

Merritt Bench Elementary PAC
January 6, 2026
Meeting held at Bench Elementary Library & via Teams

Present:

Daniella Bennie, Principal
Bethany Ryan, President
Amy Douthwright, Treasurer
Dana Grebinski, Fundraising
Kayla Sofiak-McNaney, Secretary
Ashley Hartwig
Ryan Hartwig

Meeting called to order: 6:35pm

Approval of minutes

A. Motion to approve the minutes for December 2, 2025 made by Dana. Seconded by Amy.

Treasurers Report - attached in email

Checking

Opening balance:	\$ 9155.11
Expenses (art cards, babysitting, literacy):	\$ 1159.66
Incoming (Art cards, spirit wear etc.):	\$ 3739.60
Outstanding (library books):	\$ 250.00
Bank Balance:	\$ 117354.05
Reconciled Bank Balance:	\$ 11485.05

Committed to spend: \$4050

- Guitars - +\$3000 (from Gaming)
- Literacy requests - \$900
- Pancake breakfast - \$150
- Bussing for Ski Trip - TBD

Gaming

Opening Balance:	\$ 554.74
Incoming (Grant):	\$ 3060.00
Ending balance:	\$ 3614.74
Outstanding (Agenda chq):	\$ 723.254
Reconciled Bank Balance:	\$ 2891.50

Motion to approve Treasurers Report for November made by Kayla and seconded by Ashley. Motion to approve Treasurers Report for December made by Dana. Seconded by Kayla.

Old Business

A. Christmas Concert feedback

- Positive feedback. Everyone who requested extra tickets were able to get the seats.

B. Pancake breakfast

- Dana and Amy made pancakes. Ms. London and Mrs. Klassen handed out to class. Went very well.
- Mrs. Klassen took Santa photos
- Maybe move 'pizza Monday' to Friday next year on Santa/pancake day so it's not too much all in one day in the kitchen.

C. Guitars

- Updated quote \$6560.18 for 25 guitars.
 - Quote includes 5 guitar touring folding stands (to hold guitars students bring in/already owned by school), 6 additional classical book stands, padded guitar cases, string winder. \$4728.736 for the guitars and string winder.
- Ask School District for quote to build cabinets for guitars.
- Maybe ask other schools if we can have some of their old book stands.
- Daniella to look into if school or PAC should put the guitar order through.
 - Get PST back if PAC orders
 - Get GST back if school orders
 - Schools are PST exempt?
- Need to figure out how to get guitars to Merritt and where pick up is. Someone to pick up so we don't have to pay for shipping.

AMENDED approval for 22 full size and 3 3/4 size guitars, string winder and 5 sets of strings. Motion to spend \$2700 from Gaming account made by Sue and seconded by Dana. All in favour.

D. Ski Trip Funding Request

- Amys offer still stands to volunteer to drive a bus
- Daniella to talk to classes about how they would like to help fundraise for trip

Motion to approve Amy volunteering to drive the bus for the ski trip to Sun Peaks and PAC will pay up to \$500 for remaining costs, a thank you gift card and lunch etc. for Amy made by Sue and seconded by Kayla.

E. Last years projects: Decals/silly mirror/ white hatter

- Other schools have done Vinyl decals on walls and floor (made by Aim High)
- Daniella would like to speak with maintenance about how well decals hold up as we don't want to have to keep replacing. Also to follow up with teachers and get their opinions.
- Not sure if silly mirror is needed
- DPAC helped contribute funds for White Hatter in past. Amy to bring up with them.

New Business

A. DPAC has given \$300 to go towards getting parents involved into PAC

Ideas:

- Pizza and PAC meeting nights - dinner for the family.
 - RSVP so we know how much pizza to order
 - Vicki could send out email ahead of time with Google Forms link
 - Amy to do up Google forms with 3 pizza options: Cheese, Pepperoni & Hawaiian.
- Potentially change or alternate the day each month?
- Earlier meet time. Some schools have done meetings in morning after drop off.
- Had discussed a movie night. Daniella looked into this and we do have a program we can log into and project movie onto the screen.
- Parent engagement night with snacks and drinks to showcase guitar purchase.

Try Pizza/PAC nights for February and March and see how it goes. Change the time to 5:30-7pm so there is time to grab pizza and get settled.

B. DPAC Report

- Next meeting is January 20th.
- Lots of talk about school closure.

Trustee Report

- A. Potential school closure, more community engagement meetings going on. Have until April to announce the plan. Will affect all schools as catchments may change etc.
- B. Fire in boys bathroom at Central. Kids were back in class within half an hour.
- C. Offering support to students re: local deaths

Principals Report: - attached in email

- A. Ski Trip - need to make decision about bus asap.
- B. Have been opening gym at lunch time, alternating grades and doing different indoor activities
- C. Skating coming up for primary students most Fridays this month.
- D. Kindergarten and grade 1 students going to MSS for bakery class etc.
- E. Reading groups resume next week.
- F. Inclusive Education and Early Learning and Childcare. Did presentation to Principals and Trustees re: sex trafficking issues to bring awareness about statistics. Will go over information next meeting.

Next Meeting: February 3, 2026 at 5:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm