

GEPAC Meeting Minutes – Thursday, September 18th, 2025

Attendees:

Chelsea Hadland
Sarah Estabrooks
Brandy Pacheco
Britney deDood
Deja Bourke
Kirsten Mazur
Rebecca Gaal
Ashley Lancaster
Hayley Halvorson
Caitlin McIntosh

1. Meeting called to order @ 12:30pm
2. Introductions
 - A few new faces! Thank you so much for taking the time to attend! Reminder that it is okay to bring your kids – we are all parents and understand what needs to be done! We are trying a 12:30 time right now but we have also considered doing a 2:00 start time and bringing in a few seventh graders to babysit. Please email us at grindrodpac@gmail.com if you have any feedback. We do our best to accommodate as many people as possible.
3. Minutes from last meeting – Thursday, June 12th
 - All meeting minutes are posted on the Grindrod Elementary School Website (<https://gri.sd83.bc.ca/>) under the PAC tab up at the top. They are also posted on our Facebook Group – please sign up to stay connected. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GrindrodPAC>) And lastly, a paper copy is also pinned up outside the office on the bulletin board.
4. Principal's Report – Kirsten Mazur
 - Enrolment and Configurations
 - 121 students with potentially one more coming next week
 - Configuration of classes – we were down a couple of students at the end of the year. We were slightly nervous we would have had to lose a division however new students came during the summer so we have been able to maintain all of our classes.
 - School Learning Plan
 - The school will continue looking at writing and math. With writing, teachers are really analyzing student samples to find out where writing skills are lacking. There will be a huge focus on spelling, punctuation, and sentence writing. For math, teachers will be working with students on their automaticity with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
 - Online Forms for Consent
 - Four forms are required every single year and will need to be signed every September.
 - Network – parent permission that students can access the network;
 - Outside Media – for example, if River Talk shows up to take pictures of events at schools, can your child be part of it;
 - Personal Information Consent – that the school can use your child's photo or name for something like Facebook;
 - Code of Conduct for Busses – a new form this year reviewing safety and conduct on busses.
 - PAC Feedback – Some parents might be finding the portal a bit tricky to access. There are two portals we access through the year – MyEducation (which is where we can see our children's summary reports) and then there is the Parent Portal (the place we need to go now to sign these forms). If you go to <https://cimsweb.sd83.bc.ca/SchoolConnect/ParentSignone.aspx> there are a set of instructions that will lead you through setting up the portal.
 - If all else fails, Linda will also send home a paper copy of the forms for you to sign and return to the school.

- Food Programs
 - Feeding Futures – A program with the goal of getting healthy food to children. They are able to operate through government grants. They are credited with the Soup Program which will run every Tuesday - every student will have access to a bowl of soup and some fruit or vegetables. This is free for our children however if you are in a position to provide a donation, please go to <http://my.charitableimpact.com/groups/soupermeals> or write a cheque to Shuswap Food Action Society and drop it off at the school.
 - Leadership Pizza – one Thursday a month
 - Lunches and Snacks – provided for students who need additional food
- Volunteers in School – Please see Linda in the office for extra information
 - Criminal Record Checks are good for three years
 - Update insurance and your motor vehicle information
 - Volunteer Forms
- River Day
 - A Knowledge Keeper, Dodie Jones, will be in attendance
 - PAC is providing one hot dog, a juice box, and a cookie for all students
- Back to School Barbeque
 - Next Thursday, September 25th
- School Clothing
 - Orders are due October 10th · Kirsten has sizes in her office if you would like to stop by and take a look.
- Christmas Basket Raffle
 - Is PAC able to get the license?
 - Response: Chelsea will look into this.
- Wish List
 - Field Trips for each classroom so they can attend as many as possible
 - 14 hoodies for Grade 7's
 - Library – we have a new librarian who is sorting through the books and finding many books that need to be weeded out and then replaced. The school district provides \$1000 from the budget so whatever we are willing to provide would be appreciated. Question from PAC – is the library doing a Scholastic Book Fair?
- Outdoor Playground
 - Spools are being donated by the DeBoers to be used as tables. The rocks in the corner have been rearranged by the garden. Baird's is bringing in sand for the corner.
 - Donation Request: the school could use a donation of any gently used "Cooking Supplies" to be used for the mud kitchen or sand toys for the sand pit.
- Important Dates:
 - September 19 – River Day
 - September 22 – Terry Fox Run
 - September 23 – Grades 5, 6, and 7 to Gardom Lake
 - September 25 – Pizza Day; Fire Drill #1; Back to School BBQ
 - September 29 – ProD Day – No School
 - September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day – No School
 - October 7 – Divisions 5 & 6 to Dodds' Farm
 - October 10 – Divisions 1, 2, 3, & 4 to Salmon Arm Wharf for fishing trip. Clothing orders due.
 - October 15 – Photo Day
 - October 20 – Family Conferences
 - October 24 – Provincial Pro-D
 - October 28 – Blues Rock Group Concert at Rancho

5. Treasurer's Report

- See attached for 2024 / 2025 Spending
- September 2025
 - Operating Account: \$17,454.64
 - Gaming Account: \$2165.48
- Note: BC Gaming has not yet approved our gaming grant for this upcoming year (roughly around \$2000 which we typically allocate to swimming lessons and winter rec). The name of our banking accounts at SASCU does not match the name on our Constitution and Bylaws so the executives have been in the process of making the necessary changes. For the record, our name is *Grindrod Elementary Parent Advisory Council* otherwise known as *GEPAC*. We are NOT Grindrod Elementary PAC.
- Adopted- Sarah; seconded Britney

6. Old Business

- Executive Committee
 - Dissolved 2024 / 2025 Executive Committee in June
 - 2025 / 2026 Executive Committee
 - President – Sarah Estabrooks
 - Vice-President – Britney deDood
 - Treasurer – Chelsea Hadland
 - Secretary – TBD
- Mud Kitchens
 - Linda helped have our mud kitchens built and they have been thoroughly enjoyed! A huge thank you to Linda!

7. New Business

- Teacher Appreciation Day – October 5th
 - October 5th is a Sunday but we could do something on Friday, October 3rd
 - Someone to head this up – if anyone would be interested, please email grindrodpac@gmail.com
- Soup Days
 - Every Tuesday. The volunteer sign up sheet is looking really great! Thank you!!!!
 - For anyone who would like to sign up to volunteer for a soup day, the sign up sheet is right outside the office. You and another volunteer would be asked to show up at the school around 11:00 to receive the soup which will be delivered directly to the school. From there, you set up the two cannisters on two rolling trollies. At 11:15, which students are outside for recess, you deliver soup to 6 classrooms. Leadership students are often there to help hand out buns and spoons and napkins. While students are eating, you stand in the hallway with the soup, available for students who might want seconds. Then you do clean up. Typically, you are out of the school by 12:30 at the latest.
 - Note – if someone is unable to make it last minute, make a posting on the GEPAC Facebook page or let Linda know. Hayley, Brandy, or Chelsea can be called to cover.
- Hot Lunch
 - Subway – Rebecca Gaal – Friday, October 31st
 - Booster Juice – Chelsea Hadland – look into a better deal
 - Yans – Rebecca Gaal
 - Sushi – Rebecca Gaal

8. Events / Fundraisers

- River Day Tomorrow
 - Includes hot dog, juice box, and cookie
 - Thank you to Danny for bringing the BBQ and cooking!
- Popcorn Day – Friday, October 17th
 - Sarah and Chelsea
- DeMille's Thanksgiving Box - October
 - Rebecca will look into this – October
- Gift Cards – Brittany
 - December
- Poinsettias – Chelsea
 - December
- Pies – Jess
 - Spring
- Mayfair Hanging Baskets – Caitlin
 - May
- Extra Ideas – There are so many fundraising options out there. Our PAC is open to new ideas! If someone has an idea, please get the information and let Sarah know and she can put it in the next meeting minutes for discussion. From there, we would need someone to take the lead on that idea.
 - Griller's Meets
 - Neufeld Farms
 - Davison Orchard's Apple Boxes
 - Bake Sales

9. Budget Request Update

2025 / 2026

Class Field Trips	
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Grade 7 Hoodies	
Teachers Requests	
Swimming	
Rec Program Bussing	
Library Funding	
Picnic Tables & Installation	
Learning Circle	

2024 / 2025

Class Field Trips	\$600 PAID February 1, 2025
Grade 7 Hoodies	\$400 PAID February 1, 2025
Winter Rec Program \$2500	\$2500 PAID April 3, 2025 from Gaming Account
Concrete Work \$4982.92 approx.	Waiting for receipt
Library Funding \$1000	PAID
Mud Kitchen \$600 + \$300 Install	PAID
Swimming Lessons \$1000	PAID

10. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 23rd at 12:30

11. Meeting Adjourned @ 2:00pm