



**École George Elliot Secondary School
Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Minutes
Monday, June 23rd 2025 at 6:30pm**

In Person: Library

1.0 Call to Order 6:30pm

Attendance/Introductions: Jim L, Craig C, Ros H, Tanya L, Don F, Jodi C, Linda I, Cynthia L, Bretta L, Mark H, Christy C
Regrets: Ian L

2.0 Agenda: Additions/Approval – Approved: Bretta, Seconded: Don

2.1 Final discussion and agreement on distribution of funds going forward into the next school year and beyond. in that none would be granted directly to the Grad Committee, apart from the annual Field Trip, but rather give support to them with the issue of gaming licenses when requested, so they can hold events and fundraisers themselves.

2.2 Potential Hot Lunch Program spearheaded by GESS PAC for all of Lake Country, discussion on arranging a forum with 4 x PACs and Food Bank in Lake Country.

2.3 Election of PAC executives

2.4 Transfer of banking details to relevant members

2.5 GESS PAC Bylaw change for COPAC representation

3.0 Minutes: Previous Meeting Minutes Additions/Approval – Approved: Bretta, Seconded: Tanya

3.1 It was agreed that GESS PAC will provide up to two (2) licenses for the Grad Committee per school year, commencing this September 2025 onwards - *Approved: Bretta, Seconded: Cynthia*

3.2 More discussion will continue on this September 2025 onwards.

3.3 Election of Positions: *Approved: Bretta, Seconded: Cynthia*

President : Craig Catton

Vice President: Cynthia Livingstone

Treasurer: Ros Hazen

Secretary: Ian Long

Members At Large: Bretta Lawton, Mark Hansen

COPAC Reps: Tanya Leshuk/Ros Hazen

3.4 Banking signatures to be transferred – *Approved: Jodi, Seconded: Bretta*

New signatories will be Craig Catton, Ros Hazen, Tanya Leshuk

3.5 GESS Bylaw wording for COPAC rep has been changed to “No member shall hold more than one office at any one time, except the position of COPAC Representative.” - *Approved: Bretta, Seconded: Don*

3.6 Thanks from Victoria Bingham re: Indigenous Grad skirts.

4.0 Principal's Report: Jim Laird – See Accompanying Report

5.0 Reports:

5.1 President – Craig Catton: Nothing to report

5.2 Treasurer – Tanya Leshuk: See minutes 3.4

As Per : 06/23/25	Balance	Request	Funds Requested/ Pending	Funds Approved
Gaming	\$21,513.43	Oyama Zipline G12		\$3,685.50
		Frescette basketball uniforms		\$3,000.00
		Johnson Hiking club gear		\$861.00
		Frescette High jump covers		\$1,025.00
		Robinson Gardening tools		\$200.00
		Yoga mats x 10		\$439.62
		McKenzie field trip		\$1,000.00
		Frescette soccer shirts		\$1,500.00
		Lafontaine "GESS swag"		\$1,000.00
		Vicaretti Treadmill		\$1,000.00
		Indigenous Grad skirts		\$600.00
		Frescette volleyball uniforms	\$1,000.00	
			TOTAL	\$14,311.12
General*	\$1,524.88		REMAINING	\$7,202.31
* = not part of "REMAINING" balance				

5.3 COPAC – Ros and Jodi attended BCCPAC meeting

6.0 Old Business:

6.1 :

7.0 New Business:

7.1 : Potential Hot Lunch Program spearheaded by GESS PAC for all of Lake Country (see minutes

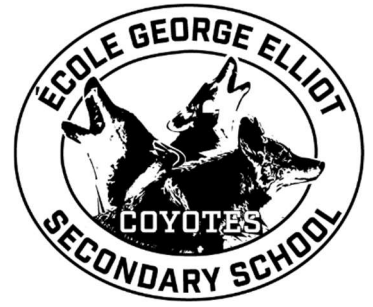
3.2)

8.0 Adjournment: 7:15pm

Next meeting: September 22nd 2025 Library

École George Elliot Secondary PAC: Principal's Report

- Monday, June 23, 2025



It was a good year at GESS. We had a successful graduation, our students did well academically, our sports teams played well, and we had students take part in local, provincial, and national learning experiences. We had the largest grad class in GESS history cross the stage which sets the stage for a larger school community moving into the future. Lake Country is growing and so is our cohort sizes.

Next year, we will see the start of our Fire Academy partnership with the LCFD, ASPIRE Chemistry and BRIDGE expand to OKM (with our goal on spreading to all the high schools), our French Immersion program expanded now to grades 9-11, and our Library refresh is finally done. District budgets are a challenge and inflation is tough; at the school level we've had to budget and timetable incredibly tightly. Despite that, we'll keep working to make GESS the best place to learn in SD23.

- **Thank you!**

- Thanks 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.
- For those who no longer have children at GESS, thank you for everything!
- The staff wanted me to include a heart-felt "thank you" as well from them for all the other wonderful things you do. We know that you support our programs, our students, and the staff in the community as well as in the PAC meetings. It means a lot to us all.

- **Graduation Recap**

- Convocation and prom happened on the 13/14 – GESS had the most graduates ever in the school's 66 year history at 204. Typical recent years leading up to this one hovered around 130
 - Implemented a multi convocation structure to give families as many guest tickets as possible (all 200 would have been roughly 3 per family, and having half opened up tickets to 6). We scanned families in October and families were overwhelmingly in support of two ceremonies
 - Prom was very well attended at 185 guests (which puts us over 90% taking part). The fundraising committee did an outstanding job!
- Our grad class next year already has a prom parent planning committee

- **Capstone Review**

- Thanks to those of you who took part in Capstone this year. Your contribution and perspectives are valued, and we hope that being part of this afternoon is inspiring for you too. We're hoping that the PAC exec will continue being part of this each year moving forward.
- If you have any feedback, please let me know.

- **Traffic Safety Presentation**

- Grade 12s and 11s took part in a driving safety presentation designed by local first responders (RCMP, LCFD, and the BC Ambulance Service) and supported by the District of Lake Country, Mario's Towing, and the Rotary.
- Along with a presentation in the theatre, there was a recreation of an accident scene in our parking lot in the spirit of learning and supporting safe driving habits on the road for our senior students.
- It would be nice to do this each year, but it depends on the availability of the materials, the first responders, etc. We are grateful for their time, efforts, and participation in keeping our students and community safe.

- **Unsanctioned Grad Events District Email/RCMP News Release**

- Nothing good happens at bush parties, grad kidnapping, pass the torch, etc.
 - Every year the RCMP deal with assaults, car wrecks, public drinking, and worse because of these unsanctioned events. It's challenging for schools because although these are historical "grad" things, they are never, ever supported, condoned, or encouraged.
- I speak about these things every year to grad parents. The district will be emailing out each year so parents are in the loop, but now Grades 10-12.
- Parents/guardians have to make decisions as to what they are comfortable with for their children, but we want information out and parents in the know regarding the risks and that the school district is not involved.

- **District iGen Winners from GESS**

- Two of our students achieved outstanding success at the entrepreneurship iGen 2025 Finale, taking 1st and 3rd place in the competition!
 - They competed against 16 other teams from high schools across the region and came out on top with their innovation, dedication, and hard work.
- 1st place (\$2500): Cadence Lesack (Equigard)
- 3rd place (\$1250): Lily Timms (Red Thread Spice Company)

- **Parent Portal, Report Cards**

- The district has prepared the parent portal on MyEd. No longer will parents have to go through their children to look at report cards, check timetables, etc. If you haven't made your account etc. please do so.

- It does require parents to do a few things and sign up with their own account – there are instructions on the website, and we emailed the info out.
- For schools who have implemented it, the parent portal has gone fairly smoothly. It's new to us, so if there are hiccups, hopefully we can work through those smoothly.
- **Temporary Teachers Still to Hire**
 - We have three temporary teaching assignments to fill sometime soon. Usually this process happens in early-mid July. There are many good temp teachers out there, and we are hoping to snag a few.
 - Once this is done and the teachers are inputted into MyEd, student timetables with courses without a teacher name will be updated.
- **GESS Summer Maintenance Schedule**
 - Our gym floors are starting their refinishing process today! The gyms will be shut down for 3-4 weeks to allow for the refinishing/curing process to happen.
 - We are expecting a portable to be added this summer as well to reduce a bit of classroom pressure on the building.
- **PAC Structures for Next Year?**
 - If you would like me to change any aspect of my reports, the locations of the meetings, etc. please let me know. I'd be happy to present about learning in more depth or more interactive ways if you'd ever like to hear about anything in particular.