

Merritt Bench Elementary PAC
March 3, 2026
Meeting held at Bench Elementary Library & via Teams

Present:

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

Meeting called to order: 5:40pm

Approval of minutes

A. Motion to approve the minutes for February 3, 2026 made by Amy. Seconded by Dana.

Treasurers Report - attached in email

<i>Checking</i>	\$
Opening balance:	11506.66
Deposit interest:	22.17
Expenses (pizza):	81.90
Outstanding chqs (pancake breakfast):	50.96
Outstanding deposits (movie night \$614):	514.00
(\$100 cash kept on hand for babysitting fees)	
Reconciled Bank Balance:	11909.97
Committed spending	4900.00
(Primary teachers \$900, guitars \$2500, bussing ski trip \$1500)	
Remaining available balance:	<u>\$ 7009.97</u>

<i>Gaming</i>	\$
Opening Balance:	2891.50
Committed to spend (guitars)	2700.00
Remaining available Balance:	<u>191.50</u>

Motion to approve Treasurers Report for February made by Kayla and seconded by Bailee.

Old Business

- A. Fundraising update:
 - Movie night: \$614 raised. 50 hotdogs & 50 bags of popcorn did well.
 - Possible flower arrangement fundraiser through Growing Smiles for spring.
 - \$596 from Neufelds, coming next Monday at 1pm.
- B. Teacher Requests: no new
- C. Conflict Resolution
 - Leroy to meet with Executive Board to review program.
 - 'Play is the Way' activities for kids, certain classes here doing already, may be beneficial to bring throughout the whole school.
- D. Sensory Pathway
 - Mrs. Shackelly and Ms. Ottens taking this project on. Went to Nicola Canford to get a picture of the pathways there. Would like to get something Bench personalized. Indigenous symbol/theme for Bench is Sasquatch.
- E. Guitars
 - Guitars are here already, sooner than expected. Long & McQuade paid for the shipping. Will set up guitar holding racks in library at some point.

New Business

- A. District calendar for the next 3 years was released. Calendar didn't change, 2 week spring break still.
- B. Process for ordering items in the future:
 - 1. You get a quote
 - 2. Give quote to the Secretary
 - 3. Secretary places PO with Board Office
 - 4. Order gets placed through Board Office
 - 5. We pay the Board Office
 - 6. PAC pays us

DPAC

- A. Cyber security funding.
- B. No date for White Hatter.
- C. AGM April 21 everyone welcome.
- D. BCCPAC conference, 2 people to go down to Richmond for that.
- E. Applied for grant for track meet.

Trustee Report – attached in email

- A. Potential school closure decision will be made on March 11th.
- B. Provincial Government presented budget. BC Mental Health ratio still above other provinces. Alberta 1:250, Ontario 1:385, BC 1:693. Services that weren't subject to PST, now will be.
- C. Unfunded inflationary costs rising – employee benefits, technology, facility maintenance, equipment, services & supplies. Spending more on maintaining facilities as they age but lack of funding.
- D. 15,000 position cuts across public sector, many coming from Education.
- E. Projecting 71 less students next year = \$837,000 less in funding for 26/27 year.
- F. Board funding \$3000 for DPAC to send 2 reps to BCCPAC conference in Lower Mainland.

Principals Report: - attached in email

- A. Basketball - both teams placed 3rd. Bethany and Mr Cleaveley coaching teams.
- B. Mrs. V's class walked down to Nicola Meadows for Valentines Day and it was very special to the residents. Going back at Easter with more cards.
- C. 100's day was great, kids had fun.
- D. Mrs. V's class is doing a Fur Trade theme project - hands on, great structures.
- E. Mr. Denton's class did some good hands-on science and beautiful artwork.
- F. Mr. Bloom had guest artist come in to do some cool artwork.
- G. Ski trip was a success. Kids progress throughout the day was amazing to see.
- H. Movie night went well, good feedback.
- I. Science Fair - some kids going to regionals, great turnout for fair. Mr. Cleaveley takes on a lot of the work.
- J. Welcome Mr. Athersych & Mr. Bloom until spring break in gr 5/6.
- K. Anti-racism presentation (website: One Republic) - primary version and intermediate version will be watched on April 1st.
- L. Teachers interested in Race Track Field trip.
- M. Indigenous hockey player coming April 17th to Nicola Canford. For grades 5,6 and 7 - will discuss re: social/emotional.

Next Meeting: April 7, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm