

# École Phoenix Middle School Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

## General Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2025

Called to order 7:15pm

### Current PAC Executive:

**President:** Sarah Neil

**Vice President:** Sophie Lee

**Secretary:** Kathryn Kirkwood

**Treasurer:** Myriah Foort

**DPAC Representative:** Dino Pagliardi and Stephen Lenio

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*The Ecole Phoenix Middle School PAC recognizes that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Laichwiltach, Klahoose, and K'omoks First Nations.*

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### 1. Welcome + introductions

In attendance – Karly Stones (vice principal), Brian Smyth (new principal), Jill Fontaine, Heather Challoner, Sophie Lee, Christine Surina, Kathleen Carlson, Myriah Foort, Sarah Neil, Aleena Han, Amanda Rentiers, Aimee Minor, Kitty Liang, Kelsey Willaert, Amanda Wilson, Dino Pagliardi, Stephen Lenio, Kathryn Kirkwood, Christine Jordan, Kaysie Swerhun

### Meeting agenda & minutes:

- a. Review and approve the meeting agenda

**N/A**

- b. Review and approve previous meeting minutes from meeting

**N/A – will approve at Oct meeting (last meeting minutes from June 2025)**

### 2. Reports

- a. Principal's Report

**\*See attached Principal's Update\***

**Brian - have had an amazing start, 643 students, 26 divisions, large grade 6 group.**

**Classes are determined prior to the summer, class size and composition, students who have IEPs try and keep numbers even (A-F categories) will create lower class size limit. Try not to break rules for composition. Teachers would receive release time to prepare for more complex student needs (remedy). Only 1 class needs remedy. Grade 6 classes are full. If a new grade 6 student came in,**

could create a new remedy class. Best effort used, there could be another class remedy needed down the road.

Amazing staff at Phoenix, special staff full of people who care deeply about students.

A great cross section of society in this school, very diverse group. The staff are very committed to the school. Lots of high needs and high school population, a strong team here. Support Staff (LST workers, inclusion support workers, Indigenous youth care workers, youth care worker, 2 counsellors, EAs, custodians). Well respected vice principal Karly. And also, great office staff, Jeanna – “the godfather”.

Students are happy to be here, amazing place to work.

Grade 6s many came from smaller schools and going through major adjustment, but lots of energy.

Gym is open every lunch hour as well as library, All Nations room, counsellors room, lots of opportunities for students to hang out during every break.

Recently a student in the school, home burnt down. The two classroom teachers held a bake sale and raised \$700 for the family.

I think this is the best middle school in the province, reinforced at the school assembly.

Bell schedule changed a bit this year, it was different from Southgate schedule previously. The school district asked to adjust to align with the Southgate schedule.

Busy hallways, I carry a loudspeaker to use in halls and outside as needed.

We have increased supervisor schedules to cover breaks. 40 minute coverage, once per week.

Clubs – mountain biking club recently did a 17km bike ride recently, volleyball coming up soon, running club. Games club inside the school.

Great gym and wood working spaces, full sized kitchen, art room & band room. Carihi is also using the band room and gym in mornings and afternoons.

Expo rotations are an opportunity for kids to try a variety of different activities.

Change in band administration, it's now as part of the school schedule, it's a full year commitment and part of the daily schedule (not outside of timetable).

Cell phones – no cell phone use during school hours except for end of the day.

Terry Fox Run – coming up Mon Sept 29<sup>th</sup>.

Truth and Reconciliation Day – Stat on Tues Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

Photo Day was today. Retake day will be coming up.

Canteen – just starting up. Thurs Pretzels (starts tomorrow), Wed Pizza, Mon Chow Mein, classes run the hot lunches.

Communication – streamline with staff and with families. More frequent communication in shorter bullet point form.

PAC budget requests – staff submitted requests, gaming funds to go towards.

Katrhryn – question about canteen proceeds, where do funds go.

Brian – funds from canteen go to class who organizes it. This year we are only doing Canteen cards for hot lunches.

Stephen – how are funds allocated on Canteen cards.

Heather – there are \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5 increments, to ensure all funds are used.

