

Fernie Secondary School PAC meeting

May 20th, 2026 FSS Library

Meeting called to order at 7:07 PM

In attendance:

Mark Elson - Vice Chair- Acting Chair

Jen Grebeldinger- Parent

Jane Johnson- Parent

Nicole Heckendorf – School Board Trustee

Leah Folkmann- Secretary

Jason Summerfeld- Principal

Nat Parr- Treasurer

Isabel Craig Parent -joined after meeting started

Charlie Sawatzky Parent- joined after meeting started

Patty Villasenor – Parent – joined after meeting started

Nat makes motion to adopt the minutes of today's agenda

Jane seconds the motion

Mark motion to adopt the minutes of April 1, 2026 meeting

Nat seconds the motion

Treasurer's report- Nat Parr

see attached treasurer's financial reports

possible upcoming donations needed could be needed for Spring Sports- Nicole and Mark clarified that this donation has already been made to the school

1050 budgeted money not allocated

Mark: newer gaming rules. no longer 2 years to spend. 1 year to spend from the date of dispersion. as a guidance they've suggested carry over balances of less than 15%. If we haven't spent more than 50% then we're not eligible for next year's gaming grant money.

Mark and Nat- BCEID business account - portal to access application for yearly gaming grant.

Nat highlighted the importance of school extracurricular raffles to be done using next school cash online

Cash and online makes it complicated

Fundraising:

Nat discusses not much interest and moving on from coffee roasters as a fundraiser for this year

bake sale- group discussed around end of year being very busy- try again next year.

Visibility and communication:

Sandwich board sign on meeting nights to get more interest- still looking for options for printing.

Graphic sign re: PAC meetings prepared by Nat

Administration using school text communication platform to text reminder of PAC meetings very effective for communication strategy

Plan to contact Fernie Fix in the fall to possibly have an article highlighting FSS PAC to generate community interest.

Question from Jen Grebeldinger about how funds are used for extracurriculars. General discussion around this to clarify, Mark answered question about gaming grant funds vs. other PAC funds.

Principal's report- see the report provided by Jason

Jason reported on a variety of curricular and extracurricular events and students learning. Highlights include the PARTY program, reverse job fair, paper crane peace project, Trash Bash, MMIW assemblies, Band Trip to Calgary, COTR trades expo, Indigenous Graduation Honouring Ceremony, student learning surveys.

Upcoming events as reported by Jason

EFP 11 St. Eugene Field trip May 22

Drama production 9to5 runs Tuesday May 26th to Thursday May 28. 7PM start time.

Grade 7 track meet Thursday May 28

Staff to receive Equity presentation from BCTF on Friday May 29th

Leadership field trip to Victoria and Legislature June 1- June 3

Indigenous Field Trip to Lethbridge

Welcome grade 7s the morning of wed June 3

Indigenous drummers June 4

Final band concert of the year Traynor Hall June 4 at 7pm

Grade 10s and French Immersion Grade 12s to write provincial assessments from June 8-19.

Indigenous Field Trip to Calgary on June 10th

Grade 11st from Jaffray to Visit FSS June 10th

Senior Outdoor Education and French Outdoor Ed to Waterton from June 11-12

Admin Day June 12th.

Last day of school is on Monday June 22nd. Annual FSS awards on this day.

Jason reports on MDI survey from Grade 8 students:

Large increase in students feeling positive about the school climate. Students reporting “high” last year was 26%, this year 46% reported “high”

99% of students said they never or rarely go hungry. He highlighted the ongoing partnership FSS has with the Fernie Food Security Society and thanks the Fernie Food Security Society.

Jason reported on the school Growth Plan: higher than last year number of office referrals, he attributes this to an engaged administration team and willingness and comfort of students, staff and families in approaching issues that need to be addressed.

Nicole Heckendorf- school board trustee report

Nicole discussed that she attended a conference- BC school trustees association AGM

Her expectations exceeded and found it very worthwhile.

She attended policy review session

She attended learning sessions:

media and communicating with clarity

educational outcomes of indigenous learners

chronic absence rates

AGM

New Fernie Elementary School- met with Tobacco Plains members, design elements to be considered, at some point there will be a community information session, hoping for shovels in the ground summer 2026.

Call for Chair nominations- none at present time

Clarification that Mark Elson is acting chair.

Nicole Heckendorf reports on Staff Luncheon

Big success

A lot of parent participation and provision of food made this a very successful event.

NO COST to PAC- all food was provided by parents.

New business:

None

Next meeting June 17th, 2026.

Meeting Adjourned 8:17PM