



Fraser River Middle School Parent Advisory Council General Meeting

March 3 2026 7pm - Meeting Minutes
Location: Google Meet and Learning Commons

2025-2026 Executive
Chairperson: JC Valeros
Treasurer: Temitope Adewale
Secretary: Andrea Arnold
DPAC Rep: Laura Kwong
Member-at-Large: Carla Willems

Guest speakers
Principal: Chris Evans
School Board Trustee: Cheryl Sluis
ELL Teachers: Amanda Maccaskell
NW Youth Rep: Ana Campos Santin
PAC volunteer: Kim Cirillo

Call to Order

JC Valeros

Attendance

JC Valeros

- PAC Executives Chair, Secretary, DPAC rep and member-at-large present
- Treasurer absent
- 2 parent/caregivers online, 1 in person

Approve Agenda

Andrea Arnold

- Add ELL teacher presentation to follow New West Youth Services presentation

Motioned: Andrea Arnold. Seconded: Laura Kwong. CARRIED

Approve Minutes

Andrea Arnold

- Motion to approve February 2nd meeting minutes

Motioned: Andrea Arnold. Seconded: JC Valeros. CARRIED

School Trustee Report

Cheryl Sluis

Board Meeting highlights

- Last week, there was a presentation on transition rates. Continue to improve, except priority groups including indigenous, ELL students. Looking at ongoing professional development and statistics. Indigenous transition activities: looking into middle school collaborations, scholarships, and flexible pathways learning.
- Bases thrift store at Columbia Square will donate to after school programming. Consider donating or shopping to support.
- Hour Zero. National School Emergency Consultant will monitor sites and provide report, Board of Tumbler School - practiced protocols prior to incident which helped
- Inclusive education report. New West has over 2000 ELL students, 1 in 4 is an English Language Learner. Report focused on activities we are doing to support. Learned about teacher's union funding assessments in the

district.

- Fuel Up program. Updated ordering platform, new meals, less packaging. Ongoing testing. Survey for caregivers and students coming this spring. Connecting with other districts for feedback on other service providers.
- Out of school programs have had over 1300 students.
- The Welcome Centre at the high school is supporting Spanish and Tagalog speakers, hosting life skills and other programs.
- Wellness centre. Home to a variety of services, operated by Dan's Legacy, Child and Youth mental health - high and middle school, some young supports. Loss of nurse practitioner last year, looking to fill that gap.

Budget

- Passed amended budget. Break even situation. The budget timeline was approved last month. Provincial funding will continue to be tight. Increased pressure on operating budget. Modest budget as student growth has slowed, not going to cover all expenses. The district plan will serve as a compass to allocate monies.
- The budget survey is now closed, thank you for your feedback and input.
- Looking at new policy: execution of Memorandum of Understanding for Police Liaison. The survey closes tomorrow (Police Partnership survey).

Long range facilities plan

- Long-range facilities plan survey is open till March 13.

Capital Updates

- Queen Elizabeth and NW Memorial Park working forward.
- Continuing work with ministry re: new middle school

Advocacy

- Letters to minister re: importance to commitment to bus service from Queensborough to NWSS.
- Also one related to child care, as the seamless daycare program loss has left a gap.

Q: Is an extension for the Policy Partnership survey possible?

A: Looks like it will stay open until March 8. The Board will look at the policy on March 10th, specifically the revised Administrative Policy and MOU in draft form.

New Westminster Youth Services

Ana Campos Santin

FRMS After School Drop Ins

- Regular after school drop-in continues weekly Monday, Wednesday and Fridays
- Includes a sampler on cooking and baking.
- First Dungeon & Dragons Masters session on Wednesday. All day students welcome, Will have smores. At drop-in. Leaders, Smores then D&D.
- On 11th, spicy challenge.
- On Fridays, poker night.

New West Youth Centre

- Spring break program - open 1 to 9, Monday to Saturday at the Youth Centre

New West Youth Centre membership has increased to \$21.50 per year.

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

ELL Presentation

Amanda Maccaskell

- Gratitude for this year's PAC read-a-thon fundraiser
- Translator request: Asking for support to get a translator device to support newcomers. This is an amended request for translation devices originally proposed last year to PAC.
- \$400 per device. \$200 device proposed last year in the request for PAC funds was glitchy with internet connection.
- Allows students to have real conversations with teachers and students, strengthening classes
- The school had been gifted iPad Minis but they are very old. Last updated Sept 2024 and use Google translate iPad downsides include access to gaming and social media.
- After consultations with teachers and admin, a translation device was decided upon.
- Includes chat translation, and dynamic translation during conversation. Use for a short period of time, move to others

Q: How does the chat translation work? Speak into it then display?

A: Looks like a phone. One person talks, it translates on the fly - immediate, both people see it. It takes pictures and translates, and can add annotations.

Q: How many devices to start?

A: (from Principal Evans) ideally one per division.

Principal's Report

Chris Evans

Emergency Drills

- Ran a lockdown drill last week, which was planned last year. The drill was supposed to happen 2 ½ weeks ago, but moved because it was scheduled too close around Coquitlam school district issues.
- The Ministry of Education determines how many and types of drills: fire, earthquake are the majority, which means students leave the building; also lockdown drills. Drills are scheduled a year in advance.
- Lockdown drills happened differently this year. Usually the principal tells the staff the day but not time, with some exceptions such as ELAs and supported students. Because of this year's events, the Principal reviewed the date and time with the teacher and prepared students.
- School to review exit plans once construction starts for Simcoe Elementary next year.

Grade 5s

- This Wednesday, FRMS is hosting a tournament for Grade 5 kids across the district.
- Grade 5 Open house coming soon. Allows for walk through with other family members. No big speeches, just giving families and kids opportunities to get used to the school space
- Next Wednesday, Glenbrook and FRMS going to do an online Q&A for Gr 5s
- Video will be shown in Gr 5 classes providing online tour of the place

Clubs/Exploratory classes

- Grade 7 band heading to Richmond. Whistler band trip coming up
- Ski and snowboard club is going well

Chair Report

JC Valeros

- The next PAC Meeting is on May 4th. If we determine that an April meeting is required, we'll call for one on April 13th.
- Babysitting Course Update, Feb 17 - it was high demand and we are looking at booking another Pro-D date. Lunch offered also seemed to be popular.
- Read and Reward Program FRMS with Kinder Books. 10% of the purchase goes back to the school. A check will be written to the school. Credit goes to Sam Tyers for shopping at Kinder Books, and setting this up for us. Sam Tyers is a Gr 6 teacher and one of our Athletic Directors.
- March 4th - the PAC is hosting a concession stand for the game happening that day.
- May 28th - Spring Entrepreneurial Fair
 - We are working on the signup announcement for students before Spring Break so they can prepare.
 - We are charging \$5 per table for every sign-up to help students learn the cost of doing business.
 - Mountain West Studios reached out to us offering Family Portrait. They are charging \$30 per seating, 10 mins with a complimentary 8x10 photo. No purchase necessary and the sitting fee goes back to the PAC.
- Create a Feedback Survey for Mountain West Studios for the parent and guardian community.
- June 9th Spring Concert - we are offering beverages and snacks and also calling for volunteers.
- It is confirmed we are moving ahead with the following Fundraisers: Spirit Wear, and Neufeld Farms with June pick-up.
- Sports Day - we are exploring buying Freezies instead of hosting a hotdog lunch.
- Our New Fundraiser Ideas are selling Whitecaps tickets and Krispy Kreme

PAC fundraisersJC Valeros, Kim Cirillo,
Carla Willems**Intramural hockey tournament canteen, March 4th 1 to 5:30pm (Kim Cirillo, JC Valeros, Carla Willems)**

- FRMS is hosting students from 11 of 12 elementary schools, will have over 350 kids and coaches for intramural floor hockey tournament.
- Running a canteen. Spent \$150 in supplies out of \$300 budgeted. With the remainder, we could spend the remainder on pizza to sell.
- Will use the PAC fundraising email address to circulate email to PAC parents for more volunteers.

Spring Entrepreneurial Fair, May 28th (Carla Willems, JC Valeros)

- Kim Chien (drama teacher) to collaborate with PAC. The PAC Chair will put together an announcement before Spring Break.
- Will charge \$5 per table, will help students learn the cost of doing business
- Fundraiser opportunity with MountainWest Studio. Offers a family portrait: \$30 per seating, 10 minutes - 1 8 x10 photo. No purchase necessary. Fee collected (portion) goes to PAC.

DPAC Representative Report

Laura Kwong

- February meeting held at Queen Elizabeth Elementary, had a small tour of the new building.
- Motions passed at DPAC meeting:
 - BCCPAC motion: request to develop policy that DPACs should be primary roles
 - Climate action committee request - draft letter to Ministry of Education about climate education. Will circulate to individual PACs to sign on.

- Passed motion to form Inclusive Education Committee. School and district based level needs could be led by the DPAC committee.
- The next meeting will be held April 16th. MIscha Oak will present on supporting SOGI in schools. Will be held at Herbert Spencer in person with an online option.

District policies

- Participated in some coordinated meetings on the Long Range Facilities Plan and shared feedback with the district.
- Shared feedback on the Policing Program survey and requested an extension. The survey is now open to March 8th.
- Discussed letters put out by BC Human Rights Commissions in 2021 and 2025 that addressed impacts of VPD putting policing programs back in place. Reached out to the BC Human Rights Commissioner's office, asked for their comments and thoughts on the draft policy and APs.
- For questions about policies, send them to DPAC, school trustees, or District staff. DPAC will pass on questions anonymously.

Surveys

- School calendar survey coming - e.g. when are pro-d days, may still be open for 2026-27
- Budget survey just closed
- Long Range Facilities Plan survey still open
- For Grade 5 students coming from Tweedsmuir, Howie or Connaught students, there is a Q&A page on District website re: Grade 6 transition options for the coming school year

Treasurer's Report

JC Valeros (for Temitope Adewale)

- Bank Balance as of Mar 2nd
 - Gaming - \$2,924.29 (no activity in February)
 - General - \$1724.21
- Income
 - Babysitting Course from School Cash - \$1,950
- Expenses
 - Columbia St Sandwich - \$296.62
 - Google One Subscription - \$15.67
 - Read-A-Thon Prizes (Big Way GC) - \$150
 - Sea2Sky Services (Babysitting course) - \$1131
 - March 4 Float - \$100
 - Bank Fees - \$2
- Ending Bank Balance: \$1,978.92
- Outstanding Receivable: Read-A-Thon Profit - \$4,669
- Outstanding Expense: Babysitting Course Refund - \$65

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	\$ 824.92	To be determined; est. based on LY proj & actual budget				
Gaming grant (based on 701 students Sept 2024)	\$ 14,020.00	\$ 14,020.00							
Community Grant			\$ 500.00		Spend for Spring Event				
General Account									
Fundraising - Fall/Winter	\$ -	\$ 557.02	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,923.96	Neufeld Farms, Spirit Wear, Winterfest, Babysitting Course, Read-A-Thon				
Fundraising - Spring	\$ -		\$ 6,000.00						
Other Fundraising	\$ -								
Total income	\$ 16,582.26	\$ 17,139.28	\$ 12,309.25	\$ 7,748.88					
Expenses									
Administrative									
Bank fees			\$ 50.00	\$ 1.00					
BCCPAC Membership Fees	\$ 100.00								
Google One Premium Plan			\$ 188.04	\$ 78.35	Virtual Attendance for families				
Subtotal	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 238.04	\$ 79.35					
Community Building									
PAC Family Engagement Events (School refreshments)	\$ 300.00	\$ 114.99							
Community Event	\$ 2,000.00				Re-named budget line item from Sports Day for spend flexibility				
Staff Appreciation			\$ 500.00	\$ 234.61					
Subtotal	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 114.99	\$ 500.00	\$ 234.61					
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 (27 divisions, 1 per div, \$200ea)				
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	\$ 14,214.99	\$ 11,328.04	\$ 1,063.96					
Balance	\$ 82.26	\$ 2,924.29	\$ 981.21	\$ 6,684.92					
Variances									
ELL e-Pens			\$ 460.00		\$460 ea pen, request 2-4 pcs. Review in March PAC Meeting		180 ELL Students		