



WGSS PAC Meeting Minutes
FINALIZED

Tuesday, September 10, 2024
7:01–8:13pm
WGSS Library

PAC Executive	Anuschka Bhelle (President), Steven Northrup (Vice President), Julie Croft (Treasurer), Karen Roeck (Secretary)
Parents	Keling Chang, Shivani Khera, Maggie Li, Tali Litvak Kor, Amy Liu, Sunshine Liu, Joy Lu, Zhi Pan, Samantha St-Onge, Itzel Symonds, Aaron Wu
Staff	Mr Jeremy Lyndon (WGSS Principal), Ms Meg Harradine (WGSS Vice Principal)

1. Call to Order

1.1. Call to Order

A Bhelle called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and welcomed parents and staff. Introductions and quorum determined. A Bhelle gave the territorial acknowledgement.

1.2. Regrets

None to report.

1.3. Reminder

PAC meetings are run according to Robert's Rules of Order. With the exception of presenters and invited speakers, we will be limiting each person to two minutes so that everyone has an opportunity to speak and to keep the meeting on time.

2. Approval Items

2.1. Agenda – Tuesday, September 10, 2024

MOTION	TO approve the Tuesday, September 18, 2024 WGSS PAC meeting agenda
CARRIED	J Croft / S Northrup

2.2. Minutes – Tuesday, June 18, 2024

MOTION	TO approve the Tuesday, June 18, 2024 WGSS PAC meeting minutes
CARRIED	S Northrup / J Croft

3. Reports

3.1. Administration

Mr Lyndon welcomed everyone back. It is his 4th year as the proud principal of WGSS. He introduced Ms Harradine as one of the new vice principals on staff.

Facility updates: Over the summer, a rainbow crosswalk was installed across the parking lot at the front of the school (east side). There were also some painting updates to create depth to make the building more accessible for students with visual impairments. The back parking lot lines are especially appreciated. The gym floors are newly resurfaced and refinished.

September start-up: Grade 8s and new students. Gator Quality Students (GQs) supported them throughout the day in their classes (e.g., showing how to use lockers, getting them connected to the school). Grade 8s did an assembly and had their initial Grade 8 photo that they will get in Grade 12 to reflect on. This is the largest Grade 8 group in many years (nearly 450, when the usual enrolment is 400). Overall enrolment is just shy of 2400 students.

Course changes: The counselling team has been working on course changes since mid-August (e.g., processing summer school marks, ensuring timetables are accurate). Course changes are done in priority waves, starting with incomplete timetables, and required Grade 12 courses. Priority 4 changes

(elective requests) opened last Friday and closed tomorrow. With the school being so full, there is a low chance that elective changes will happen for most students. A parent asked about Semester 2 changes, and Mr Lyndon explained that the counselling team tries to make those adjustments now, but sometimes they wait to see if students are successful in Semester 1 before making changes for Semester 2. A Bhrelle asked a clarifying question about Semester 2 study blocks, and Mr Lyndon confirmed that those requests are done closer to the end of Semester 1.

Grade assemblies: The big topic this year is the new province-wide cell phone policy. Media coverage said K-12 ban, but the reality is that school districts needed to come up with their own policies to best suit their needs. Districts are required to have a procedure, and there needs to be differentiation between grade levels (e.g., elementary, high school). SD35 policy is that personal digital devices need to be put away during class unless otherwise directed by the teacher. As a school, we intentionally structure our systems around using devices in healthy ways (e.g., My School app, MS Teams); however, with mental health considerations, it is important to teach balance and discernment. If in doubt, devices are off and away, but students need to access devices for learning. A parent asked about the use of ChatGPT at school. Mr Lyndon clarified that the school amended their plagiarism policy, which is available on the school website. At a district level, leaders are researching more about what generative AI can do, and then develop guidelines. The parent asked more questions about how students are being guided in how to use generative AI in their work - is there a difference between permissions/instructions for Grades 8/9 and Grades 10-12 students? Mr Lyndon suggested looking at the school's plagiarism policy and shared that more teachers are doing assessments in class to ensure students are doing their own work. J Croft shared her experience at the post-secondary level and suggested Turn It In as a valuable anti-plagiarism tool. Another parent asked about the ratio of tech-based learning vs non-tech-based learning. Ms Harradine clarified that it depends on the teacher - many teachers will put classes on MS Teams to share information, but other than the BYO laptop program, most coursework will be done offline.

Upcoming events: Dry grad parent meeting on Tuesday, September 24. Admin attends the first one, so A Bhrelle asked Mr Lyndon to connect dry grad leads with the PAC. Grad cruise on Wednesday, October 9. Meet the Teacher Night is Thursday, September 19 and Mr Lyndon invited the PAC to have a table in the foyer. A parent asked about the format for Meet the Teacher Night, and Mr Lyndon confirmed that it is not a parent/teacher interview, but rather a rotation through the student's schedule to spend 5-10 minutes in each classroom.

3.2. President

Nothing to report.

3.3. Vice President

Nothing to report.

