

Merritt Bench Elementary PAC
June 2, 2026
Meeting held at Bench Elementary Library & via Teams

Present:

Daniella Bennie, Principal
Bethany Ryan, President
Bailee Allen, Vice President
Gordon Swan, Trustee
Amy Douthwright, Treasurer
Dana Grebinski, Fundraising
Kayla McNaney, Secretary
Teresa Van Caeseele

Meeting called to order: 6:30pm

Approval of minutes

A. Motion to approve the minutes for May 5, 2026 made by Dana. Seconded by Bethany. All in favour.

Treasurers Report - attached in email

Checking

Opening balance:	\$ 10,022.01
Deposit interest:	\$ 18.53
Expenses (Valley Graze, Aim High):	\$ 2495.91
Outstanding Chqs (MBE – Bussing for Ski Trip):	\$ 1087.47
Outstanding Deposits (Spiritwear, VG, Beef Jerky, Neufelds):	\$ 5098.00
Reconciled Bank Balance:	<u>\$ 11,555.49</u>
Committed spending:	\$ 2900.00
Remaining available balance:	<u>\$ 8655.49</u>

Gaming

Opening Balance:	\$ 191.50
Ending Cash Balance:	<u>\$ 191.50</u>
Committed to Spend	\$ 711.20
Remaining available balance:	<u>\$ -519.70</u>

Motion to approve Treasurers Report for May and June made by Dana and seconded by Bethany. All in favour.

Funding Requests

Mr. Denton requests \$200 for bike rodeo (supplies/treats, marking paint, airhorn & refill, eggs, freezies, prizes).

Motion to approve \$200 for Bike Rodeo made by Amy. Seconded by Kayla. All in favour.

Mr. Denton requests \$180 for wildlife park (to offset some of the cost to parents).

Motion to approve \$180 for Wildlife Park made by Bailee. Seconded by Amy. All in favour.

Old Business

- A. Teacher Appreciation: Ms. Shackelly is retiring this year. Get a Valley Graze gift card for her to show appreciation. Bailee will pick up.

Motion to approve \$50 on Valley Graze gift card for Ms. Shackelly in honour of her retirement made by Bailee. Seconded by Kayla. All in favour.

- B. Staff Appreciation: Bethany to call in order to Valley Graze for a charcuterie board to show appreciation to the staff on June 26th.
- C. Fundraising update:
 - a. Fathers Day: Beef Jerky fundraiser raised \$474. Order has been received and Dana will sort through this week.
- D. Sensory Pathway: Amy emailed out digital trail of footprint pathway. Looks great.

New Business;

- A. Ideas for new projects to fundraise for
 - a. Audio system for gym (microphones and bluetooth), gym equipment (staff will come up with list), pipe and draping for Christmas concert.
 - i. Daniella will check with some of the other schools where they got their systems from. Will also reach out to Brandon re: their system and what will be done with it.
 - b. Will do suggestion box again next year for students.
- B. Rotary Park Day: PAC (Bethany and Gord) to go down and make snow cones for the kids. Either purchase syrup or make own using kool-aid packages. Plan for about 150 cones. Amy to let us know cost. Ice either needs to be pre-shredded or we will contact The City to ask if we can turn on the power to the band shed so we can power the machine.

Motion to approve up to \$100 to make snow cones for Rotary Park Day made by Bailee. Seconded by Kayla. All in favour.

DPAC

- A. N/A

Trustee Report – attached in email

- A. Final Board meeting for this school year is next Wednesday
- B. June 22 there a meeting hosted by John Chenoweth for new people interested in becoming a School Trustee
 - a. Chose John as he is not running for re-election
 - b. Thought it might be less intimidating not to have existing trustees who are running again at the information session.
 - i. Nomination packages available – August 4, 2026
Nomination period – September 1-11, 2026
Last day to withdraw without Ministry approval – September 18, 2026
Declaration of election by voting or acclamation – September 21, 2026
Required advance voting day – October 7, 2026
2nd advance voting day – TBA
General voting day – October 17, 2026 (preliminary results evening of election)
Last day to declare official election results – October 21, 2026
First day available to take oath if elected by acclamation – October 18, 2026; if elected by voting – October 27, 2026
New term begins – November 1, 2026
- C. June 3 is the Indigenous Grad ceremony. 83 students this year + - . I can remember when it was 12 students.
- D. MSS Grad is June 18
- E. Several events have been held to bring together the students & parents from Central and Collettsville.
 - a. Most pressing issue for students seems to be are we going to be HAWKS or LES CHATS SAUVAGES
- F. June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples' Day.
- G. Last day of school is June 25.
- H. Attended Harris Educational Law Conference.
- I. Attended two day online sessions on School Attendance Challenges (six hours each day of back to back sessions).

Principals Report: - attached in email

- A. May was busy with field trips and activity. After school program wrapped up.
- B. Talent show was great success. Thank you to Mrs. Otters for organizing.
- C. Mrs. Vandenbrink and Mr. Blooms class got to go to Harmon Lake for tree planting.
- D. Mr. Dentons class did project and designed their own taco trucks, followed by a taco fiesta.
- E. Students got to see a band performance by Panorama Ridge Senior Secondary School from Surrey.
- F. Update given at last DPAC re: Emergency Procedures. Police officer cruisers all have master keys for the schools.

G. Lots of field trips and events coming up:

- a. K/1 to Fire Hall June 3rd
- b. District Track Meet June 4th
- c. Merritt Speedway June 5th
- d. K/1 to Bowling Alley
- e. Eagle Bay is June 10-12th
- f. Bike Rodeo June 18th
- g. Denton/Jones Wildlife Park June 19th
- h. Vandenbrink/Pineau Science Center/Swimming June 19th
- i. Grade 7 Grad June 22nd
- j. Primary Fun Day June 23
- k. Whole School Rotary Park June 24th
- l. Kindergarten Graduation June 25th

Next Meeting: September 15, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm