

## **November PAC Meeting Minutes 2025**

**Welcome:** Alyssa Davies

- **Welcome and introductions: Alyssa Davies**
  - Attendance: 20 attendees + 3 staff + 4 exec = 27 total
- **Adopt agenda**
  - 1st: Kendall
  - 2nd: Ashley
- **Adopt minutes**
  - 1st: Ashley
  - 2nd: Jenn

### **Presenters and Reports:**

#### **SD71-**

- **Trustee Report: Sara Jane Howe**
  - To be updated...
- **DPAC Report: Erika Davis**
  - Presentation on early literacy (K–3) at last week's meeting.
  - Pre-COVID volunteer literacy reading programs are no longer in place.
  - Concerns noted about reduced small-group reading time during regular class schedules.
  - Strong belief that all students benefit from literacy support, especially in catching early struggles before formal learning disability assessments are possible. Early intervention = better outcomes.
  - Questions raised:
    - When does Inclusive Ed become involved?
    - What is the current state of literacy support across the district (variability school to school)?
  - Senior leadership will:
    - Gather information and report on current literacy support practices district-wide.
    - Make recommendations to a working group (teachers + district staff) to rebuild a standardized literacy support system across the district.
  - More updates to come as the district progresses with this work.
  - Other DPAC Discussion
    - Ongoing review of PAC in-service funding:
    - Funds provided by the district to each school PAC.
    - Goal is fairness across the district and clarity on eligible vs. ineligible spending.

#### **Arden-**

- **Principals Report: Andrew Ferneyhough**
  - New garden put in. Bio diversity grant last spring was applied for by Teresa C.

- Thank you to the Wheelie Wednesday team! Done for the year but huge thank yous.
- Thank you to Teresa C. for the Remembrance Ceremony today. Lots of great feedback. Thank you to Wade for doing the kid/adult interactive part of the ceremony.
- We have the Book Fair from the 19th to the 21st – See WAAG for times. Please visit during Parent Teacher Interviews
- Parent Teacher Day is coming up!
- Thank you to Mr. Holt for organizing our Gr. 4/5 Volleyball team.
- Our Counsellor Ms. Katreena has handed in her notice to pursue a private practice and to be with her family in Victoria – An announcement for our new Counsellor should be coming shortly.
- We have a new Supervision employee. Her name is Karmin Nichols and she is with us from 12:00-1:00 5 days a week.
- November 25th - November Mustache Day!
- **Chair Report: Alyssa Davies**
  - We're new! We are sifting through the positions and everything is a work in progress! :)
  - Pancake Christmas Breakfast - School Wide ALL students eating together in the gym!
    - December 10th, 2025
    - School spirit! Santa, Christmas Music, etc.
    - PAC is paying for the event
    - Volunteers welcome!
    - FREE event for ALL kids
  - Christmas Concert on Dec 4th at both 1pm and 6pm. Please attend only one production if possible. We don't have the capacity to have every family with additional family members attend both concerts.
- **Treasurer Report: Kendall Packham**
  - Chequing Balance: \$5,408.48
  - Gaming Balance: \$12,183.19
  - Saving Balance: \$5.22

#### **Committees and Team Leads-**

- **Hot Lunch Report: Nicole Mann**
  - Survey went out and there was a lot of really great feedback. Some kids wouldn't order lunch if it was something they didn't like so there was a 'lunch box' implemented and the feedback on that has been great. Lots of orders coming in!
  - Contact Nicole ([nicole.mann@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:nicole.mann@sd71.bc.ca)) Please do not message her on fb.
- **Green Team Report: Jesse Sheridan**
  - There may be a call in the spring to create a new Wheelie Wednesday volunteer crew! Having people available for the morning recess will be extremely helpful.

- Lots of great updates with the new pathways between Lake Trail and Arden School. There may be additional changes coming to the already approved plan.
- **Fundraising Report: Kendall Packham**
  - Cookie Dough - Monday at noon it will be cut off.
  - Christmas Plant Fundraiser - Next Thursday will be the cut off.
  - Candy Sales (How often, will one week a month go to YANA?)
    - Teachers aren't SUPER on board with candy bags. We may need to look at additional offerings.
  - Kids Maker Market in the spring.
    - Align it with Easter.
    - Donated plants/seeds for purchase
    - Any/All students can sell their own things
  - Winter Market: Dana Orrego
    - 30 Vendors (26 have paid!)
    - More spots available if you know of anyone who would like to attend. We are hoping to have 4 more vendors.
    - Looking for a soap maker.
    - Looking for: Grade 5 teachers don't want to take on the bake sale but they are happy to email out to the parents to get baked goods.
    - Looking for: Bake Sale items. Especially Gluten Free items
    - Silent Auction Item donations would be great.
    - Volunteers on the day of are needed. NorthGate Church might be able to donate a Cotton Candy machine.
    - Kourtney can show anyone how to make popcorn!
  - Penny Carnival Report: Kendall Packham
    - Thursday, May 21st - projected date. We will confirm this in the upcoming weeks once we get the go ahead from the admin.
    - Planning committee meeting date to come!

#### **New Business:**

- Arden Bursary - G.P Vanier
  - Every year we give a bursary to an alumni Arden student who is attending Vanier. They must be going to post-secondary school to receive the bursary!
- Pick a date for teacher appreciation luncheon
  - Wednesday before spring break is what is being proposed by PAC. Arden Staff to let us know if that works!
- Christmas kids lunch. Budget discussion
  - Motion: That we have up to \$600 on the food, and up to an additional \$200 in money to use towards gingerbread houses. \$800 total for the Christmas Spirit Lunch. Motion Passed. All in favor!
  - 1st: Dana
  - 2nd: Alyssa

### **Old Business:**

- Still need to update Exec and bylaws/constitution but are waiting for the strike to be over
- Need to update the banking information at CCCU
- Mabels Labels, Raising Dough through Cobs Bread, and Return-It-Depot you can support Arden through mentioning Arden Elementary.

### **Open Floor for questions and discussion**

- JJ G. has brought up that she is concerned that teachers are close to being burnt out and needing support.
  - She is concerned that with both her boys having designations that went from 100% support last year to 0% support this year.
  - JJ is asking that parents use their voice and speak up about the lack of support that other parents are feeling because she believes that the 'iron is hot' with the district at the moment.
  - What JJ would like: We need boots on the ground. Bodies on the ground that help support our children at the moment they need it. Bumping behavioral support to 3 days a week to close the gap with our counsellor only being here 4 days a week, and 2 more EA's to support Arden. Request an additional support person to help children receive access to outside Arden/district wide resources that are available including the swimming program.
  - **ACTION:** JJ is going to write a letterhead that she is requesting that additional parents help put their voice down on paper so she can send everything to Tracy at the district to make change happen. She wants the support by Friday so she can send her letter. She is asking for the bullet points of change that we as a school want to see changed.
    - Bullet Points Proposed by JJ:
      - 2 Extra EA's
      - 1 Extra EA to access district wide resources that are available outside of Arden.
      - 3 Days a week from the behavioural support person to close the gap
- Mr.Ferneyhough please request that parents come to him before going straight to the district. Give him an opportunity to be looped in before going to the district.

### **PAC Parent of the Month Parking spot draw**

- Chelsea is the winner!

### **Adjourn**

- 1st: Dana
- 2nd: Chelsea