



Highland PAC Meeting Minutes September 28, 2026

In Attendance: Melissa Preston, Laura Roberts (Principal), Jennifer Vaino (Chair), Gwen Elder (Treasurer), Krista Tupper (Vice Chair), Brooke Finlayson, Megan Cowling (Alt DPAC Rep), Naser Arda, Kristen Sanderson, Leanne Herman, Kandi Eschbaumer, Dave Miller (Vice Principal), Sandy Holding, Sonia DeRozario, Irene Rankin, Laurie Coxan, Mara VanDishoell

Online attendance: Susan Leslie (Trustee)

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Welcome & Introductions

Guest Presentation – none

Approval of previous minutes (June 2026) – Motioned by Krista Tupper; seconded by Megan Cowling. All in favour. Motion carried.

Approval of agenda – Megan asked for social media presence added to the agenda. Approval of new agenda motioned by Megan Cowling; seconded by Gwen Elder. All in favour. Motion carried.

Correspondence – none

REPORTS:

Trustee Report (Susan Leslie last one as Trustee)

\$130,000 has been approved for the upgrades to our washrooms, washrooms are the #1 priority in the district. This came about by student government and the student voice “Bathrooms should be a safe place”

To learn more about what is going on in the district, read the board minutes, available on the SD71 website

Remember, if there are issues start with PAC, then DPAC, then the appropriate committees

Thank you to Highland Secondary PAC for 4 great years

Chair Report - none

Principal's Report (Laura Roberts)

The website was shown <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/highland-secondary/>

Check out all the tabs, things you will find are: school announcements, PAC information, school schedule, school & district calendars, staff directory with email addresses, munch a lunch program, etc...

- The Germany Exchange has 24 students participating
- Highland has 52 International students
- Club day was held today, any student with an interest & staff member can start any club
- A Indigenous Grad Counsellor was hired and the Indigenous Education space has been completed with the kitchen being the final piece. All are welcome here, it is an inclusive space
- If your student has a problem; first step email the teacher (over the phone is best so there is no misunderstanding), then the Vice Principal assigned to your student's house (either gold or blue). Each house has a Counsellor, a Learning Support Teacher and a Vice Principal.
- The welcome words, in 6 languages, have been completed at the front entrance above the totem pools
- You will find the [school's growth plan here](#)
- The Athletics department is being looked at to make it more equitable for things like celebrations, awards etc.
- There is a weekly newsletter that is sent out, soon they will be posted to the website

Treasurer Report (Gwen)

Gaming grants have been approved in the amount of \$14780 - suggestion was made to have the staff member involved in large asks attend the meeting to explain

Non-Gaming Account

	Balance on May 25th	\$548.04
E-transfer reclaim fee		-\$5.00
	<u>Balance on September 28th</u>	<u>\$543.04</u>

Gaming Account

	Balance on May 25th	\$8253.32
Payment to Highland Secondary June 9th		-\$3000.00
Payment to Highland Secondary June 11th		-\$2559.51

Final Payment to Highland Secondary June 30th	-\$1358.75
September 9th Rafflebox payment from Thailand 50/50 (February)	-\$334.77
Interest October 1st	\$0.02
Gaming Grant funds received	\$14780.00
<u>Balance on October 1st</u>	<u>\$15780.31</u>

DPAC Report

The next DPAC meeting is Monday, October 5th at the school board office at 6:30. All are welcome. It is a great way to hear what is going on in other schools & share ideas. Usually the Superintendent attends, or he sends a designate.

DPAC is working on Back to School documents that are all in one place

Upcoming parent educations: AI, Online Gaming, Digital Safety & Toxic Corners of The Internet. Stay tuned for more info

Old Business – None

New Business - Bike racks, there have been reports of tire slashing. Are all racks in an area with a camera? Maybe a covered area. Have a bike rodeo and all money raised stays with the PAC.

Social Media - Megan would like to improve this. Permission has been given for her to access the facebook account by all.

Next Meeting – Monday, October 19th - elections & gaming grants

Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:30pm