



Fraser River Middle School Parent Advisory Council General Meeting

December 1 2025 7pm - Meeting Minutes
Location: Zoom (online) and Learning Commons

2024 - 2025 Executive
Chairperson: JC Valeros
Treasurer: Temitope Adewale
Secretary: Andrea Arnold
DPAC Rep: Laura Kwong
Member-at-Large: Carla Willems

Guest speakers
Principal: Chris Evans
Grade 6 Teacher: Eric Young
School Board Trustee: Cheryl Sluis
NW Youth Rep: Ana Campos Santin

Call to Order JC Valeros

Attendance JC Valeros

- Chair, Secretary, DPAC rep and Carla Willems present
- Treasurer absent
- 4 parents/guardians online

Approve Agenda Andrea Arnold

- No changes motioned

CARRIED

Approve Minutes Andrea Arnold

- Motion to approve November 3 meeting minutes

CARRIED

School Trustee Report Cheryl Sluis

Board meeting highlights

- Presentation from District Principal of Indigenous Education and Equity
 - Outcomes and feelings of belonging are below levels in all schools, including this district
 - Team working towards belonging strategies: e.g. hosting student forums, collaboration with First Nations organizations and monitoring school absenteeism
- School work programs being put in place
- Approved last statement for financial reporting.
- Update on staffing/enrollment. The pace of growth is slowing down significantly. Schools are well over capacity but experiencing a growth break.
- Approved board authorized courses at high school. Includes Forensic Sciences 11, Musique and Culture Francophone 11.
- Early screening for K to Grade 3. The board wants to know that interventions in place are sustainable in terms of

costs.

- Change in Board roles: ViceChair now Danielle Connelly, Chair is Cheryl Sluis.

Update on childcare

- Seamless childcare 3 year pilot currently operating at Qayqayt Elementary. The Ministry is ceasing to fund the program, adding to the gap. After June 2026 no longer offers the program.
- Considering board operated childcare, third parties. Looking at fee structure with provincial support
More information to come in the coming months.

Capital

- New Elementary School. 65 million dollar build in Fraser River zone approved, to be built beside FRMS
- Building to commence Fall 2026 and to be completed 2028. Will include 4 stories plus parking, 605 student capacity, green building design

Advocacy

- Around capital needs: still need middle school, more elementary school seats, and a bus from Queensborough to high school.
- Working in cooperation with third party providers for transportation for french program movement to Herbert Spencer

Q&A

Q: What grades will the new elementary school offer?

A: Grade reconfiguration will happen as we have capacity. Currently school is planned for grades K to 5.

Grade 6 Readers & Newcomer ELL Students presentation

Eric Young

PAC funding request: C-Pen Reader 3 translation device

Background

- Groups of students that struggle include ELL students coming from elementary school and newcomers, with English as a 2nd or 3rd language.
- Some students are at a K to Grade 1 level reading level, and are struggling to pick up information.
- Need to give students independence. Students don't have EA to help them. Teachers working with one student on Gr 2 vocab while teaching others, for example.
- Teachers need a device in order to speak with students. There are some students they have been unable to speak directly with. Need someone to translate. While other students may know the oral language, they do not know how to read.
- Mr. Young tried Google for translating worksheets. In previous years, they translated worksheets into 8 different languages.
- Technology is keeping them from being successful. Lost class time logging into iPads and students are not overly eager to self use.

Request

- Requesting funding for 1 to 4 pens for the team of 3 teachers for grade 6:
 - One device can support the highest need students, with 2 or more devices they can be shared
 - Mr. Young already ordered one to try out, using Remedy funds.
- Uses AI technology and a micro camera to allow students to read print. Will read out in english or translate, and also has a built in dictionary.
- Newest version 5 built in languages, most common languages like French or Spanish built in. Does have access to 40 languages through wifi connection.
- Pen supports privacy. Works through bluetooth or jack headphones, designed specifically for schools

Video demo

- Can use to speak into, then translate verbally
- Camera translates verbal or digital display from scan

- Some languages not available

Cost

- \$460 CDN per pen

Q&A

Q from Chair: PAC has added the ELL request for translating devices into this year's budget. There is \$1400 dollars allotted. Could we split the funds between ELL and Gr 6 requests this year?

A: No, the teachers don't want to take away from the ELL request. This is in addition to.

New Westminster Youth Services

Ana Campos Santin

FRMS After School Drop Ins

- Regular after school drop-in continues weekly Monday, Wednesday and Fridays
- Ana is overseeing FRMS activities but also working at other facilities. Front line staffing in flux.
- Will have chocolate making Dec 17th 3:30 to 5:30pm

New West Youth Centre

- Dec 19 drop-in dinner
- Open for winter break, open to ages 11 to 18. Will have programs run Monday to Saturday over the holidays. Only closed for 25th, 26th and Jan 1

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/newwestyouth/>

Principal's Report

Chris Evans

New Elementary School built on FRMS grounds

- Will receive preliminary details on Tuesday. Details to come.

School Learning Plan

- This year we are having discussions with staff on what they want to see in the building of the plan.
- Numeracy and literacy. With so many feeder schools, we have 13 different teaching styles filtering into our classrooms in grade 6. Also new kids from different education systems from around the world.
- Looking at the basic structure that every grade 6 class covers the same core set of points. That way, when students move up grades, each teacher will know that they have received the core points.
- On top of that, look at building resources where exercises are taken from a package of resource themes (e.g. short stories)
- The plan will set expectations of what students should have been exposed to before coming into FRSM and before going into high school. About data making informed decisions, the idea of having some structure/consistency across classes. This is coming from the teachers.
- The plan will help new teachers. For example, teachers scheduled on prep at the same time. If they are scheduled with others that teach the same subjects, they can work together.
- It will take around 3 years to complete the plan.

End of semester

- Parents will be seeing a lot of permission slips requests. Trips this year include skating at Robson Square, ShipYards, local skating at Moody Park, and Wicked the movie.
- Report cards will come out last week of school on Wednesday.

Chair Report

JC Valeros

- **Babysitting workshop for students on February ProD Day.** Just sent a followup email to a new company, lower cost than the original vendor. Will send a communication about it in the New Year.
- **Spirit Wear orders.** Still awaiting a delivery day. Will send updates when we get news. Would like volunteers for sorting spirit wear, availability after 3 pm on weekdays.
- **Band Concert** tomorrow. Thanks to the volunteers for signing up.

New Business

Carla Willems

Winterfest December 11 Planning Update

- Bought raffle prizes. Raffle will go live on SchoolCash Online on Wednesday. Raffle prizes will be displayed in trophy case in the school.
- Lena confirmed 13 groups signed up for craft tables. This Friday is the deadline for signing up.
- The Chair has created the Google form for volunteer signup. Lots of opportunities for families, siblings to help
- Will use a ticketing system for purchasing items at the event - i.e. cash for tickets. Use 4 different coloured tickets. Tickets will pay for Subway sandwiches, hot chocolate, popcorn, etc.
- Will hand out flyers during Band Concert.
- Presale of concession tickets - families will have 4 or 5 days to purchase tickets online.

DPAC Representative Report

Laura Kwong

Screenager movie Event

- Last month we held Screenagers movie at beginning of November at the high school
- Post-movie, there was a Q&A session.
- From the event, we received feedback on digital device ban. Shared notes with the District/Board.

Advocacy

- DPAC participating in the SOGI committee, workshop; climate action committees - first meeting this week
- Tomorrow is the Schools First event re: IB program, homestays, etc.
- Happy to be included in the elementary school build announcement. On our radar is its impact on the FRMS community.
- Started initiative with District to support and communication for students with diverse needs
- Working on social media pieces for Queensborough bus advocacy.
- Topic recently in NW: e-scooters. Conversation around young kids using them on the roads, engagement session put on by the City this week.
- Working on a letter to NW City Council to ask for stop pumps at 6th ave @ 2nd street intersection

Parent Education

- Working with SD40 liaison (Leia) on ideas for low cost parent education seminars
- Connected with Rick Bloudell, Community Plans Manager at the District, to see if we can coordinate on parent education seminars
- Secured Misha Oak for parent session in April 7 re: allied pro-tips, supporting SOGI and LGBTQ+S

Treasurer's Report

JC Valeros (for Temitope Adewale)

- Few transactions since last month
- Google subscription for Sept / Oct paid
- Gaming account balance \$2,400; General: \$1,000 +
- Noted that school counsellor funding missing from this year's budget

Motion: Add stipend for school counselor for \$100 to the General budget.

Motioned: JC Valeros. **Seconded:** Carla Willems

All in favour, no objections. CARRIED

Adjournment

JC Valeros

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

FRMS PAC 2025/2026 Budget		[APPROVED]					
Last Updated: 23-Sep-25							
						2025-2026 Budget	
	Gaming		General		Notes		
	projected	actual	projected	actual			
Income							
Gaming Account							
Carry-forward	\$ 2,562.26	\$ 2,562.26	\$ 809.25	\$ 809.25	To be determined; est. based on LY proj & actual budget		
Gaming grant (based on 701 students Sept 2024)	\$ 14,020.00	\$ 14,020.00					
General Account							
Fundraising - Fall			\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,394.00			
Fundraising - Spring			\$ 6,000.00				
Other Fundraising							
Total income	\$ 16,582.26	\$ 16,582.26	\$ 11,809.25	\$ 2,203.25			
Expenses							
Administrative							
Bank fees			\$ 50.00				
BCCPAC Membership Fees	\$ 100.00						
Google One Premium Plan			\$ 188.04	\$ 31.34	Virtual Attendance for families		
Subtotal	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 238.04	\$ 31.34			
Community Building							
PAC Family Engagement Events (School refreshments)	\$ 300.00						
Community Event	\$ 2,000.00				Re-named budget line item from Sports Day for spend flexibility		
Staff Appreciation			\$ 500.00				
Subtotal	\$ 2,300.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -			
Extra-Curricular							
Field Trips (27 Divisions)	\$ 9,450.00	\$ 9,450.00			\$350 per division from previous \$200/div		
Schoolwide Presentations	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00					
Student Clubs (12 clubs)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00					
Grade 8 Grad Support	\$ 950.00	\$ 950.00			re-allocate balance of \$1563.36 back to this line		
International Library	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00					
Subtotal	\$ 14,100.00	\$ 14,100.00	\$ -	\$ -			
Teachers/Staff Stipend							
Exploratory Teachers (3)			\$ 750.00		\$250/teacher		
Fine Arts Support - Band Program			\$ 2,500.00	\$ 750.00	*Neufeld Fundraising		
LST Teachers (3)			\$ 600.00		\$200/teacher		
ELL Teachers (3.6)			\$ 540.00		\$150/teacher		
ELL Translation Device			\$ 5,400.00		*tie to Read-A-Thon fundraising		
Resource Teachers (4)			\$ 400.00		*\$100/teacher		
Youth Care and Indigenous Worker (3)			\$ 300.00		*\$100/teacher		
School Counsellor			\$ 100.00				
Subtotal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,590.00	\$ 750.00			
Total expenses	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 14,100.00	\$ 11,328.04	\$ 781.34			
Balance	\$ 82.26	\$ 2,482.26	\$ 481.21	\$ 1,421.91			