

Merritt Bench Elementary PAC
May 5, 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 via phone
Kayla McNaney, Secretary
Teresa Van Caesele

Meeting called to order: 6:33pm

Approval of minutes

A. Motion to approve the minutes for April 7, 2026 made by Bethany. Seconded by Kayla. All in favour.

Treasurers Report - attached in email

Checking

Opening balance:	\$ 10,002.49
Deposit interest:	\$ 19.52
Outstanding Chqs (MBE - Ski trip bussing, Spiritwear):	\$ 1543.05
Outstanding Deposits (Spiritwear, Neufelds):	\$ 1188.00
Reconciled Bank Balance:	\$ 9666.96
Committed spending (Centres, sensory path)	<u>\$ 1900.00</u>
Remaining available balance:	<u>\$ 7766.96</u>

Gaming

Opening Balance:	\$ 191.50
Ending Cash Balance:	<u>\$ 191.50</u>

Motion to approve Treasurers Report for April made by ____ and seconded by ____. All in favour.

- To do at next meeting

Funding Requests

- A. Year End Field Trip – Mrs. Vandenbrink and Ms. Pineau class (Gr 3/4 and Gr 4/5)
\$525 Requested. \$2.50 per student to swim at TRU and \$10 per student to visit the Big Little Science Centre.

Bethany makes a motion to spend \$125 for Kindergarten Graduation. Kayla seconds. All in favour.

Kayla makes a motion to spend \$525 for Mrs. Vandenbrink and Ms. Pineaus year-end field trip. Seconded by Bailee. All in favour.

Bailee makes a motion to spend up to \$711.20 for agendas, paid out of gaming. Teresa seconds. All in favour.

Old Business

- A. Fundraising update:
 - a. Mothers Day Valley Graze: we have 68 cards sold plus 8 more on paper. Bethany and Kayla to come help organize gift cards.
 - b. Fathers Day: Check with Dana about doing beef jerky fundraiser.
- B. Sensory Pathway: no update at the moment
- C. Volleyball nets: Centrals net will come to Bench.
- D. White Hatter: Link went out, haven't heard any feedback.

New Business

- A. Grade 7 Grad hoodies/shirts?
 - a. PAC voted against paying for Grad shirts as a lot is already done for the Grad class.
- B. Bathroom passes for portables.
 - a. The door near the portables is now locked during the day with the acceptance of the lunch hour. Each portable has a fob that students can use to enter the school for the bathroom etc. Only one fob per portable as limiting the amount of students entering the school at the same time is ideal to avoid bathroom meet ups/vandalism etc.
- C. Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day
 - a. Will do something for Staff Appreciation Day at end of year: Valley Graze charcuterie, drinks, treats. 'Build Your Own Sandwich Box' ?
 - b. 3 teachers to be recognized this year. Mrs. V (Retiring), Mr. Denton and Vicki for everything they do for the school.
 - c. Get cards for PAC to sign and \$40 Empty Keg gift cards per teacher. Bethany to grab cards and Bailee to grab gift cards.

Bailee makes a motion to spend \$200 for staff appreciation and \$150 for the 3 teachers appreciation gifts. Bethany seconds. All in favour.

DPAC

- A. All 3 resolutions were passed.

Trustee Report – attached in email

- A. New Group 764 international network that targets/grooms teenagers and children online.
- B. First reading of budget by-law will be presented May 13th Open Board Meeting. Second and third readings will take place June 10th Open Board Meeting.
- C. Board Chair appointed Chanel Robertson as DPAC Rep. on Strategic Plan Working Group.
- D. Superintendent has completed most of teaching reassignments as result of declining enrollment. Meeting Thursday with presidents of teachers .
- E. DPAC was successful in having all 3 resolutions adopted by BCCPAC AGM.
- F. Five joint days are being planned to bring together Collettsville and Central students.
- G. Continuing to spend additional money on aging infrastructure.
- H. Next board meeting May 13th in Princeton at 6pm.

Principals Report: - attached in email

- A. Guitars are in and being used in class.
- B. Rugby tournament is on the 7th. Had a great season, thank you to Mr. Puterbough and Mr. Cleaveley for coaching.
- C. Traditional Games at Merritt Central for grade 6 students.
- D. Grade 4-7's went to Nicola Canford to see Jason Simon Speak.
- E. Michael Bortolotto presented to students re: inclusion.

- F. Grade 7 Graduation event to be held on June 22nd at NVIT. There will be a desert bar, decorations, slideshow and certificates.
- G. After School program here until May 15h. Activities include: Tae Kwon Do, dance, gym games and arts/crafts.
- H. Upcoming events:
- Rugby Tournament May 7th.
 - Grade 5's to NVIT May 14th.
 - Bench Track Meet May 22nd.
 - District Track Meet June 4th.
 - Speedway field trip for most classes June 5th (awaiting confirmation)
 - Grade 7's Eagle Bay June 10-12
 - Bike Rodeo June 18th.
 - Grade 7 Grad June 22nd.
 - Primary Fun Day June 23
 - Rotary Park Day - tbd

Next Meeting: June 2, 2026 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm