

PAC Virtual Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 2026

Location: Zoom

Attendance: PAC Executive, school administration and parents/guardians participating via Zoom

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Betty Freeman welcomed attendees to the PAC's virtual meeting and acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

The virtual meeting format is being explored as a potentially more accessible option for some future PAC meetings.

2. First-Term PAC Activities

The PAC reviewed activities completed during the first term, including:

- Meet the Teacher event;
- World Teacher Day staff appreciation;
- Hot chocolate service at the pumpkin carving event;
- The first PAC family movie night; and
- Recognition of Mr. D at the Winter Concert.

The first family movie night was held on the Thursday before a Professional Development Day and was considered successful. The PAC intends to continue using this timing where practical.

3. Upcoming Family Movie Night

The next family movie night will be held on **Thursday, February 12**, featuring **Madagascar**, which was selected through a student vote.

Event details include:

- Advance tickets available through SchoolCash Online;
- Advance ordering required for pizza;
- Pizza will not be available for purchase at the event;
- Tickets, popcorn, candy and other concessions will be available at the door on a **cash-only** basis;
- Families are encouraged to bring blankets, sleeping bags and wear pajamas;
- Seating will again be available at the rear of the gym for adults; and
- **All children must be supervised by an adult.** The event is not a drop-off activity.

Advance sales will close **Monday, February 9 at 3:00 p.m.**

4. Family Photo Day

Family Photo Day will return with an updated format.

Rather than operating across two weekday evenings, the event will be held during a single approximately six-hour weekend session to simplify scheduling, setup and teardown.

Bookings will be managed directly through **EDGE Imaging**.

Current details include:

- \$25 booking fee;
- Approximately 10 minutes per family session; and
- Online booking directly through EDGE Imaging.

The event provides families with an opportunity to update their 2026 family photos.

5. Fundraising, Fees and Financial Transparency

The PAC acknowledged that families received a number of requests for fees, donations and event payments during the first term.

A presentation was provided to clarify the differences between:

- VSB/school administrative funding;
- Student fees;
- School-generated activity fees and optional donations; and
- PAC fundraising, donations and activity revenue.

A simplified infographic outlining the various funding sources and how funds are used will be developed and posted on the PAC website.

School / VSB Funding

School administrative funding covers the operational requirements necessary to run the school. Additional school fees and optional donations may support activities not otherwise funded by the VSB, including:

- Field trips;
- Book Fair;
- Winter Concert;
- Sports jerseys;
- Music programming; and
- Other enrichment activities.

The PAC also acknowledged the significant amount of volunteer time provided by teachers, administrators and staff for extracurricular sports, clubs, trips and activities outside regular school hours.

PAC Funding

PAC revenues are generated through activities such as:

- Fun Fair;
- Family Movie Nights;
- Direct Drive;
- Other PAC activities and fundraisers.

Activity revenue supports initiatives such as:

- Meet the Teacher social;
- Staff appreciation;
- Year-end gifts;
- Fruit and vegetable programming; and
- Other student and school-community activities.

The PAC reiterated that funds raised are returned to programs and activities benefiting the school community.

6. Direct Drive Update

Leah provided an update on the 2025/26 Direct Drive campaign.

Participation increased significantly, with approximately **80% of McKechnie families participating**, compared with approximately 65% in previous years.

Approximately **\$16,000** was raised against a **\$20,000 target**.

The lower total despite increased participation was attributed in part to the departure of several former families who historically made significantly larger individual donations.

For future campaigns, the PAC will consider:

- Reviewing the fundraising target based on current enrollment and needs; and
- Exploring opportunities to engage larger donors while maintaining broad community participation.

Approximately **\$4,200** of Direct Drive funding has been allocated to individual classroom/division requests.

7. Direct Drive Expenditures and Technology

A parent asked for clarification regarding funds raised through Direct Drive that had not yet appeared as spent in the financial presentation.

Principal Lindsay Thompson advised that a significant portion of the remaining funds is planned for replacement computers.

The school previously had approximately **30 Mac computers** that are now considered obsolete and are no longer supported by the VSB.

Replacement units cost approximately **\$1,250 each**, making replacement of all 30 computers approximately **\$37,500**.

The current plan is to purchase approximately:

- 15 computers this year; and
- The remaining computers in a subsequent year, subject to available funding.

Direct Drive funding has also historically supported:

- Classroom projectors and screens;
- Raz-Kids subscriptions;
- Paper and classroom supplies; and
- Other priority instructional needs.

The specific use of Direct Drive funding varies annually based on school priorities.

8. Volunteer Program

Additional volunteers are requested for upcoming PAC activities, particularly:

- February Movie Night; and
- Family Photo Day.

Families interested in helping can contact **Ivy**.

The PAC is also recruiting a new **Volunteer Coordinator**, as Ivy will be leaving the position.

The Volunteer Coordinator is an **Executive PAC position**. Interested parents are encouraged to contact Ivy or Betty for further information.

9. Principal's Report

Enrollment

Kindergarten registration closed January 31.

The VSB has moved the kindergarten placement notification process forward, with offers expected to begin around **March 3**, giving families earlier notice than in previous years.

Current registration includes approximately **38 incoming kindergarten students**, with some sibling-priority applicants and some students potentially moving into French Immersion, Montessori or other programs.

At present, the school is planning for **one kindergarten class**, although this could change depending on district enrollment decisions.

Current total school enrollment is approximately **285 students**, with most grades at or near capacity.

Reports and Conferences

- Term 2 report cards will be issued **March 10**.
- Parent-teacher conferences will take place **after Spring Break in April**.

Student Assessments

Grade 4 and Grade 7 students have completed their Foundation Skills Assessments.

Grade 4 and Grade 7 students will also participate in the provincial Student Learning Survey.

Grade 6 students will participate in the **Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)** through UBC. The survey collects anonymous information related to students' social, emotional and overall well-being.

10. School Activities and Clubs

Whistler Ski Trip

Students in Grades 4–7 participated in the annual Whistler ski trip. The trip was successful, and appreciation was expressed to Mr. Kemp and the participating teachers and sponsors for the extensive planning and supervision required.

Basketball

Basketball is underway and will continue until Spring Break.

Three teams are operating:

- Junior Boys;
- Senior Boys; and
- Senior Girls.

Coaches include Mr. Kemp, Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Chang and Ms. Lum Tong.

Black Dog Quartet

Students recently attended a performance by the Black Dog Quartet, which was well received.

Dungeons & Dragons Club

A VSB grant of approximately **\$1,200** was obtained to support a lunchtime Dungeons & Dragons club.

The program will include:

- Instruction in the game;

- Purchase of required materials and figures; and
- Integration of social-skill development into the club.

Field Hockey

A visiting field hockey organization is providing free instruction during PE classes.

Winter Olympics Activities

Staff are planning lunchtime floor hockey activities aligned with the Winter Olympics.

Valentine's Candy Grams

Candy grams are being sold by the Humanitarian Club for Valentine's Day.

11. Parent Questions and Discussion

Indoor Recess During Severe Weather

A parent asked whether students could be allowed to remain indoors during recess or lunch during particularly severe rainfall or atmospheric river conditions.

The principal advised that the primary challenge is staffing and supervision, as teachers are contractually entitled to breaks during those periods.

Action: Principal Thompson will raise the possibility of designated “**indoor days**” with staff and report back at the next PAC meeting.

12. Activities for Primary Students

A parent asked whether more extracurricular, lunchtime and after-school activities could be made available to younger students.

It was noted that:

- VSB extracurricular sports programs are generally designed for older students;
- Some teachers voluntarily provide opportunities such as primary track activities;
- Some school clubs may already include primary students, depending on the activity; and
- Many clubs are created and supervised voluntarily by teachers.

The parent clarified that the question also related to non-sport activities such as music, language programs and clubs.

The principal explained that commercial after-school programs operating at the school are **not school-run programs**. Outside providers rent school space.

The school has restricted participation by Kindergarten to Grade 2 students in these external programs because of concerns regarding supervision, transitions and responsibility for younger children.

13. Valentine's Day Inclusivity

The PAC discussed encouraging families to consider Valentine's Day treats and gifts that are more inclusive of students with dietary restrictions or sensitivities.

Possible alternatives include:

- Small non-food items;
- Lower-sugar options; and
- Treats avoiding ingredients or colourings that some students cannot consume.

The intent is to ensure that as many students as possible can participate.

14. Action Items

Action	Responsibility
Develop and post a simplified infographic explaining school and PAC funding sources and expenditures	PAC
Review future Direct Drive fundraising targets based on school enrollment and program needs	PAC / Direct Drive Team
Explore approaches to engaging larger Direct Drive donors	PAC / Direct Drive Team
Proceed with planned purchase of replacement computers using available funding	School Administration
Recruit volunteers for Movie Night and Family Photo Day	Volunteer Coordinator / PAC
Recruit replacement PAC Volunteer Coordinator	PAC Executive
Raise severe-weather "indoor day" options with school staff and report back	Principal
Encourage inclusive Valentine's Day gift/treat options	PAC / School Community
Circulate feedback survey regarding the virtual PAC meeting format	PAC
Confirm date for next PAC meeting	PAC

15. Next Meeting

The next PAC meeting is expected to take place in **late April 2026**.

16. Adjournment

The formal meeting was adjourned, with attendees invited to remain online afterward for additional informal questions or discussion.