

Yarrow Community School PAC Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2025 - 7:00PM School Library

Attendees-Dana Swinden, Sherisse Ellerby, Aimee McAllister, Leanne Letham, Jenna, Darlene Gooch, Brandon Arthur, Nicole Walters, Kaitlyn Penner, Jacqueline Wiebe, Frank, Charlotte DeBruyn

1. Welcome/Call to order- Leanne Letham, 7:02
2. Approval of Agenda- Jenna, Nicole
3. Approval of Minutes-Sherisse, Angela
4. Principal's report- Charlotte DeBruyn
 - "Quiet hands, quiet feet, quiet voices" is the focus in school right now. Staff has noticed a lot of running around in the main lobby area so they have implemented a fun idea that if kids are "caught" having quiet hands, feet or voices, they get a red ticket which is entered into a draw. The kids have responded really well to this.
 - Tuesday, Nov 5 school psychologist Angela Murphy is coming to YCS. She will bring her books and chat with us during dinner. A United Way grant is helping to make this possible. Over 40 people have signed up so far but there is still space available. If you are interested in attending, you can pay Emma at the office or e transfer the PAC. Suggested donation is \$5. Sign up by Oct 31 so we can have an updated number of attendees to order from Shandhar Hut. You can invite parents who are not from the school as well (suggested donation for them is \$15).
 - Usually during each school year we have a business sponsor YCS for the Chilliwack Chiefs "adopt a school" program. This year no one has come forward to sponsor so if you know of a business that would like to support us, please contact Charlotte. The cost is \$2200 plus gst and it allows us to give away 10 tickets per game to our kids. (Pretty sure the cost is tax deductible.) The kids have loved the hockey games in the past and we would love to be able to offer it to them again this year.
 - Brad from Habitat came out to look at the newly installed swing because it was too high. He will bring black mats to put under the mulch to keep the level appropriate. It is a very popular piece of equipment on the playground.
 - Our grade 5's this year are very helpful on the playground keeping lines to the swing going, they are YPL (Yarrow Peer Leaders). They have also been helpful in the assemblies.
 - There is a lake happening in the playground because of pooling water . We will have someone out to fix the problem as well as to look at stroller accessibility for the front parking lot.

- The District needs help refreshing its strategic plan. They would like 6 parents to represent YCS on Dec 3 at Sardis Secondary from 6-730pm. Please contact Charlotte if you would like to help with this.

Calendar Highlights:

- October 31 Halloween (10:30am costume parade)
- Nov 1 Pro D Day
- Nov 5 Angela Murphy
- Nov 7 Remembrance Day Assembly
- Nov 8 Pro D Day
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day-No School
- Nov 12 One School, One Book begins
- Nov 14 Popcorn Day
- Nov 20 Smoothie Day
- Nov 21 Hot lunch orders due
- Nov 25 Assembly
- Nov 26 PAC Mtg 7pm
- Nov 29 Hot Lunch-Pita Pit
- Dec 13 Report Cards go home
- Dec 18 Christmas concert
- Dec 20 Last day of school

5. Chair Report- Leanne Letham

Thank you very much to those who helped make September and October a success!

- All those who supported fundraisers
- Movie night volunteers
- Natasha
- Aimee
- Danae
- Terry Fox Day volunteers
- School staff
- Jaime-Lynn, Maddie, Emily, Sherisse
- Popcorn Day volunteers
- Marie
- Hot lunch helpers
- Neufeld farms handing out

Review of the brainstorm session sheets done by parents at the September PAC Meeting.

Parents brainstormed hot lunch ideas:

- Rivers (two options is nice)
- The new Indian restaurant in Yarrow
- Sushi
- The Old Spaghetti Factory
- Joe's Italian Deli
- Hot Dogs
- Heal (smoothies)
- Canadian Heritage (ice cream with maple syrup)
- Good Taco
- Pita Pit
- Pizza
- Subway
- Hofstedes
- Perfekt Deli
- Hugos
- Church's Chicken

Natasha is working hard organizing hot lunches this year and is trying out new spots...including some of these suggestions!

Parents brainstormed fundraising ideas:

- Bake sale
- Anti Fundraising fundraiser
- Parent Dance
- Recipe book
- Trivia night
- School carnival

Mrs Gillingham has an account at the bottle depot for the Grade 5's fundraising. So if you would like to donate bottles or cans at the depot and give the schools phone number, it will support the Grade 5's.

We are hoping to do a school carnival/fun fair in the spring...so we will begin talking more about that in the new year.

