



**George Elliot Secondary School
Parent Advisory Council (PAC) MINUTES
Monday, Sept 23rd 2024 at 6:30pm**

In Person: GESS Library

1.0 Call to Order at 6:35 pm:

Attendance/Introductions: Jim L (P), Daryl S (VP), Jenn H (VP),
Michelle B, Cynthia L, Linda I, Craig C, Ian L, Roslyn H, Bretta L, Anne L,
Regrets: Jodi C, Don F

2.0 Agenda: Approved – Roslyn, Seconded - Craig

3.0 Minutes: Approved – Roslyn, Seconded - Craig

4.0 Principal's Report: Jim Laird

4.1: Welcome back and thank you to PAC

4.2: Introduction of Daryl Smith and Jenn Hall, our current and new VPs

4.3: Positive start to the year; 875 students up from 830 last year. 208 in Grad Class

4.4: Parent/Teacher Conference / Open House on Oct 17th 5pm-7pm

4.5: New mandate on cell phones in classrooms has gone better than expected! Jim, Daryl and Jenn all reported generally positive response from students.

4.6: PAC Funding request form. Can we submit to Jim for distribution?

4.7: Grad update: thanks to sponsor Lisa Marples, Grad students attended Oyama Adventure Park, Grade 12 parents committee has met already.

4.8: New Events:

- OECD International Study Partnership culminates April 2025
- ChemCorp project globally recognized, congratulations Darcie!
- AP Passions
- Aspire Chemistry for G12s mentorship with UBCO and HMS
- Academy of Art & Design
- Choir and Theatre ramping up! Great news!

5.0 Reports:

5.1: President Report: nothing to report

5.2: Treasurer Report: Tanya

- 3 students have not taken their bursary payments (3x\$500=\$1500). Tanya motioned that she would contact each one more time, if no replies, monies will go to Oyama Zipline for Grad Fund. Approved – Roslyn, Seconded – Bretta, In Favor - Carried
- Tanya motioned to send BCCPAC \$100. Approved - Roslyn, Seconded – Craig, In Favor - Carried

5.3: COPAC – no report

6.0 Old Business:

6.1: nothing to report

7.0 New Business:

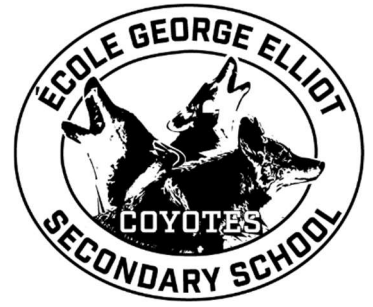
7.1: GESS Facebook has been looked after by Brenda, Roslyn has agreed to moderate it from now on.

8.0 Adjournment: 7:25 pm

Next Meeting: October 21st 2024

École George Elliot Secondary PAC: Principal's Report

- Monday, September 23, 2024



- **Welcome back and thank you!**
 - It's going to be another great year ahead. Thanks from all of us for being involved in PAC, our school, and in your child's education. We are so very appreciative of parents/guardians who volunteer and make a difference.
- **Introductions**
 - Darryl Smith (VP responsible for last names A-K)
 - Jen Hall (VP responsible for last names L-Z)
- **Start to the year, school population, growth, projections**
 - It's been a very positive start to the school year. Our new students and staff are amazing and are settling in very well. I've been involved in multiple parent meetings this year already as we connect with families.
 - We are up to approximately 875 students from last year's 830. The 12s we had leaving last year were considerably smaller than the Grade 8s coming in.
 - Our grad class (sitting at 208 right now) is the largest grad class GESS has ever had
- **Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conference Open House (Oct 17, 5-7pm)**
 - Like last year, we have scheduled our first parent/guardian/teacher conference open house in mid-October. It is a more informal structure – teachers in classrooms, parents (and their child or children) with them walking through the school, connecting with staff, checking in.
 - Like I shared in the Grade 9 parent info session, I strongly encourage parents/guardians to not wait for the open house to reach out to teachers if there is a need.
- **Cell Phone/Personal Device Mandate Update**
 - It has gone well so far. Teachers have noticed far fewer distractions in classes, and 99% of students have been great with the change.
 - We appreciate our families' support with the new mandate.
- **PAC Funding Request process**
 - Teachers have already started to inquire about the best way to make PAC funding requests.
 - My hope would be that the PAC will be updating the online request form from last year, and I will let staff know. It was quick, convenient, and made it easy to collate data.
 - When you've decided and when the form is open, please let me know so I can inform staff.

- **Grad update**

- Our grad sponsor is Lisa Marples. It's a ton of work and additional time, and we appreciate her so much. Last week (Wednesday/Thursday/Friday) the grads had their first school sanctioned field trip to the Oyama Adventure Park.
 - Thank you for the PAC support!
- The grade 12 parent volunteer committee has already met and look to be a GREAT group who will coordinate fundraising, help plan prom, etc.

- **New Courses, New Partnerships, New Possibilities**

- Year two of the OECD international study partnership
 - Culminates in April 2025
 - ChemCorp has been a globally recognized exemplar of pedagogical innovation
- AP Passion to Action Inquiry Seminar (up to two sections)
 - National and international connections and potential for students
- Aspire Chemistry
 - Linear Chemistry 12 with Lab Studies 12 and Careers 12B
 - Connections/mentorship at UBCO and with HMS
- Wild Ed grade 9 elective next year
 - Outdoor ed-ish with Science
- Academy of Art and Design
 - Running for the second year in a row for a while
 - Last year's Art show was amazing!
- Applied Humanities and Integrated Indigenous Studies 10-12
- K-12 Community of Practice in Lake Country
- Year 2 of the French Immersion program
- A growing Choir program with Mr. Fraser
- The largest scale Theatre production GESS has seen in over a decade