



Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Fernie Secondary School Library

7:00pm-8:30pm

1. Welcome/Call meeting to Order 7pm
 - Introductions and land acknowledgement (5 min)
2. Amendments to the agenda (2 min)
 - a. Motion to Adopt the Agenda- Patty adopted agenda and Sheri second.
 - b. New Board members-
Chair- Tanya Malcolm
Vice Chair- Mark Elson
Treasurer- Natalie Parr
DPAC Representative- Deborah Davidson
3. Motion to Adopt [FSS September 2025 Minutes](#) + [Budget](#) + [Attachments](#) review of action items (3 min)- Patty adopted and Tanya second.
4. Reports

Treasurer: Sheri Earl, incoming Natalie Parr (10 min)

Chair: Tanya Malcolm (10 min)

- Funding Requests: [Halloween Event](#), [Fly Fishing Club](#) + [Letter](#), [Outdoor Club](#) + [Budget](#)
- Funding Request- Student counsel- Erin Webber
Spirit week activities and candy \$200.00
Motion to approve- Mark and Patty second
All in favor, no denial
- Funding request- Fly fishing- Kyle Cullins and Kurtis Caldwell
\$1000 request for ongoing fly-fishing equipment
Motion to approve- Carolyn Doyle
All in favor, non-opposed
- Funding request- Outdoor club- Andrew Gulyas
\$1500 request for specific outdoor camping equipment
For winter camping, outdoor climbing trip, canoe trip on the Columbia river

Motion to approve- Sanjeev Parmar, second Jane Johnson

All in favor, non-opposed

Principal: Jason Sommerfield (10 min)

Attended Professional Development concerning AI- Reframing people's perspectives- helping kids use AI ethically and in a healthy way.

District starting to roll out AI objectives in the school's.

- Orange Shirt day- Rocks decorating, Smokey Sumac visit,
- DSAC happened
 - Visit from Joe Pierre – Indigenous Education Lead
- FSA's started and need to be completed by November (foundational skills assessments- provincial)
- Post Secondary Schools visit our school
- Tutoring Indigenous students- funding came through
- Earth Quake drill
- Fire/evacuation drill
- Boys and Girls group met- through APEX, worked as a group- alternate education meeting.
- Had a meeting with all the coaches.
- Next month- Grad assessments cancelled until January
- Live different assembly- Nov 6 positive living practices
- Remembrance Day ceremony Nov 10 at the school
- Learning updates- Nov 18 online only, no paper copies
- Trying a different option for meals from FSS Kitchen- Pay what you can-
 - Gave away 39% (Roughly lost over \$20,000 due to wages, food cards, and increase in food price).
 - Pay what you can model used in other districts in BC.
 - Working on putting out messaging, and working with Kristy and Dani and seeing what the barriers are. This is based on punch cards. Good ideas were shared in the meeting.
 - Feeding futures- Fund given by the ministry to the district, then given then to the schools. Some money did not come to our school last year. No formula to cover specific kids in schools.
 - Family affordability funds used to cover the money to make kitchen profitable, but government no longer giving that money.

- Suggestion to make a Christmas tree with hanging food cards, community members could then buy a food card.
- Suggestion that offering to pay less- many people might take advantage of that. The higher ups would like to still try this method for now.
- The district is very motivated to make breakfast and lunch programs work.
- This plan would give everyone a food card.

Athletic Director: Rachel Romero (10 min)

- Fall sports coming to an end
- Senior boys soccer team- going to provincials, first time in a long time- Tickets booked \$1000 allocated going to soccer provincials.
- Cross country running zones happening 6 qualifying, 5 attending
- Swimming
- Senior boys and Girls Volleyball- Also likely going to Provincials
- Athletic handbook, e-mailed out to families and gotten parent feedback.

Working with coaches on the document- went through its page by page.

Supporting people to follow the expectations laid out to Coaches.

Playing time- expectations for grade 7-8 before coaches could decide on playing time, now seeing a full grade 7 team. Clear expectations for U14 from Province Canada, we are going to meet the requirements allowing for fair playing time.

Primarily community volunteer run. Very grateful.

DPAC: Deb Davidson (10 min)

- The meeting was an introduction and quick update by each of the new District Committee Reps and Executive, and this was lengthy as almost every person is new this year except the Chairperson.
- All schools were reprimanded for carrying a balance over from last year's "grant money", and we brainstormed ideas of how to spend this collectively and quickly, with a speaker(s) that parents/guardians would find interesting enough to attend. Please provide any ideas you may be sitting on.
- We discussed the strategy of centralizing communication systems to standardize them across SD5, as Nancy and I discussed was an initiative suggested last year and this received support from all present.

- When sharing the news from our initial PAC meeting, the issue of purchasing electronic devices came up and this discussion took up the remainder of our Meeting, as there were many conflicting viewpoints. We have been asked to provide written reports for the next meeting to make the time available more balanced.

School Trustee: Nicole Heckendorf (10 min)

- Advocacy from the board- trying to support initiatives for ECE to move to rural areas, creating incentives (support for housing, etc..)
- DPAC request public portion of the committee days in Cranbrook usually at 1pm, trying to shift it to 3pm to try and get more participation from the public.
- Fernie elementary school, supposed to have environmental ticket soon.
- Hoping to offer funding for childcare- will need to see what that costs
- Question: Tanya wondered if we are advocating recruiting teachers in the schools too.

Answer: Yes

5. Any other business (5 min)

Funding request- Karen Walker- Boys and Girls Group- Food for the social emotional program

- Request for \$500 to get food

Technically extracurricular in nature- because counselors are teachers, they are offering their time during lunch.

Question by Mark Elson: Could cafeteria get the \$500 and feed them lunch?

Rachel- It's a difficult load for the cafeteria and difficult to meet the timing needs.

Motion to approve- Parmar first, and Nancy second.

All in favor, non-opposed

Other business Questions-

- What is a grad assessment? - Provincial assessments Literacy 10, Literacy 12, Numeracy 10
All the assessments are based on previous years' learning
- Buddy program- Can we support especially the 7th graders to continue that connection through with their older buddy? Jason going to ask the teachers.
- Biggest takeaway from the AI conference? - Jason- Not using it enough in school. 90% of educators use it. Many educators do not want kids to use it. We want kids to use it to polish off their work, but not for all the work. We need to model this for the kids
- Carolyn Doyle- November 13 at Isabella Dicken from 3-8pm- Books for anyone, \$3 a book.
- We still need a secretary

6. Date of Next meeting: Wednesday November 26, 2025

7. Adjournment