

## **EIDES Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026

**Time:** 7:04 PM

**Location:** EIDES School Library

---

### **Attendance**

#### **Present**

- Nykala Green– Chair
- Wendy Anderson – Treasurer
- Jill Barclay – DPAC Representative / Recording Minutes on behalf of Secretary Erika
- Amy Leeden – Vice Principal
- Nicole Heckendorf – Trustee
- Carolyn Doyle – Parent / Past Chair
- Jody Erbacher – Parent / Past Fundraiser Coordinator
- Sherry – Parent / Past Treasurer

#### **Regrets**

- Nicole Neufeld – Principal
  - Erika Shenton– Secretary
- 

### **1. Call to Order & Adoption of Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

A land acknowledgement was shared, recognizing the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Ktunaxa people.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The previous meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted without amendments.

---

### **2. Principal's Report**

#### **Presented by Amy Leeden**

Amy shared updates on recent school activities, events, and upcoming programs.

#### **School Activities & Events**

- Staff appreciation lunch and support from PAC was acknowledged and appreciated by staff.
- Student-led celebrations and early dismissal activities were well attended by families and community members.
- Outdoor learning opportunities continue throughout the school.
- Teachers recently attended a regional professional development day focused on collaboration, outdoor learning, and student engagement.

VP attended a keynote presentation from a former winner of *Alone*, focused on:

- Outdoor learning
- Resilience
- Gratitude
- Student connection
- Perseverance through challenges

## **School Programs & Activities**

Updates included:

- Jump Rope for Heart raised over \$11 000.00.
- Literacy support activities were completed for Grade 1 families.
- Book Fair activities took place alongside PTE events.
- “Play Before K” sessions continue successfully with over 20 incoming kindergarten students participating in each session. 3 of 4 completed.
- Science World visited the school to deliver sport- and science-based programming.
- Intermediate golf lessons are underway with PAC support.

## **Upcoming Events**

- Drama performances:
  - In-school performances: May 12 at 11:00 AM and 1:15 PM
  - Evening performance: May 13 at 6:30 PM
- Bike Rodeo and Kindergarten Orientation are upcoming.

## **Class Configurations 2026/27**

The office team will begin class configurations for the upcoming school year in the coming weeks.

Discussion included:

- Kindergarten placements are typically shared in June due to gradual entry scheduling.
- Other placements are generally communicated shortly before school begins.
- Parent consideration forms are accepted until May 31.

- Requests are reviewed but not guaranteed.
- Class placements are developed collaboratively with teacher and school-based team input.
- Discussion occurred regarding blended classrooms, class balance, and maintaining an open-minded approach to placements.

### **3. Treasurer's Report / Draft Budget**

#### **Presented by Wendy Anderson**

Wendy presented an initial draft of the 2026–2027 PAC budget.

#### **Budget Overview**

The draft currently includes:

- Gaming Grant allocation based on 544 students at \$20 per student
- Current PAC bank balance
- Vision Hero grant balance
- Estimated unspent budget carryover
- Preliminary fundraising projections

The Gaming Grant is expected around September 30, 2026

Discussion acknowledged that PAC fundraising throughout the year helps offset larger annual expenses and that established annual fundraisers naturally cycle throughout the school year.

The draft budget will continue to be refined and reviewed at the June meeting prior to final presentation at the September AGM.

#### **PAC Engagement & Fundraising Capacity**

Discussion occurred regarding the challenge of parent volunteer engagement and planning fundraisers around available volunteer capacity.

Key points included:

- Families are often supportive but limited by time.
- PAC benefits when newer families, especially Grade 2 - 3 families, become involved early.
- Some fundraisers are easier to continue because experienced volunteers are already established.
- Despite smaller meeting attendance, EIDES PAC engagement remains strong compared to many schools.
- Fundraising plans should consider both revenue potential and volunteer sustainability.

## **4. Trustee Report**

**Presented by Nicole Heckendorf**

### **New Elementary School Project**

Updates included:

- The project is nearing the tender stage.
- Construction is hoped to begin this summer.
- Meetings have taken place with Tobacco Plains regarding Indigenous design considerations.
- Public information sessions are expected in the future.

### **Mountain View School – Sparwood**

Updates included:

- EVR tenancy has moved out of the building.
- The district is exploring future community uses for the space.
- Potential uses include:
  - Early learning hub
  - Community gymnasium use
  - Leasing opportunities for community organizations

### **Cranbrook Childcare Facility**

A new childcare facility is planned for the Amy Woodland property in Cranbrook through partnerships with Indigenous organizations and provincial partners.

### **BC School Trustees Association AGM**

Nicole shared reflections from attending the BCSTA AGM.

Topics included:

- Policy review practices across BC school districts
- Indigenous education outcomes
- Chronic absenteeism post-COVID
- Communication and media training
- Provincial motions and advocacy work

Discussion included:

- Indigenous learner completion rates

- Chronic absenteeism statistics

Nicole also described the AGM motion and debate process, including discussion around advocacy for broader infrastructure replacement criteria beyond seismic concerns.

## **5. DPAC Report**

**Presented by Jill Barclay**

Updates from the recent DPAC meeting included:

- DPAC is currently operating with only a President in place, and discussions are underway regarding potential governance, compliance, and protocol challenges related to vacant executive positions, such as the Treasurer.
- Funding opportunities remain available through DPAC, and EIDES PAC plans to apply for support toward the 2026–2027 school calendar magnets.
- The Teachers' Union shared updates regarding anticipated layoffs for the 2026–2027 school year.
- DPAC reviewed interest from several PACs regarding a shared anti-discrimination speaker/presentation proposed for September 2026.
- DPAC advised that formal requests related to presentations or district-wide initiatives should proceed through school administration to the district level.

## **6. Anti-Discrimination Committee**

Felina Arsenault was not present. No report was provided.

## **7. Other Business**

### **Spring Plant Fundraiser**

The spring plant fundraiser is progressing well and is currently estimated at approximately \$1,500 profit, with hopes of reaching \$2,000.

Positive feedback included:

- Increased participation from new families
- Strong sales supported by the early spring season

### **Ongoing Fundraisers**

PAC discussed continuing into 2026/27:

- Plant sales
- Apple fundraiser
- Chip, Tea, Coffee Fundraisers
- Used book fair
- Bake sale
- Yearbook sales

Volunteers confirmed continued support for several fundraising initiatives.

### **Bake Sale Discussion**

Discussion focused on increasing participation and visibility for the bake sale.

Ideas included:

- Better promotion through flyers and visual reminders
- Encouraging small baking contributions from families
- Student baking competitions
- Outreach to grandparents and community members
- Continuing to build the bake sale into an annual school tradition connected to the used book fair

### **Orange Shirt Order**

PAC will follow up regarding orange shirt orders to ensure they are completed prior to September and support local businesses connected to Truth and Reconciliation initiatives.

### **Playground Committee**

No representative was present. No report was provided.

### **Reading Logs**

Kristy Falconer was not present. No update was provided.

### **Big Used Book Drive**

The used book drive is planned for:

- May 26–28
- June 1–3

Daily class incentives and prizes will be introduced to encourage participation throughout the collection period.

Discussion included:

- Daily class prizes
- Overall class winners
- Family communication strategies
- Volunteer support for sorting and counting books

## **8. Ghost rider Adventure Camp Donation**

PAC reviewed a request for support from Ghost rider Adventure Camp.

The camp provides one-week residential outdoor experiences for at-risk children in the Elk Valley.

PAC confirmed the previously budgeted \$750 donation and approved issuing the cheque.

The discussion highlighted the positive impact the camp has on children and families in the community.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **8:19 PM**.

Members thanked everyone for their participation and contributions. Refreshments (thank you Nykala!) and informal discussion followed.

## **Next PAC Meeting**

Tuesday, June 2, 2026  
EIDES School Library – 7:00 PM