3.4. Treasurer

At every PAC meeting, there is a treasurer's report, including estimated expenses and deposits connected to gaming funds (\$45,000 per year received in October). The August 31 treasurer's report includes information for July and August. We received \$361 from the Cobs Bread dough raiser fund. There are some 23/24 expenses that haven't cleared yet. We have some ongoing expenses where we receive requests every year so the PAC is aware of upcoming funding requests (e.g., Tuff Wally, staff appreciation lunch). We have two separate accounts: a general account that funds anything not associated with gaming and a gaming account that is associated with the money received from provincial funding. A parent asked a question about the rainbow crosswalk to clarify if it is a one-time expense of \$6,000.00. J Croft confirmed that usually, all invoices need to be received in the office by May 1, but some expenses are funded outside of that date. For the crosswalk, we have a contract that the PAC is not responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the crosswalk.

3.5. DPAC

Nothing to report (vacant position).

4. New Business

4.1. Request for a DPAC representative

A Bhrelle outlined the duties: Going to DPAC meetings once a month, typically the 3rd Thursday of the month, then reporting back to the PAC. Commitment for the entire school year, and can be shared between two people.

No volunteers, so this item is tabled and will appear on the next agenda meeting under Ongoing Business.

A Bhrelle encouraged widespread invitations and shared that people can reach

out through the PAC website or Facebook page. J Croft clarified that since no one was elected at the June AGM, the PAC can approve a nomination should someone come forward.

4.2. Request for a PAC Fundraising Coordinator

The BC Gaming Commission has strict guidelines on how funding can be used (e.g., only for extracurricular activities). This means PAC cannot buy items for the school (e.g., classroom supplies, scholarships, computers, school beautification). The general account contains funds that we do not have to account to anyone else for; however, all PAC spending that exceeds \$200.00 must be voted on and approved by PAC parents. Since the gaming guidelines around scholarship support changed a few years ago, the PAC invested in GICs to provide scholarships, but those funds will run out at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, so fundraising is critical. Fundraising at the secondary school level is different than elementary (e.g., parent engagement is much lower). The PAC doesn't want to take away from dry grad fundraising. A parent asked if there is a list of fundraisers going on at the school. A Bhrelle shared that the only fundraising going on at the school is done by the parent dry grad committee, and those are posted in the bi-weekly Gator News. Mr Lydon clarified that there are some additional smaller internal fundraisers for Tuff Wally and student club groups.

S Khera and I Symonds volunteered to co-lead PAC fundraising this year.

4.3. Request for a Staff Appreciation Event Coordinator

The PAC changed from a lunch to a breakfast based on available funds (\$500 for breakfast vs \$2500 for lunch). Generally, the staff appreciation event takes place in April. Mr Lyndon shared that the staff isn't concerned whether it's breakfast or lunch, but they appreciate the kind gesture.

No volunteers, so this item is tabled and will appear on the next agenda meeting under Ongoing Business.

4.4. How can parents edit their emergency contact information on the MyEducation Parent Portal?

Mr Lyndon shared that WGSS administration just received a memo in the last week, so information is coming out to the parent community shortly. The old practice of pen and paper is being replaced with a digital format.

5. Ongoing Business

5.1. Request for donations to the PAC in Gator News

Ideas: Create a video, share pictures, write an email and Mr Lyndon can send out a separate email.

If every family donated \$10.00 per student, the PAC would have tons of funds to pour back into the school.

A parent shared an idea for having a PAC phone number at the bottle depot, but A Bhrelle said that is already a dry grad fundraiser and we don't want to step on their toes.

A parent shared an idea to have students develop marketing materials for social media, which is a great idea but depends on having a PAC Fundraising Coordinator to coordinate and support these initiatives.

6. Correspondence

6.1. Please like and follow the WGSS PAC Facebook page and the PAC website: <https://www.wgsspac.ca/> All approved minutes are posted on the PAC website.

7. Questions from Parents

7.1. Mr Lyndon asked about timelines regarding PAC gaming requests. J Croft and A Bhrelle confirmed that votes will be conducted at the November 14 PAC meeting, so requests should be submitted to the PAC by the evening of October 15. J Croft will send the fillable PDF forms to Mr Lyndon for internal distribution. A Bhrelle shared past projects funded with gaming funds.

7.2. Questions about future PAC items came up. The majority of the current PAC Executive will retire after the 2024-2025 school year, so there is a high priority for recruiting new executive members who can shadow current members for a strong transition into next year.

7.3. Is there any direct communication between the PAC and parents? A Bhrelle shared that there is no PAC newsletter because we don't want to overwhelm parents with communication. J Croft added that the PAC is not provided with email addresses due to privacy considerations. Mr Lyndon sends out PAC information in the Gator News and is willing to add a dedicated PAC section to

the newsletter to grow the profile and presence of the PAC among the parent community.

8. Adjournment

8.1. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

MOTION	THAT the WGSS PAC meeting be adjourned
CARRIED	J Croft / S Northrup

8.2. Next meeting: Tuesday, October 8, 2024