

Valley View PAC Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

In Attendance

Chair: Chelsey Newton

Vice Chair: Megan Norrish

Treasurer: Jonathan Kisiloski

Secretary: *vacant*

Fundraising Coordinator: Susie Gilson

DPAC Rep: *vacant*

Trustee: Janice Caton (absent)

Principal (acting): Yolanda Lehton

Vice Principal (acting): Tamara Langan

Others: Sumi Playfair, Chantal Stagg, Erica Otto, Pam Saccucci, Jamie Hilland, Janessa, Lindsey Blackburn, Jeremy & Jennifer Stokes

MEETING NOTES

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm

Gilakas'la

Welcome everyone. I would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territories of the K'ómoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on the land and the gift of working with their children.

Gilakas'la

Introductions all around

Agenda to be approved as presented. Susie motion Jonathan Second
All in favour: PASSED

Minutes from October to be approved as amended. Megan motion Susie Second
All in favour: PASSED

Safe and Active Schools Program: Jamie

Program started this year with city of Courtenay, will be on-going for 3 years. Walk about happening this Friday, they'll start observing around 8am but walk about starts at 8:30am.

Identify improvements, could be providing recommendations at school district, city, and even up to provincial level. Many benefits of walking and cycling to school as opposed to driving. Looking at most impactful changes to help improve safety, reduce congestion, reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution.

Whole process started spring/summer this year. Just completed the open house. Currently in the data collection and analysis phase. Community walkabouts happening now/soon. Coming up in the new year will be recommended route maps, school travel plan development and delivery. bikewalkroll.org

They're looking for lots of feedback from local surveys. There will be interactive maps included to mark areas of concern for parents.

City has funds earmarked for improvements based on the recommendations that come back. Might not get it all, depending on what's put forward.

Some areas of parent concern:

- Turning into the school and out of the school.
- Crosswalk at Mallard and Valley View.
- Better indication of school zone for traffic coming off Lerwick onto Valley View
- Both crosswalks in the area of the school on valley view need improvements
- No crosswalk on Mallard at the trail

School Admin Report: Yolanda Lehton

- Volleyball is going strong and has been a collaborative effort in terms of supervision between volunteer coaches and staff reps
- EA practicum student is starting here on Monday, Nov 17-Dec 12
- Nov 18-20 Book Fair started today – Books For Brains local company in Comox
- Nov 20 Conference Day – parents can make appointments online
- Safe and Active Schools walkabout for adults is on Friday, Nov 21 2025 at 8:30am and we will meet at the school. Please be prepared to walk around the school and neighborhood.
 - The student walkabout is at 11am with a representative from each intermediate class.
 - Data collection process started Monday with students in classes doing a hands up survey and families accessing an online survey link shared in the WAG
- Month end assembly is on Nov 28th at 10:45am
- School camera location – AP181
 - Camera is in the vestibule outside the front doors of the building
 - Installed to help reduce vandalism and enhance student safety
 - Surveillance carried out in a way that respects student privacy rights
 - Recordings are password protected, stored on central computers and not publicly accessible

- Erased monthly unless being used in decision making about an incident
- Clothing Lending Library
 - Has previously been stored in the office medical room – next to skin items will remain in the office: socks, underwear, hats, gloves, shirts, sweaters, pants and indoor shoes
 - \$450 spent on creating a clothing lending library accessible to all students including raincoats, rain pants and boots
 - Looking to expand the collection with donations of outdoor wear
- Extreme weather events – shelter in place
 - There is no district policy on when to call a shelter in place – we use situational awareness as every school and site is unique
 - decision is made as a team
 - We are working with Molly Proudfoot, Director of Operations, to determine parameters for safe windspeeds in the forest using the Beaufort Wind Scale on Land as a standard measurement
 - currently using the rating up to a “Strong Breeze” as the maximum allowable wind speeds for use of the forest – we have been closing the forest (only the forest, not the field or playgrounds) once sustained winds reach above the “Strong Breeze” wind speeds, or 50km/hr
 - In terms of precipitation – we would consider a shelter in place if there was an “atmospheric river” of precipitation

This is a quote from a 2022 article by Dr. Brussoni and PhD student Rachel Ramsden called: Why children need to play outside – now more than ever!

“When children are outdoors, they move more, sit less and play longer, helping increase their physical activity levels. And then physical activity leads to many health benefits for children’s cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems. When children play outside, they can also enhance their mental well-being, developing their sense of self, and feeling soothed by nature. It can provide opportunities for learning that aren’t available indoors, including physical literacy and spatial knowledge. Importantly, navigating and nurturing nature, forests and green spaces provide children with the tools to learn environmental awareness, appreciation and stewardship. And when children are allowed to take risks and choose their own play outdoors, they gain confidence, resilience to overcome challenges, and skills to manage risks for themselves.”

<https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/2022/01/17/why-children-need-to-play-outside-now-more-than-ever/>

Feedback on bad drainage outside the back of the school, especially the East side. Bad in the winter when it freezes. School will flag this to maintenance.

Recent weather events caused some concern with having students going outside, removing the option of them being able to stay inside. There is difficulty having students

both inside and outside and having enough supervision for both. A parent expressed their concern about a change in school policy around this wanting to make sure their kids are staying safe and able to have a good environment for learning.

Outdoor education this week was about cougar education.

Trustee Report: Janice Caton

Change to the district calendar which is a result of the ministry of education amending the school act to add another day which is specifically dedicated to Indigenous learning.

The date for our district is Friday May 15 and there is a survey on the district website available until next week Monday the 24th for feedback

District calendar committee will be meeting to determine the next 3 calendar years of instruction starting the September 2026-school year which will determine days of instruction and school holidays etc - feedback in the spring.

Chair's Report: Chelsey Newton

Nothing to report

Fundraising/Volunteer Report: Susie

Just finished Spirit Wear

Halloween Dance went well - raised some money despite that wasn't our goal. Good community event. Suggestions: Perhaps less tables? Or change the layout to make more space?

Wreaths have been ordered.

Purdy's order forms went home today

Dec 17th - Snowball Dance

This Saturday, Nov 22nd our first Winter Market

Treasurer's Report: Jonathan Kisiloski

Account balances at end of October:

Non - gaming: \$19,726.87 three outstanding cheques \$1,920.90

Gaming: \$11,457.14 with one outstanding cheque of \$98

Received gaming grant of \$7220

DPAC Report:

Nothing to report

Other business:

Hot Lunch - will be run by the school and coming hopefully in January. There's been a bit of a delay in getting this going. Food will be geared towards the students.

Fun Fridays - hot dogs, popsicles, freezies, other ideas?

Spirit wear - could we do additional colours? There's a lot of work, so not sure but will be looked at next year for changing something.

PAC committees - ways to get people to join specific fundraising areas. If any parents are interested in helping in an area, please email valleyviewpac@gmail.com possibly work on getting an online signup option?

Ideas – online 50/50, Return-it Depot, other passive fundraising?

Any e-transfers for fundraising need to make sure to have a note on there about what it's for.

!! We're looking for new people to join us! We have several open positions. If anyone is interested in getting more involved in the PAC on any level, please chat with us at a meeting or email valleyviewpac@gmail.com

Meeting adjourned 7:58 pm motion by Susie

Next Meeting January 20th, 2026 at 6:30pm