

Merritt Bench Elementary PAC
April 7, 2026
Meeting held at Bench Elementary Library & via Teams

Present:

Daniella Bennie, Principal
Bethany Ryan, President
Gordon Swan, Trustee
Amy Douthwright, Treasurer
Dana Grebinski, Fundraising
Kayla McNaney, Secretary

Meeting called to order: 6:32pm

Approval of minutes

A. Motion to approve the minutes for March 3, 2026 made by Kayla. Seconded by Dana. All in favour.

Treasurers Report - attached in email

Checking

Opening balance: \$ 11446.93
Deposit interest: \$ 19.87
Incoming (movie night): \$ 514.00
Expenses (Guitars, pizza, pancake breakfast): \$ 1978.31
Outstanding deposits (Spiritwear, Neufelds): \$ 592.00
Reconciled Bank Balance: \$ 10594.49
Committed spending (Centres, ski trip) \$ 2400.00
Remaining available balance: **\$ 8194.49**

Gaming

Opening Balance: \$ 2891.50
Expenses (Guitars) \$ 2700.00
Ending Cash Balance: **\$ 191.50**

Motion to approve Treasurers Report for March made by Dana and seconded by Kayla. All in favour.

Old Business

- A. Fundraising update:
- Growing Smiles - Not going to go ahead with. Plants are expensive, had a hard time making minimum requirement last time.

- Desert Hills hanging baskets - Company emailing Dana back with a quote. Nice baskets for a good price. Possible Mothers Day fundraiser.
- Valley Graze another option for Mothers Day. Beef Jerky for Fathers day?
- Krispy Kreme - \$9 a dozen, school would charge \$20. Might be too many fundraisers for end of the year.
- Costco mini donuts - 50% profit, sell for \$10 with \$5 profit. Possible fundraiser for next year.
- Sensory Pathway - in progress through Amy. Hoping to be able to install through summer and be ready for next year.

Motion to spend up to \$1000 on Sensory Pathway made by Dana, seconded by Kayla.

All in favour.

- B. Volleyball net and post - Put a request in to ask if Bench can repurpose Collettville's or Centrals. Looking at quotes through other companies as well.
- C. Parent Engagement – Start posting meeting minutes for parents to see what is discussed during meetings and so they can see how PAC contributes to the school.

New Business

- A. Outdoor movie night? Probably too late this year to do this as these last 3 months are very busy. Might be too late in the evening to have it outdoor. Possibly do an indoor 'Welcome Back to School' movie night. Combine with Open House night.
- B. Bike Rodeo - Mr. Kanigan ran the bike rodeo in the past. Ask for parent volunteers? Daniella to email and see what information she can get.

Trustee Report – attached in email

- A. Next board meeting is April 8th.
- B. Collettville school chosen to close. French Immersion being moved to Central making it a dual track.
- C. About 9.5 million in deferred maintenance across district. Asked for 3 million, Ministry approved 1.3 million. Province is around \$230 million.
- D. New Administrative Procedures developed for: Child Abuse and Neglect, Role of Assistant Superintendent, Role of Director of Human Resources, Role of Director of Inclusive Education Childcare and Early Learning, Role of District Principal of Indigenous Education and Role of Assistant Secretary Treasurer.
- E. Vancouver AGM this weekend.

Principals Report: - attached in email

- A. Handball - Boys placed 4th and Girls placed 1st. Thank you to Mr. Cleaveley and Mr. Puterbough for coaching.
- B. Primary classes worked on "catching a leprechaun" project before the break.
- C. Anti-racism assembly last week - one for primary and another for intermediate.
- D. Rugby Canada hosted intro Rugby Session last week. Bench hosted Diamondvale and students gave good feedback. Increased Rugby numbers, Mr. Cleaveley will be coaching again.
- E. Talent Show auditions starting with show on May 8th.
- F. Elder's Gathering is at Bench on 8th in gym. Some intermediate students will be helping and participating in Thompson Language game.

- G. Michael Bortolotto will be doing presentation on April 13th - Intermediates presentation "The Wonderful Power of a Smile, Kindness, and Inclusion" which focuses on how to create a safer inclusive school environment. Primary presentation is "The Truth about Apples and Pineapples" which focuses on creating and understanding a culture of empathy, acceptance and friendship.
- H. April 17th Mr. Cleaveley, Mr. Athersych/Bloom and Mrs. Vandenrbinks classes will head to Nicola Canford to see Jason Simon Presentation (Former NHL Player).
- I. Tree planting coming up next month.

Next Meeting: May 5, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm