

# PAC MINUTES

## Richard Bulpitt Elementary PAC

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October 21, 2025 @ 7:00pm | *General Meeting*

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### In Attendance

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#### **Executive:**

Rahima Rana (*President*), Simran Kaur (*Treasurer*), Christina Bally (*Hot Lunch Coordinator*), Daljit Dial (*Member at Large*), Tom Hancock (*DPAC Representative*), Purty Saha (*Secretary*), Marufa Parinas (*Member at Large*), Catherine Maxwell (*Vice President*), Alex Hayer (*Member at Large*), Edith Mok (*Volunteer Coordinator*), Zoe Ma (*Hot Lunch Coordinator*), Fereen Lafleche (*Member at Large*)

**Administration:** Zoltan Bako (*Principal*)

**Community:** Cris Ruiz

Meeting called to order by Rahima at 6:35pm.

### Welcome and Acknowledgement

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We acknowledge that the Langley School District resides on the ancestral, unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Matsqui, and Semiahmoo First Nations.

### Approval of September 2025 Minutes

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1st Catherine Maxwell, 2nd Edith Mok. All in favour.

### Principal's Report

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- Mrs. Burns is expecting and will start maternity leave after spring break.
- The Student-Inclusive Conference window opened today and runs through Friday, November 29th. Conferences start next week with early dismissal on Wednesday. The focus of conferences is on strength-based conversations about each child's learning and goals.
- On Monday, November 10th, staff attended a presentation at R.C. Garnet Elementary School by well-known speaker Shelley Moore on inclusion and designing for all students.
- Scholastic Book Fair: The book fair runs from November 24th to 28th.
- Reminder to students to be prepared for rainy weather.
- The winter concert is coming up and will feature primary classes (K-2). It will be split into two shows at 1:15 PM and 6:00 PM. Mr. Bako's ukulele group will also perform. A spring concert for intermediate students (grades 3-5) will take place after spring break.
- **Parent Feedback on Spirit Wear Week**
  - A parent complained about the frequency of theme days (spirit days) at the end of December and the end of the year, noting that it's difficult for dual-income families to

manage these events alongside sports and jobs. The parent expressed concerns about the amount of work and disruption caused by theme days, especially during the week before Christmas, noting that theme days can detract from learning, similar to their own school experiences. While acknowledging that school spirit is meant to be fun and engaging, the parent emphasized the importance of continued learning. Specific theme days mentioned included Holiday sweater day, Tuque Tuesday, Grinch day, head-to-toe holiday wear, and PJ day with pancake breakfast.

### Treasurer's Report

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- General account: \$45,556.81
- Gaming account: \$14,125.90

### DPAC Report

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- There was a DPAC meeting on October 23, 2025, with another meeting scheduled for 20 of November
- Power Outage & Emergency Contact Issues: During recent power outages that affected school septic systems and forced closures, parents couldn't quickly arrange child pickup because the school couldn't access backup contact lists. One of the proposed solutions was implementing physical cards for each child containing backup parent information for emergency situations.
- The district's Chief Technology Officer gave a presentation on artificial intelligence integration in schools. The district will be deploying Microsoft Copilot in schools with specific guidelines and protections for student data. For students in grades 9-12, AI will be used directly, but with a structured approach requiring students to complete multiple drafts of assignments before using AI on the final version. The AI system will operate through a government-secured portal (MCP) with protected Copilot that strips out and contains sensitive information to ensure data security.
- A significant portion of the meeting focused on the Feeding Futures lunch program, a province-wide government-funded initiative that allocates money to districts for student meals. Implementation varies across schools, with some locations like Yorkson Creek offering the program to any family willing to pay for it. However, the program has faced consistent complaints about food quality, with many students not eating the provided meals. Parents have expressed dissatisfaction about meals being served cold, small portions, and overall poor nutritional value. The menu options, while including choices like vegetarian and halal with four or five options each day, don't seem to match the expectations of students and parents.
- The structural challenges stem from having a single vendor for the entire district, which limits control over both quantity and quality.
- A motion was brought forward to review the vendor contract for the Feeding Futures program due to these quality concerns. Tom said that contract reviews are standard procurement practice and that the district is likely already addressing these concerns. *Tom* indicated he would vote against the motion.

