

Royston Elementary PAC

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2026

In Attendance: Lee, Graham, Erin, Erin, Richelle, Andrea, Megan, Stacey

1. Call to Order @ 6:33pm

- a. Welcome/Introductions/Land Acknowledgement
- b. Approval of minutes: January 2026
- c. Approval of agenda/Any additions

2. Admin Report

Lee McKillican/Char Siddon

a. Happenings since our last meeting:

- i. Discussed some resources for speaking to kids about the recent tragedy at Tumbler Ridge
 1. Reviewed safety measures and emergency procedures at Royston
 2. See info emailed home to families earlier today from Lee + scanned documents

b. Happenings this month around Royston Elementary:

- i. Div 8/9 Mt Washington ski sessions - will cancel due to lack of snow. Looking into alternate activities
- ii. Feb 16th Family Day - No school
- iii. Feb 17th Pro D Day - No school for kids
- iv. Feb 25th Resilient Rhythm Resource - Full Day - class based activities and whole school Rhythm session
- v. Feb 25th also Pink Shirt Day
- vi. Character Assembly - Empathy: Feb 27th and Mar 4th
- vii. Student Learning Survey for all Grade 4 students and families

c. Next Month: March

- i. March 5 - Young Entrepreneur Fair (details coming soon)
 1. Divisions 10 and 11
 2. Kids are welcome to come to school with a bit of money to spend
- ii. March 6-20 - Gymnastics (all classes)
- iii. Mar 19th - Rugby Session - Grade 3-6

d. April - May

- i. Parent Workshop Ideas? What's next? Early - mid April
- ii. Indigenous Focus Professional Development Day has been added to the District Calendar on May 15th

e. Topics

- i. CORE Ed - Critical Thinking

f. PAC Requests:

- i. New reimagined Indigenized Royston Raven Logo. Submitted an expression of interest to KFN with an estimated price tag of: \$1500
- ii. The playground - Big Toy 2 showing signs of age
 1. Web coming apart and will likely need to be removed
 2. Looking into our ability to replace this
 3. We may want to look into options to replace some or all of this structure
 - a. This would need to be funded separately but the school board would build and maintain the structure
 - b. We will need a subcommittee to further explore these details
- iii. Playground Equipment request (see attached)
 1. 3 Beyblade stadiums (3 x \$60.00) = \$180.00
 2. 4 square balls (6 x \$15.00) = \$90.00
 3. Estimated taxes (12%) = \$32.40
 4. Total estimated cost = \$302.40
 - a. Approved by the PAC
- iv. Durable outdoor sand and play equipment (see proposal attached)
 1. Estimated total cost = \$1502
 - a. Approved by the PAC

3. School Trustee Report

Chelsea McCannel-Keene

- No updates today

4. Treasurer Report

Danica Prowse

- a. General Account \$40845.46
- b. Gaming Account \$5191.00

5. Hot Lunches/Food Distribution

Andrea/Mai

- a. We also have some money in our feeding futures account if needed

6. Fundraising

Amanda/Erin/Ashlee

- a. Sourdough Bread (Erin)
 - i. Will run for 4 weeks before and after spring break
 - ii. Can access on the PAC Square site
 - iii. \$10 a loaf and pick up will be every Friday
 - iv. 30% of profits will go to the school
- b. Purdy's Fundraising
 - i. ongoing but slow to garner interest
 - ii. Closes Feb 26th
 - iii. Pick-up March 13th

- c. Roe's Flower Subscriptions
 - i. Ordering opens February 5. 2 week, 3 week and 4 week subscriptions available with first deliveries May 8 in time for Mother's Day.
 - ii. We will inquire re: some options for a one-time bouquet for Mother's Day
 - iii. We will try to look into some options and also get new pictures of what to expect
- d. Westcoast Seeds fundraiser
 - i. February 8- March 1st
 - ii. Jasmin is leading communication/promotion.
 - iii. Orders will be ready by Spring Break
- e. Spring Gunter Fundraiser
 - i. Requested dates - April 28-May 8. Pick up week of May 11
- f. Will send out info re: current fundraisers home with students

7. Old Business

- a. Possible field trip to WIP
 - i. May be for Divisions 8 and 9
 - ii. Time 9-10:00 am or 9:30-10:30
 - iii. \$13.65 per person including rental gear and shoes
 - iv. Up to 30 kids (25 preferred)
 - v. PAC could help to fund this
- b. Royston Multi-Use Path
 - i. Ministry of Transportation did not approve the project. Had specific objections with cross walks as well as the fully separated path. Using Livingston is also an issue so the CVRD is exploring using the railway path. More information on status can be found [here in the staff report](#)
 - ii. Discussed next steps. Lee/Jeremy Morrow recommended we send a letter to DPAC as Children's Safety is top priority.
 - iii. Things will likely not proceed unless more noise is made by local parents/staff regarding this issue
 - iv. Graham will put some info together re: who we can contact re: this and how.
 - v. Priorities: proper crosswalk at highway, advanced left turn signal to come up Royston Rd, reduced speeds in areas where school kids are walking
 - vi. We can also contact media to do a walk to/from school.
 - vii. Event to raise awareness: Tentative date March 16th. More info to follow.
- c. Letter to Jeremy Morrow re extending Royston to Grade 7.
 - i. More consultation on the why needed before we send.
 - ii. Need volunteers to pick this up
- d. Compass Sailing Club proposal - More details?

- i. Lee met with them and has discussed this possibility with some staff
 - ii. This is unlikely to happen this year but can be further explored as needed
- e. Continue to brainstorm ideas for Grade 3 student group activity
 - i. Climbing Wall - see WIP info above
 - ii. Water safety at local beach (possible alternative)
- f. Zip line - need more info re: quotes, grant application, school funding - on hold
- g. Accessible swing - on hold for now

8. New Business

- a. Screen time contract
 - i. This would start March 6th
 - ii. Info upcoming re: details

9. Adjourned at 7:56pm

10. Next Meeting: March 11

Principal's Report Feb 11, 2026

Happenings since our last meeting:

- Tumbler Ridge – Feb 10th, 2026

Happenings this month around Royston Elementary:

- ~~Div. 8/9 Mt. Washington~~ ski sessions. Looking into alternate activities.
- Feb. 16th Family Day – No School
- Feb 17th Pro D Day – No School for kids
- Feb 25th Resilient Rhythm Resource – Full Day – whole school Rhythm session
- Character Assembly – Empathy: Feb 27th and Mar 4th
- Student Learning Survey for all Grade 4 students and families

Next Month: March

- March 5 – Young Entrepreneur Fair (details coming soon)
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April - May:

- Parent Workshop ideas? What's next? Early – Mid April.
- Indigenous Focus Professional Development Day has been added to the District Calendar on May 15th.

Topics

- CORE Ed – Critical Thinking

PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Requests:

1. New reimagined Indigenized Royston Raven Logo. Submitted an expression of interest to KFN with an estimated price tag of:
 - \$1500.00
2. The Playground -Big Toy 2 showing signs of age.
3. Playground Equipment
 - 3 Beyblade Stadiums (3 x \$60.00) = \$180.00
 - 4 square balls (6 x \$15.00) = \$90.00
 - Estimated Taxes (12%) = \$32.40
 - Total Estimated Cost = **\$302.40**
4. Durable Outdoor Sand & Play Equipment (see proposal attached).
 - Estimated Total Cost = **\$1,502**

Proposal to PAC: Durable Outdoor Sand & Play Equipment

From: Jennifer Bell, LST

Date: January 28th, 2026

Subject: Request for Funding for Quality Outdoor Sand Play & Outdoor Toy Equipment

Purpose and Rationale

Outdoor play supports children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. Quality play tools that stand up to heavy school-yard use are essential so equipment doesn't break easily and can be safely shared by many students. Durable tools facilitate:

- **Extended creative sand play** (building, digging, transporting sand)
- **Collaborative and social play**
- **Support for motor skills and problem-solving**
- **Long-lasting use in all seasons**

Recommended High-Quality Sand Toys

Premium Durable Picks

- **Stargo Kids Excavator Toy** – Heavy-duty sand excavator (great for digging & imaginative play; sturdy build for repeated use)
- **HABA Sand Play Dump Truck** – Durable vehicle for hauling sand; adds a construction-theme play element
- **Learning Advantage Sand Play Tool Set** – Larger commercial-quality tool set designed for classroom/school use

Well-Made Tool Sets (Mid-Tier)

- **HABA Sand Toys Basic Set** – Reputable brand with quality materials for frequent play
- **Compactoys 7-in-1 Sand Toys Set** – Versatile kit with multiple tools
- **HABA Sand Toys Basic Set** – Another HABA set option (great durability)
- **Zooawa Beach Toys Set** – Nice balance of quality and variety for sand play

Other Durable Outdoor Play Items to Consider

Beyond sand tools, the following types of durable items help extend creative play outside:

Constructive & Sensory Play

- **Outdoor water tables** – water + sand play supports sensory exploration and collaborative play (versatile all summer).
- **Loose parts kits** (large durable pieces like big blocks, planks, natural parts like logs/stones) for open-ended building — encourage imagination and teamwork.

Quality Gross Motor & Open-Ended Toys

- **Balance beams, cones, stepping paths** – promote movement and coordination.
- **Ride-on toys (durable plastic/metal)** – support gross motor play across ages.
- **Buckets and heavy-duty carts or wagons** – for transporting sand or loose parts, and easily moved around the yard.

Suggested Budget & Cost Breakdown

Item	Qty	Estimated Unit Price	Subtotal
Premium Excavator Toy	2	\$110	\$220
Sand Play Dump Trucks	4	\$35	\$140
Learning Advantage Tool Sets	2	\$95	\$190
HABA Sets (mid tier)	6	\$27	\$162
Compactoys 7-in-1 Sets	6	\$30	\$180
Outdoor Water Play Table	1	\$200–300	~\$250
Durable Wagons/Carts	2	\$80	\$160
Total Estimate	—	—	~\$1,502

Note: Quantities can be adjusted based on final PAC budget. This list prioritizes **durability and long-term use in a school environment.**

Benefits to the School Community

- **Built to last:** Higher-quality materials reduce replacement costs over time.
- **Supports diverse play experiences:** From sand construction to sensory water play and gross motor activity.
- **Inclusive:** Tools suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities.
- **Encourages problem-solving, cooperation, and creativity:** Open-ended materials foster richer play.

Request

We respectfully request PAC approval for a **budget of approximately \$1,500** to fund **durable outdoor play equipment**, focused on high-quality sand tools and other outdoor play accessories as outlined above.

This investment prioritizes longevity, safety, and play value. enhancing our students' outdoor experiences for years to come.

Thank you for your support in enriching play opportunities for our school community!



ROYSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"Tle-Tla-Tay"

3830 Warren Avenue
Royston, BC

Phone: 250-334-2161
Fax: 250-338-8051

January 28, 2026

Dear PAC Members,

I'm writing to request funding for a few well-loved student recess items: **three Beyblade stadiums and six 4-square balls.**

Our current Beyblade stadiums have served us faithfully for several years, but they're starting to show their age. The plastic has become brittle and is beginning to break, which makes them less safe and harder to use (they've definitely fought their last battle). Replacing them would allow students to keep enjoying this popular activity in a safe and organized way.

Alongside this, 4-square remains a playground favorite, and a few extra balls will help games run smoothly without constant waiting or wear-and-tear issues. Both activities encourage social interaction, friendly competition, and lots of movement — all while keeping students happily engaged.

Cost Breakdown (CAD)

- Beyblade Stadiums (3 × \$60): **\$180.00**
- 4-Square Balls (6 × \$15): **\$90.00**
- Estimated tax (12%): **\$32.40**

Total Estimated Cost: \$302.40 CAD

Thank you very much for considering this request. These items would be well used and bring a lot of fun (and organized chaos) to student activities. Let it rip — and bounce!

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Clare Laughy', written over a horizontal line.

Clare Laughy
Sr. Administrative Assistant

PRIMARY GRADES



Tips for Primary Teachers when Discussing Traumatic World Events

When discussing traumatic world events with students, it is important to remember children will have a wide range of responses to and understanding of the situation. Some may not appear to be affected at all, while others may be highly impacted. If you feel that only a few students are impacted, it is more effective to have one-to-one conversations as opposed to a full class discussion.



KEY POINTS

- Provide simple age-appropriate facts
- Acknowledge all feelings
- Provide hope



MODEL CALM

- It is important that adults model a sense of calm and security
- Students will take their cues from us. If we are calm and hopeful, it will be easier for them to be too
- Class discussions should be brief: students trust adults to tell them the truth and to provide developmentally appropriate information



START BY LISTENING

- Listen for the tone of their free play and the words they are using. If you notice that the class has questions or concerns, it is okay to have a class discussion. Individual conversations are also effective (same steps – smaller scale)
- Start by asking how students are doing and listen carefully to what they say
- We can't assume we know what students are thinking and feeling. What they are actually thinking and feeling might surprise us
- Ask open-ended questions like the following:
 - » Tell me what you know.
 - » Where did you first hear about this?
 - » How are you feeling?
 - » What else are you wondering?
- Watch for signs of fear and anxiety that students may not be able to put into words. For example, changes in normal behaviour or functioning



PROVIDE FACTUAL INFORMATION

- Give students brief answers with basic facts that are developmentally appropriate
- Ask students what they already know so you can correct any misinformation they may have heard
- Keep the information simple. Dwelling on the situation or details can increase fear and anxiety
- You don't have to have all the answers. A simple reply with "I'm not sure about that" can give you time to reflect or do some research
- Avoid exposure to media, images, and articles in the classroom

PRIMARY GRADES

VALIDATE AND NORMALIZE



- Let students know you heard their concerns. (E.g. *"Sounds like you are feeling worried."* *"I hear you when you say you are scared."*)
- Address their fear: remind students that they are safe right now. Let them know that the adults in their lives will continue to do their job of keeping them safe
- Let students know that what they are feeling is OK and normal under the circumstances. (E.g. *"It makes sense that you would be worried right now. Lots of people would react that way in this situation."*)

ENCOURAGE EMPATHY AND COMPASSION



- Remind children there may be others who are impacted by this situation
- Encourage children to be kind and gentle with others and to empathize with people who have other backgrounds and experiences

MAINTAIN NORMAL ROUTINE



- Structure and normalcy during stressful times and unusual circumstances is very important for students
- Acknowledge the situation and then get on with the normal activities of the day

ACCESS SUPPORTS WHEN NEEDED



If you have any students who are in a high state of distress and have trouble functioning in their regular activities at school, please consider accessing the following supports:

- School counsellor
- ELL teacher, International Education department, SWIS worker
- Community counselling supports
- <https://keltymentalhealth.ca/>
- <https://www.anxietycanada.com/>
- <https://cmha.ca/>