**Kathryn – a bit confusing start up re: expos and band class.**

**Brian – info sent out before summer about band, about if you take band you don't get to take an expo.**

**Aleena – son was upset the first week re: not being able to go to expo, since he was doing band.**

**Brian – good feedback, better communication in future about band and expos.**

**Kathryn – confusing about school supplies, recommend sending the list earlier in the summer.**

**Brian – generic list is provided, for start up week. Teachers will provide extra list of items of needs in the class.**

**Amanda R– any chance of changing from band back to expos, or previous option of outside of timetable to be able to do both?**

**Karly – due to teaching limitations, this is why band was moved to different time**

**Aimee – lots of kids dropped out of band as they didn't want to miss expos**

**Heather – not just school choice, school district choice, likely budget issue**

**Aimee – more opportunity at lunch for other clubs in lieu of band at lunch**

**Heather – administration will do the best for the kids in the school**

**Jill – how many band classes?**

**Christine J – 2, one for English students, one for French students**

**Jill – there may be a gap in students not in the band program with the new schedule**

**Aimee – grade 6 or 7 can join band, not new to band in grade 8, and then new students can join in grade 9 at Carihi**

**Brian – better communication in the future**

**Amanda – lunch band club?**

**Heather – working with Kolya on a lunch time band club for kids to try it**

**Brian – in the past when band was an expo, after 3 weeks kids wanted**

**Monday – orange shirt day**

**b. President's Report –**

**Sarah – next meeting will be longer for allocating funds/budget, plan for a longer meeting**

**Kathryn – does PAC organize events at the school?**

**Sarah – no, usually we provide financial support but not events**

**Myriah – we give money towards events/school initiatives**

**Heather – schedule of events for the school, year will check with leadership teacher**

**Karly – leadership at Carihi working with our school leadership**

Sarah – send Facebook group info to Brian for PAC, to encourage other families to follow. Can include info about PAC, next meeting etc.

c. Treasurer's Report

**\*See attached Treasurer's Report\***

Myriah – separate print out showing gaming and fundraising accounts last year. \$12,640 gaming funds last year. \$2.25-\$2.30 per student, from SD72 for year. Fundraising \$293 last year raised from bottle drive at Session taproom, run by Sarah Q and Aimee. Stopped the bottle drive at Session as it was too much work for Aimee.

Aimee – could do a 1 day bottle drive, do that a few times towards fundraising.

Myriah – expenses – cheques go to school directly. Jeanna tracks it all.

Myriah – gaming report was submitted, waiting on funds to be received

d. DPAC Report

Dino – last meeting was last Tuesday. Steven Hawkings – director of Education, talked about new numeracy program K-9. Evolving section of SD72 website “learning hub”. Discussion about lockers (hot topic). Some benefit to kids being more used to hanging in their homeroom, less trouble in hallways. Kids with band instruments, struggle on where to store etc.

Kathryn – Student council petitioning for better toilet paper and lockers

Brian – re: lockers, asked about no lockers, my understanding is during covid they were shut down. Staff found that less issues in hallway, less drugs, vapes, weapons etc being brought in. Kids dawdled less, more prompt to class. Open to listening and to reevaluate.

Karly – noticed a different with less conflicts during breaks and kids previously going to lockers when they shouldn't be. Grade 9s at Carihi, some students don't bother getting lockers.

Brian – have seen posts on rants and raves, and chatter around lockers.

Dino – seems to be lots of positives but challenging for students in sports and band. Worries about stuff being stolen in the classroom.

Brian – many instruments will be stored in office

Dino – DPAC will be putting on workshops for families, the “White Hatter” coming up – ex RCMP officer and runs online safety and anti-bullying workshops and online talks with families. DPAC will have resources available for families and also for schools.

Karly – good resource, school staff use the White Hatter resources often.

Brian – many issues with online conflicts with students, online bullying, threats. Easy to prevent, snapchat you should be 14 or 15, and sometimes kids as young as 10 on there. Parents can get kids to delete accounts if underage. Very much part of the culture now, can cause big negative impacts at school level. Families not as aware of what kids are saying online.

Stephen – used to be face to face, now it's online and forever.

Brian – hope that we can encourage families to use the white hatter resource, can make a big difference.

Kathryn – no cell phones rule is great.

Amanda R – encourage parents to monitor kids TEAMS accounts, as there can be some negative side chats on there.

Dino – White Hatter will broadcast live and also recorded and available for 48hrs after to view. Topics include privacy online, be careful what you share online. DPAC will be sending more information out, work on better communication with every school, to encourage more family participation.

Sophie – maybe a coffee and muffin night to watch the broadcast, to encourage more involvement.

Dino – there was a talk about having Timberline host for viewing party. Gift certificate incentives too, maybe even renting the movie theatre.

Karly – any chance of having someone facilitate discussion about material?

Dino – it is a live broadcast, interactive.

3. New business

4. Old business

5. Other business

6. Motions

#### **FUTURE DATES OF IMPORTANCE:**

- Mon Sept 29<sup>th</sup> – Orange Shirt Day
- Mon Sept 29<sup>th</sup> – Terry Fox Run
- Tues Sept 30<sup>th</sup> – Truth and Reconciliation day (STAT, no school)
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Monday (STAT, no school)
- Oct 24<sup>th</sup> – Pro-D Day
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – Student Led Conference Day

#### **FUTURE PAC MEETINGS:**

- Wed Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm
- Nov 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm
- Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

**\*\*Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm \*\***