There are many other great ideas...if you would like to help organize something...please be in touch with the PAC exec. Email us - yarrowpac@gmail.com

Parents brainstormed event ideas:

- Movie nights
- Q&A parent night with a professional
- Sports day
- Drumming (like last year)
- Bike parade
- Carnival/fun fair
- Lego building
- Paint night
- Bingo
- Talent show

- We have movie nights planned - next is Dec 6. Q&A nights are a great idea...we have one happening next week with Angela Murphy, Nov 5. Send us any other topics for future nights. We are hoping to do a fun fair in the spring. Bingo night generally happens in February.

Parents brainstormed Questions for Charlotte:

- ❖ Q: Sports Day?
- ❖ A: We stopped sports day because of Covid but they can begin again, it depends on the teachers since they are the ones heading it and organizing it and it is during their instructional day. Some kids don't like competitive races and such so it can be a hard sell.

- ❖ Q: Are kids allowed to snack outside?
- ❖ A: Because of the amount of bees and wasps that are outside, we don't allow snacks. This has cut down on garbage which also cut down on birds coming around. It has been a positive move. The kids have plenty of time to eat their snacks, so parents don't have to worry.



- ❖ Q: Will there be sports teams this year?
- ❖ A:
 - Intramural basketball starts in January
 - Mr Wickman is doing track and field again
 - Volleyball will be starting
 - If there is a teacher to sponsor a sport, it can happen.

- ❖ Q: What does AFV mean? (On the spots in the parking lot)
- ❖ A: AFV means alternative fuel vehicle

- ❖ Q: Is there an older/younger kids section in the library?
- ❖ A: The books are open to all kids. Chapter books are in one area though and picture books in another. Children are encouraged to take books at their reading level.

- ❖ Q: Sports for kids during lunchtime?
- ❖ A: Intramurals are happening now especially during rainy days. Indoor soccer is happening now. Grades 3-5 in the gym at lunch with Mr Wickman.

6. Treasurer Report - Aimee McAllister

- See paper given.  2024-10-27 Financial Report for PAC Meeting.pdf Aimee explained the income and expenses.
- Questions? None
- *Paper given by Leanne* Proposed Budget for 2024/2025.
 2024-25 Yarrow School PAC Budget.xlsx

(main account budget and gaming account budget and terms for technology) Numbers explained...projected income, projected expenses etc.

- The final number shows a -\$76.04 but the expenses are flexible. We won't be running a negative budget. We can also always run another fundraiser.

- ❖ Question from Darlene: What happens to the ipads when they age out and we have to buy more?
- ❖ Charlotte: They are so old they won't support the internet anymore or the software. They are not used anymore. The district comes and takes them.

Parent suggestion to sell them to families in the school since they are technically the property of the school.

Charlotte: Teachers are currently using 2005/6 laptops. They are being Evergreened so the school has to purchase new ones. Charlotte was able to get a deal on the new ipads so instead of paying \$7500, she will pay \$5000 on an upgraded version.

- The school has continued the affordability fund. They change the stipulations all the time. This year they have opened it up to ANY need a family may have, not just school supplies.

Motion to approve the budget: Jenna/Darlene

All in favour: unanimous

Budget is approved for this year

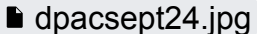
7. Committee Reports

- **Fundraising report** (Marie unable to make in to the mtg but the info is on the financial report spreadsheet)
 - Nov/Dec fundraiser: Purdys

Comment from Angela: Good Taco had quite a bit of negative feedback on the hot lunch.

Leanne: We wanted to try it...parents had wanted to support local/Teen Challenge etc so we did. We wouldn't do quesadillas from here again.

- Popcorn day will be limited to one bag per student from now on. It gets too overwhelming when kids buy 3 and 4 bags.
- Andrea is organizing popcorn days this year, thank you!
- You can pay \$1 each time for the popcorn or you can bring money to pay for all of the months. (If you prepay for all the months, we don't give refunds if you are away one month...the bag will just be given to another student.)

DPAC report: Jaime-Lynn couldn't be here tonight. She sent the report and Leanne read it. 

- ❖ Question Darlene: Who arranged the Angela Murphy event?
- ❖ A: The school arranged and asked Angela. Anxiety is prevalent in our school so it seemed like a good choice. Marie, Leanne and Charlotte have had prior connections with her work and chose her to come...She has spoken at Barrowtown and Sema:th has done her books with the kids. She has good themes on her website if you want to see what she offers.

- ❖ Question Nicole: There is more anxiety this year than last year? Can you speak on this?
- ❖ Charlotte: Not specifically, mental health and anxiety and the whole umbrella is starting younger and younger. It is more than last year. We are trying to give them tools to use to help them through things. Zane Jiwa is the new school counsellor here at school and works Mondays and Tuesday to help. He is finding great ways to connect with the kids.

Adjournment -Darlene, Jenna 7:52pm

Next Meeting - Tuesday, November 26th @ 7pm

Yarrow Community School Library