

# FSS PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: February 18, 2026

Location: FSS

## Attendees

- Charlie Sawatsky — Parent
- Isabel Craig — Parent
- Paul Rogers — Parent
- Rachel Romero — Vice Principal
- Nicole Heckendorf — School Board Trustee
- Jason Summerfeld — Principal
- Natalie Parr — Treasurer
- Tanya Malcolm — Chair

Call to Order- Meeting called to order at 19:09. Technical issues- not able to use zoom link as planned- apologies to those affected.

Tanya provided the Land Acknowledgment.

## Amendments to the Agenda

- Vacancy of DPAC role added.
- Motion to create open role moved by Tanya, seconded by Nat. Motion carried.

## Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion to adopt January 2026 meeting minutes moved by Tanya, seconded by Leah. Motion carried.

## Treasurer's Report — Natalie Parr

- Nat reviewed the attached Treasurer's Report.
- PAC expressed thanks to Nat for the report.

## Chair's Report — Tanya Malcolm

- Tanya highlighted the BCCPAC award opportunity (link in agenda).
- Tanya reviewed grad request for funding — historically PAC contributes to Grad.

Motion: To allocate \$1,500 to the 2026 Grad Class Planning Committee (anticipated expenditure already in budget).

- Moved by Tanya

- Seconded by Nat
- All in favour, none opposed — Motion carried

#### Parent Advocacy for Science Fair Participation

- Tanya highlighted parents' ability to advocate for class/student participation in the East Kootenay Science Fair (EK Science Fair website).
- Rachel and Jason discussed that FSS science teachers are supporting participation in this science fair.

#### PAC Executive Updates

- Tanya announced she is resigning from the PAC Chair role.
- The Chair role is now open and the PAC is seeking someone to fill the position.
- Mark Elson (Vice Chair) has agreed to serve as Acting Chair until the role is filled.
- Deborah Davidson has resigned from her DPAC role (communicated via email to PAC Executive).

#### Principal's Report — Jason Sommerfeld

##### Events over the last month:

- Semester turnaround and learning updates (report cards)
- Lockdown drill on Wednesday Jan 28<sup>th</sup> and the RCMP attended, and provided valuable feedback for our school to think about and act on
- Grade 8/9 ski trip was on Thurs Feb 5<sup>th</sup>
- Grad photos happened last week
- Teachers submitted their preferred classes to help us build course selection for the next school year
- Tues Feb 17<sup>th</sup> there was an information session for parents of students entering grade 7 French Immersion next year at FSS
- Immunizations were provided to grade 9 students Feb 18<sup>th</sup>
- We have been recognizing Black History Month through announcements, videos, displays in the school and teachers using other resources in our school.
- Thanks, Tanya, for providing us with some resources at the beginning of the month.

##### Upcoming Events:

- Thursday Feb 19<sup>th</sup>- Course selection night- geared toward Grade 9 to 10 families to help them understand pathways toward graduation and post-secondary
- Wednesday Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Pink Shirt Day Assembly
- Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> French Immersion dept is getting Missy D to do a performance in the gym- bilingual hip hop/rap/soul artist based out of Vancouver
- Tuesday March 3, U of L presentation for Grade 10s and 11s

- Informal Reports and Core Competency Self- Reflections will both be sent home before spring break
- Course Selection is happening during the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> is Grade 7 ski trip.
- Parent asked about resources for parents regarding course selection.
- School budget meeting scheduled for March 2, 2026.

### Vice Principal's Report — Rachel Romero

- Information will be sent home with students entering Grades 10, 11, and 12.
- Parents will receive an email ahead of course selection to help students prepare.
- Advance planning is important as course selections determine school timetable and number of classes offered.
- Course planning information available on the FSS website under the “Students” tab.
- Families should communicate with FSS administration if students plan to take courses online.
- Course selection information meeting: February 19 for students entering Grades 10–12.
- Goal: optimize learning experience by supporting teacher expertise and meeting student goals and needs.

### Athletic Director Report — Rachel Romero

- Fernie hosted a ski and snowboard competition.
- Senior Girls Basketball qualified for Provincials in Langley.
- Senior Boys Basketball has upcoming zone championships and hopes to qualify for Provincials.
- Junior basketball season concluded successfully with strong participation.
- Bantam EK Championships upcoming this weekend.

### Upcoming Spring Sports:

badminton, rugby, track and field, mountain biking, junior and senior girls soccer, and possibly co-ed ultimate frisbee.

### School Board Trustee Report — Nicole Heckendorf

- Recognized Principal and Vice Principal efforts supporting students and staff after the recent event in Tumbler Ridge.
- Draft of next year's school calendar has been published.
- Discussed challenges in developing a calendar that works for all employees.
- March 10: School Board meeting — Teachers' Union and CUPE representatives presenting.
- Opportunity for individuals and groups to present at the public Board of Education meeting March 10.
- Deadline to notify Board of intent to present: February 25.
- New Fernie elementary school remains on track.

## New Business

- Staff lunch: Nat Parr noted a plan is needed; to be addressed outside the meeting.
- Fundraising: Nat suggested PAC consider a fundraiser.
- Nicole Heckendorf offered to lead parent organization of teacher appreciation lunch; Tanya offered to help in a parent role.
- Senior Boys Basketball team sent a thank-you card to PAC for funding support.

## Parent Questions and Discussion

- Parent requested update on absenteeism and cell phone use.

## Attendance (Rachel):

- Punitive approaches do not address underlying issues.
- Attendance data from January to February 10 analyzed for unexcused absences.
- 30 students have greater than 30% absenteeism; administration will contact parents/guardians to develop improvement strategies.
- Excused absence rates are high (parent/guardian excused).
- Administration has created an attendance policy.
- Emphasized importance of students attending school even during periods of high absenteeism.
- Parent expressed importance of teacher leadership in maintaining educational time during class regardless of attendance levels.
- Parent expressed frustration regarding use of student time on high absenteeism days.

## Cell Phone Use (Jason):

- Phones should not be used for non-instructional reasons.
- School has made significant improvements in cell phone use.
- If students are instructed to use phones for non-instructional purposes, administration should be informed.

Next Meeting- April 1, 2026 7:00 PM, FSS

Meeting adjourned at 20:31