### Fun Lunch Update

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- The hot lunch program has been experiencing several logistical challenges, particularly with COB's delivery service. Unlike other vendors, COB's does not deliver directly to the school, requiring staff to pick up orders. This creates significant disruption because three divisions need their lunches delivered before lunchtime recess. Adding to the frustration, COB's has failed to have 100% of orders ready even after confirmation, prompting suggestions that they

should return to their previous delivery method.

- Another major issue has been managing parent volunteers during the lunch distribution process. Volunteers have been arriving early at 11:15-11:20 instead of the scheduled 11:45 while pre-packing is still in progress. These well-meaning volunteers have been jumping in to help before receiving proper instruction, throwing their hands into everything and starting to pack items before they're properly labeled. While there were minimal mistakes in the end and everything turned out fine, the situation highlighted the need for better preparation and clearer boundaries. The challenge is compounded by the fact that every vendor and food product is different, requiring specific handling procedures that volunteers may not understand.
- To address these volunteer issues, several solutions have been proposed. Implementing a physical barrier like a table would keep volunteers out of the packing area until items are ready. Additionally, better communication about timing is needed, particularly emphasizing that lunches are now served at the same time across all divisions, eliminating any need for volunteers to arrive early.
- The program also faces challenges with how different vendors divide items. Some vendors split items by division, which can lead to mistakes and make it difficult to locate missing items when problems arise. The preferred approach is to have one trusted vendor, someone who has been used often and has proven reliable, handle the division of items into divisions, while other vendors provide items directly for double-checking at the distribution window. This system saves time and reduces errors.
- Despite these challenges, the overall program has been going well. The coordination team strongly recommends having a partner for hot lunch coordination due to the substantial workload involved. The current partnership has been working wonderfully, making the entire process much more manageable. In fact, the recommendation is that no one should attempt to run a hot lunch program of this size without a partner, even in the future. The only growing concern is that vendors are filling up their schedules quickly, making it increasingly difficult to secure desired dates and preferred vendors.

## Fundraising Updates

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- Spirit Wear: Orders are supposed to be arriving sometime this week.
- Family Photo Fundraiser: 39 out of 48 spots have been filled, earning \$390 plus 10% of package sales.
- Purdy's Holiday Fundraiser: So far, 4 orders have been submitted, totaling \$336 with \$50 in profit earned. The last day for orders is November 30th. Orders will be submitted on December 1st and should arrive around December 12th.
- Winter Market: The Winter Market is this Friday, November 21st, from 5:00 to 8:30 PM. There will be 40 vendors (one vendor cancelled). \$855 has been made in table fees. The A50 Diner food truck is confirmed for the event.

## Volunteer Report

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- Hot Lunch Volunteers: Hot lunch volunteering has been going well. We are getting more than enough people signed up.
- Volunteer Gift Card Draws: Edith has completed the volunteer gift card draws for October. She will email hot lunch volunteers to inform them that they should arrive at 11:45 instead of 11:15, as was the practice last year.
- Movie Night: She will be posting the sign up genius for movie night volunteers.

## Spring Fling Report

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- Bubble Ball: Bubble ball will be included again.
- Entertainment: Three face painters are booked. A suggestion was made to also book a henna tattoo artist.
- Next Meeting: The next meeting is on November 24th. There is ongoing discussion about using wristbands versus tickets, or both.
- Event Planning: Still looking for leads for many categories. The DJ for the event has been booked.

## Item Review

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- The Community Values Coupon Books fundraiser was highly successful, with 507 books sold, generating \$6,565.65 in revenue. Only two books remained outstanding at the end of the campaign.
- The Halloween Dance was also successful, raising approximately \$2,000. The DJ was well-liked by attendees and has expressed readiness to return for any future events. The DJ was paid \$600 for rental costs. Prizes were distributed for both the costume and colouring contests, with the list of winners published in the newsletter.

## New Business

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- Langley Christmas Bureau: We have three families to help this year. Tag information will be posted on Monday. The goal is to have everything collected and packed at the December meeting. Items will be delivered to the families on December 15th.
- Giant 50/50 Tickets: All January dates are booked up, so we are considering cancelling it.
- Holiday Movie Night: The movie night is on December 5th. Tickets are live on Munchalunch, showing "Home Alone." Maximum capacity is 300 tickets.

## Meeting Adjournment

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1st - Alex, 2nd - Fereen, all in favour

President Rahima Rana adjourned the meeting at 7:33 pm

## Next Meeting - December General Meeting

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Date: Dec 8, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Location: RBE School Library