

WATSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PAC MINUTES
OCTOBER 21ST, 2025 @ 7:00PM
LOCATION: WATSON ELEMENTARY LIBRARY

In Attendance:

Council: Kelsey Ohs (Chair), Kele Nash (Co-Chair), Justin Nearing (Treasurer), Geri Marshall (Secretary)

Administration: Jackie Berkes (Watson Elementary Principal), Lisa Fugger (Vice Principal)

Attendees: Mimi Nearing, Kat Neal, Karla Deschenes, Wylie Deschenes, Jaime Vieira, Meghan Kerr

I. Welcome / Call to Order

Kelsey O. called to order the regular meeting of the Watson Elementary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at 7:00pm on October 21st, 2025.

II. Introductions

Kelsey O. conducted introductions with all persons present.

III. Adoption of Agenda

Kelsey O. introduced the agenda for the October Watson PAC Meeting. Copies were available on site for viewing and were posted online prior to the meeting.

The motion to accept the agenda was CARRIED.

The agenda was approved.

IV. Approval of September General Meeting Minutes

Kelsey O. asked for a motion to accept the September General PAC Meeting Minutes. Copies of the meeting minutes were available online for viewing prior to the meeting.

The motion to accept the minutes was CARRIED.

The minutes were approved.

V. Reports

a) Guest Student: Wylie

Special guest (student Wylie Deschenes) was at the meeting to present the PAC with a cash donation for ongoing playground improvements. Wylie had spent many hours in the summer

collecting and organizing cans to obtain the donation. The PAC expressed their appreciation for her time and efforts which will help advance the substantial playground project.

b) Chair

Kelsey advised that Watson does not have a DPAC (District PAC) representative assigned to the role. The DPAC representative would be a volunteer that would attend district meetings and carry a vote for Watson Elementary. Though this role is helpful to have filled, it is not detrimental to the operation of the PAC if it remains vacant as information from the DPAC can still be filtered to the school.

Fundraising efforts for Term 1 are well in progress, with the Coupon Book fundraising closing recently with a profit of \$952.52. Next week the Neufelds' Fundraiser will open for orders (flyers pending), and a Purdy's fundraiser will be held in November.

c) Co-Chair / Hot Lunch

Kele advised that the year's first Hot Lunch was a great hit and was well coordinated thanks to 7+ volunteers who showed up to make it happen.

An ongoing option to donate to the Hot Lunch program via the Munch-a-Lunch online sign-up has resulted in a donation amount of ~\$560. The donations have already resulted in the PAC being able to purchase an extra 30 lunches for students who otherwise may not have had access to the hot lunch program. Remaining donations will continue to pay for further hot lunches for students in the coming months.

d) Treasurer

Very little movement was recorded for September. There were incoming funds recorded for the Coupon Books and interest made on the playground account.

Kelsey suggested that the PAC look into having the playground account funds invested into a GIC as opposed to the approximately \$25,000 sitting in an account not making returns.

A motion was presented to have the PAC investigate moving the funds.
The motion passed as all were in favor.

Watson PAC Revenue & Expense				
September 2025				
Account Overview				
Account	Beginning of Period	End of Period	Variance	
General Account	22,806.18	22,836.18	\$	30.00
Playground Account	25,006.12	25,015.20	\$	9.08
Gaming Account	9,062.20	9,062.20	\$	-
Account Total	\$ 56,874.50	\$ 56,913.58	\$	39.08

e) Grade 5 Fundraising

Jamie V advised that Friday freezie sales for the year have already collected \$930.80. This is a great start to the Grade 5 fundraising initiatives, and the funds will be used to place a deposit for camp. The Grade 5's are working to support the Halloween Dance and are creating decorations for the event. The next potential fundraiser for the Grade 5's will be Smencil sales and any internal recycling programs they can brainstorm.

VI. Old Business

a) Meet the Teacher Night

PAC was present with a table outdoors and walked through the school to give out information and ballots for 3 prize draws. This garnered a lot of attention, and many volunteers were solicited on site. PAC enjoyed meeting with new and existing families and were able to field some questions as well.

b) New Families Tea

Approximately 12 families attended the tea hosted by the PAC and school principal, Jackie Berkes. Families were able to ask many logistical questions and get a feel for school culture.

c) Orange Shirt Day: Bannock

The PAC and volunteers cooked bannock for the entire school on this day. 8 people were needed, and funds from the treat day budget were used to purchase extra skillet, which helped with the flow. Thanks to our volunteers, as it is very meaningful to have parents help with this

event.

d) Appreciation Acknowledgments

The PAC conducted 2 appreciation events. On Custodial Appreciation Day, the PAC was able to give gift cards and chocolate bars to our amazing custodians. On World Teacher Day, the PAC facilitated providing snacks, coffee, bakery items and fruit in the teachers' lounge.

VII. New Business

a) Remembrance Day

Attendee, Karla Deschenes, noted that current Remembrance Day assemblies at Watson do not appear to include any Elder community military members and suggested that in subsequent years, the school could reach out to have honourable Veterans attend and partake in the ceremonies. Jackie B took note and will pass the suggestion on to the event organizers.

b) School Zone Safety

The PAC noted that they had received some comments and correspondence regarding vehicles speeding in the school zone (specifically at school drop-off and pickup). The PAC had been discussing solutions around preventing speeding at the school and on Watson Road specifically.

It was suggested that more visual indicators of children being present could be collaborated on (i.e., student-led art installations / signage) between Administration and students to encourage drivers to notice their location and slow down.

Jackie B did note that the community Speed Watch members did attend the zone recently and noted that Watson is very lucky to have 2 crossing guards supported via the school board, which do make a difference.

It was also noted that some tree trimming needs to take place to prevent any visual obstructions of drivers with regard to the crossing guards, speed zone signs and flashing indicators for the walkway. Jackie B will be monitoring the situation.

VIII. Volunteer Opportunities

a) Hot Lunch – apply for opportunities through Munch-a-Lunch

- b) Halloween Dance – PAC has gathered a few volunteers, but more are needed for setup
- c) Ongoing Fundraisers – Purdy's will be next
- d) Holiday Hampers – Volunteers are needed in December to shop for and pack hampers
- e) Ongoing Photocopying – Next opportunity will be distributing the Neufelds Flyer

IX. Principal's Report

- a) **Thank you to the PAC and Volunteers** - from the Administration for the appreciation events and for making Bannock. Having the parents make Bannock was very meaningful. The New Families Tea was also a successful event.
- b) **Celebrating Differences is the October Theme** – an assembly occurred and staff are working with ways to incorporate this theme into each day.
- c) **Staffing** – Ms Leaman was on maternity leave and will be returning in December – she will be working part time and will be progressing to a job share. The school is also working on hiring for 3 EA positions.
- d) **Emergency Procedures** – The operation of conducting emergency procedures is underway. The school has conducted a fire drill, a bus drill, an earthquake drill and have a lockdown drill occurring Oct 21st (Cst Kershaw onsite). It was noticed that during the last lock down, parents were calling the school office asking for the details. It was noted that more communication to prepare parents for what a lockdown entails may be needed.
- e) **Parent / Teacher Open House** – Parents / families will be invited to walk through the school and visit various classrooms and meet teachers on Oct 22nd.
- f) **Early dismissal** - Oct 23rd
- g) **Pro D Day** – Oct 24th
- h) **Halloween Costumes** – Students may wear appropriate Halloween costumes on Oct 31st

i) Assessment Day – Teachers will be preparing their learning updates on Nov 3rd

j) Remembrance Day Assembly – Families welcome to come on Nov 7th (seating limited)

k) Wildcat Friday – A fun cross-grade event (previously Wildcat Wednesday) taking place on Nov 7th. Staff determined that it would be better suited to the last hour of a Friday.

l) Pro D Day – Nov 10th

m) Remembrance Day – Nov 11th

n) Photo Retakes - Nov 12th

o) Book Fair – Volunteers will be needed for this event Nov 17-21

X. Open Discussion / Questions

a) Christmas Concert

A concern was fielded about there being enough capacity for parents / families to attend the Christmas concert(s) as in previous years it was difficult to find a place in the packed gymnasium space.

PAC and school staff (especially our music teacher) have been working on creative solutions since the beginning of the year and will be focused on making the Christmas concert(s) logistics successful for all after the Remembrance Day period. More to come on this at future meetings.

XI. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Watson PAC will be on Tuesday, November 25th at 7pm in the school library.

XII. Adjournment

Kelsey O. adjourned the meeting at 8:05pm.

Minutes submitted by G. Marshall.

Together We Grow

Watson Elementary School 2025 – 2026

Every staff and student brings unique strengths, perspectives,
and experiences that make our school community stronger.
When we embrace our differences and support one another, we all flourish!

- September** **Welcome & Belonging:** Create school & classroom communities where everyone feels at home
- October** **Celebrating Differences:** Explore how each of us are unique individuals
- November** **Gratitude & Appreciation:** Recognize what each person contributes to our community
- December** **Acts of Kindness:** Small gestures make a big difference in others' lives
- January** **New Beginnings:** Set inclusive goals and support each other's resolutions
- February** **Friendship & Connection:** Build bridges across differences and strengthen relationships
- March** **Overcoming Challenges:** Support others through difficulties and celebrate perseverance
- April** **Environmental Care:** Work together to care for ourselves, others, and our place
- May** **Leadership & Voice:** Encourage others to share their ideas and take initiative
- June** **Reflection & Growth:** Celebrate how we've grown together throughout the year

