

Merritt Bench Elementary PAC
October 7, 2025
Meeting held at Bench Elementary Library & via Teams

Present:

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

Meeting called to order: 6:34pm

Approval of minutes

A. Motion to approve the amended minutes for September 16, 2025 made by Bethany. Seconded by Amy.

Treasurers Report - attached in email

Checking

Opening balance:	\$10,014.30
Expenses (babysitting):	\$20.00
Bank Balance:	\$ 9994.30

Gaming

Opening Balance:	\$ 554.74
Ending balance:	\$ 554.74

- Stephanie and Bailee follow up re: Gaming grant approval
- Usually pay for agendas out of Gaming - ask Vicki if she's received bill yet

Kayla motions to accept the Treasurers Report. Bailee seconds it.

Old Business

A. Parent Engagement Night Review

- Lower numbers than previous years. Staggered starts.
- Kids loved the water bottles. Gave a few to staff, will save the rest for another PAC event (district track?)

B. Guitars

- Bailee reached out to legion, will be discussed in their meeting this month.
- 25 guitars requested - 3/4 size (\$160 each), full size (\$170 each), cases (\$56 each), stands (\$90 each).
- Gordon has another option for guitars at half cost \$80 per guitar, \$12 per case. Glenda to look at this option and see if quality is okay.
- Neufeld fundraiser goes towards guitars this year.
- Ask Glenda to come to next meeting? Review plans for storage, amount needed etc. Then make decision and purchase for next meeting.

C. Fundraising

- Christmas Cards: Teachers wanted to go ahead. Dana and Amy to work together to get fundraiser going. Amy will put together an order form for classes and will print cards on her printer. Dec 19th last day before Christmas break so needs to be done before then.
- Christmas Craft Fair idea: Kids to make stuff to sell, kids can purchase as gifts for parents for Christmas.

New Business

A. Update signing authority

- Not hearing back from RBC so Bethany will drop in, in person to get appointment
- Owe Sue \$20 for babysitting last month

B. Student feedback for PAC projects

- Krispie Kreme fundraiser request
 - Bethany will GLADLY drive down to p/u but will require bigger vehicle
 - Can sell for \$20 each, have to commit to sell 100 boxes
 - Funds could go towards new volleyball poles/net?
- Multiple requests for new volleyball net
 - needs new posts and net - get quote
- Hockey goalie equipment
- Soccer/ball requests
- Zipline, big swing, hopscotch
- Books: Dogman, Catwad, chapter books, picture books
 - Host a vote for kids at Scholastic book fair re: which books they'd like library to bring in & PAC could purchase
 - Buy/Donate good condition books for library
- Bring back Gr. 7 band
- Bigger, better gym
- Portable suggestions: bathroom, largest class gets big portable
- Bathroom suggestions: pad machine needs to be stocked (Ms. Bennie has already been working on this), better toilet paper
- Requests for more garbage cans (Ms. Bennie already working on this as well), maybe add a recycling bin outside?
- More activities: dance, speech, singing etc.
- More centers equipment for primary grades
- Fieldtrip suggestions: Swimming, trampoline park, Harrison hot springs
- Freezies every day
- Be kind no bullying :)

C. PAC Correspondence with parents

- Send PAC Agenda to all parents to keep them informed and possibly get more PAC involvement
- Possibly send out minutes as well or point formed notes on some of the topics
- Vicki would be able to send out blind cc so email addresses aren't shared
- Could set up a PAC email address if anyone is interested in maintaining it
- Meeting on October 15th for new school website page
- PAC could open up its own FB page if anyone is interested in running/maintaining it but not sure if there is enough to post to require own page. Can just continue to use the Bench page.
- Once new Bench website is launched, can post on Bench FB page each month that a link for the PAC minutes were posted to the website

D. Teacher funding requests

- Mr. Schmidt would like a water cooler in portable so kids don't need to come into school all the time. He will supply own bottles. Ms Bennie will ask the District Health and Safety committee
- Sandra Kane, Brad Denton, and Shelley Jones asking for \$300 for each class for art supplies, STEM supplies and new centres.

Bethany motions to approve \$900 (\$300 for each class Ms. Kane, Mr. Denton, Ms. Jones) for new art, STEM and centres supplies. Kayla seconds.

E. DPAC Report

- Number of meetings reduced from 7 to 4.
- Removed a clause in error re: being unbiased race, religion, gender, politics. Concern that it implies bias is acceptable.
- Proposal for PAC reps to submit written updates to be included with meeting.
- DPAC received funds for gaming

Trustee Report - attached email

- Changes to act to allow more childcare services within schools. Act didn't allow for summer, breaks etc and had to end by 3pm. This will be opened up.
- Indigenous inclusive education reports to be sent tomorrow. Selection of learning resources.
- Administrative procedures on administration of medication and anaphylaxis risks and responsibilities.
- Positive audit for y/e
- Enrolment numbers still being calculated. Down about 45 kids in bricks and mortar.
- Contract for SCIDES only been extended for 1 year, rather than the expected 3-5.
- Donated Bears jerseys to Guatemala years ago, they're still using to this day.
- Gordon going down end of month for graduation of students been helping since kindergarten.

Principals Report: - attached in email

- A. Student leadership starting up, kindness recognition activities going on
- B. Water damage to portable on wall, had to move some classes around. Mr. Schmidt is in Mrs. Shackelleys portable, Mrs. Shackelley is in Welcome room (off gym). Repair estimation anywhere from 2-3 weeks to 3 months.
- C. Fire department presentation this week.
- D. K/1, 1/2, 2/3 classes are doing pumpkin patch at central park on 30th.

Next Meeting: November 4, 2025 at 6:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm