West Police Department will be discussed at the next board meeting.
- PAC reps were thanked for their contributions and communication efforts.

Treasurer's Report:

- Details of the gaming account and operating funds were provided, including available amounts and expenditures for parent education.
- Upcoming funding requests and the need for BC EID for gaming grants were mentioned.

School Reports:

- Representatives from various schools provided updates on events, fundraisers, and activities.
- Events mentioned included grade 5 open houses, carnivals, fun lunches, staff appreciation, grade 8 graduations, and school pride walks.
- Parent education workshops, movie nights, and other special events were also highlighted.
- Concerns about school capacity and potential changes to school spaces were raised.

New and Old Business:

- Shared and discussed the co-signed letter with nine other DPACs from around the province for Premier David Eby asking to increase the base funding amount, ending the requirement for operational dollars to subsidize capital expenses.

- The discussion about City of New West event requirements. The city is looking at their process around when people can hold events and what they need to do with the city, which is triggered by the Lapu-Lapu Day festival tragedy. The city looked at their policies and procedures and found that they are not enforcing them a lot specifically around events at school.

We're supposed to communicate with the city about all these different initiatives, and currently not doing so. They've been invited to give an update at the May DPAC meeting but were unable to come. [Please see attached Event Information](#). But in summary, *"A public event on private property – the event organizer has to provide to the City proof of health certification, fire safety approval, and insurance – even if it is on private property the City could still be sued if they don't enforce the Food Truck bylaw through some means. If the food truck has an annual licence, we have all of this on file and it is super easy for us to confirm coverage – this is why we really recommend using a food truck with an annual licence."*

- AGM Elections
 - Chairperson: Laura Kwong, acclaimed, this will be her fourth year in the role
 - Vice-Chair: vacant
 - Treasurer: Krista Macaulay, acclaimed
 - Secretary: Heather Kamitakahara, acclaimed
 - Members-At-Large: Shawn Sorensen, Alison Ytsma, Cyrus Sy, all acclaimed

FRMS PAC 2025/2026		Pre-approved line items as of June 2nd			
1-Sep-25					2024-2025 Ledger
					2024-2025 Budget
	Gaming		General		Notes
	projected	actual	projected	actual	
Income					
Gaming Account					
Carry-forward	\$ 1,148.87		\$ 273.94		To be determined; est. based on LY proj & actual budget
Gaming grant (based on 701 students Sept 2	\$ 14,020.00				
General Account					
Carry-forward					To be determined
Fundraising - Fall					To be determined
Fundraising - Spring					To be determined
Other Fundraising					To be determined
Total income	\$ 15,168.87	\$ -	\$ 273.94	\$ -	
Expenses					
Administrative					
Bank fees			\$ 50.00		
BCCPAC Membership Fees	\$ 100.00				
Google One Premium Plan			\$ 188.04 [1]		Virtual Attendance for families
Subtotal	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 238.04	\$ -	
Community Building					
PAC Family Engagement Events (School refreshments)	\$ 300.00				
Sports Day Support	\$ 1,500.00				
PAC School Spirit (Gr 6 T-Shirts)					Parked until 2026-2027 Budget;
Staff Appreciation			\$ 500.00		
Subtotal	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	
Extra-Curricular					
Field Trips (27 Divisions)	\$ 8,100.00				\$300 per division from previous \$200/div
Schoolwide Presentations	\$ 1,500.00				
Student Clubs (12 clubs)	\$ 960.00				\$80 per club, previous \$100/club
Grade 8 Grad Support	\$ 2,500.00				
International Library	\$ 200.00				
Fine Arts Support (Band/Drama)					For consideration
Sports Equipment					For review, previously at \$1,000
Subtotal	\$ 13,260.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Teachers/Staff Stipend					
Exploratory Teachers (4)			\$ 1,000.00		\$250/teacher
LST Teachers (3)			\$ 600.00		\$200/teacher
ELL Teachers (2)			\$ 300.00		\$150/teacher
Resource Teachers (2)			\$ 200.00		*\$100/teacher
Youth Care and Aboriginal Worker (3)			\$ 300.00		*\$100/teacher
Subtotal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	
Total expenses	\$ 15,160.00	\$ -	\$ 3,138.04	\$ -	
Balance	\$ 8.87	\$ -	\$ (2,864.10)	\$ -	\$\$\$ we need to raise per account