

Collettsville PAC AGM Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2025
Collettsville School Library Meeting Location at 6:30pm

Attendees:

Heather Yastremsky
Brittney Parks
Angela Russell
Brandon Sambrook
Sara Desrosiers
Chelsea Werrun
Blake Chursinoff
Andrew & Richelle
Marius & Madison Auer
Sarah Sandusky
Tina Etchart
Lena Coutu
Ariel Corkum
Brandon Sambrook, Principal
Gordon Swan, SD 58 Board Chair
Courtney Lawrance, SD 58 Superintendent

1) Call to Order

2) Approval of the minutes from May 15th, 2025 - minutes approved

3) New Business

a) Election of Officers

- Chair - Heather Yastremsky
- Vice Chair - Blake Chursinoff
- Secretary - Brittney Parks
- Treasurer - Angela Russell
- FAC – Sarah Desrosiers
- DPAC – Chelsea Werrun

b) 2024 - 2025 School Year Recap

Last years PAC purchases/ activities included:

- Gaga Ball Pit - was a major purchase. There were some delays due to location and irrigation.
- A few hundred dollars was donated to Merritt Literacy.
- Grade 7 hoodies
- Garden equipment
- Grade 7 celebration lunch

- Ran 2x movie nights
- Literacy Engagement Evening
- Gift Giving Extravaganza - donated to the Food Bank

c) Year in Planning for PAC

- The PAC is trying to focus on local organizations for fundraising.
- Will need to spend the remaining gaming grant money in the near future - possibly contribute to busing for field trips?
- Will put a call out to parents to participate in fundraising

4. Old Business

- a) Parent Engagement Event (BBQ) – DPAC provided funds for this. It was well attended.
- b) District Closure Meeting – discussion as follows:

Gordon Swan, SD 58 Board Chair shared:

- The school board needed to name a school for consideration. It was originally Central, then CVE was added.
- Meetings will be held to include Rightsholders.
- Indigenous Bands can choose what their catchment school is.
- CVE is at 60% capacity.
- There is now one transfer bus at Central Elementary to CVE for out of town student use only. Students within city limits have been told they are not eligible for busing to CVE.
- Walk limits will be reviewed at the end of the year – May/ June.
- Some school districts have changed to a registration fee for busing.

Parent question: “Why was Collettsville added?”

Gordon Swan responded that:

- Parents asked if it could be a dual track – possibly in a different location.
- School closure would result in \$250,000 in savings from Principal and Secretary positions.
- If a Dual Track were to be done, it could be moved to another school.
- They are meeting with the City on November 4. The Mayor initially stated that he anticipates 150 new students to Merritt, but this number has changed to 100.
- They are getting dates for the consultation process in October. The process will last until spring.
- The possible outcomes of the consultation could include: status quo OR closing a school OR putting school closure on hold until population grows. There is a cost associated with each.

Courtney Lawrance, SD 58 Superintendent, shared that:

- Closing a school would require redoing all catchments.

- There are more students graduating than entering school.
- Rightsholders choose their catchment school before the beginning of the year – right now it is Central Elementary.

Parent question: “Has cost recovery been looked at for busing?”

Gordon Swan responded that:

- They will inquire what the Kelowna School District did around reimbursement for busing costs.
- Busing in SD 58 costs close to \$19.00 per student, per day.

Parent question: “Has any thought been given to having an Indigenous emergent program as part of CVE?”

Courtney Lawrance responded that:

- There aren’t enough Indigenous Language Teachers – not enough staffing.

Parent question: “Where can parents find information on the consultation?”

Gordon Swan responded that:

- The information would be shared on the SD website and will be given to the schools. The schools can then share this with parents.

5. Reports

a) Trustee

- o Gordon Swan shared that mandatory literacy assessments will be occurring, working with UBC on this.

b) Financial

- o \$9380.37 in the account/ \$13,404.94 in the gaming account (still need to subtract Gaga Pit costs from this)
- o \$300 was donated to Merritt Literacy last year and the same this year in September

c) Principal

- o Parents can join the school Facebook group for updates
- o They have 3 new EAs at the school
- o The Terry Fox Run went well
- o June 10 – 12, Eagle Bay Trip – this is funded through the pizza fundraiser
- o Dec 11 – Winter Concert

d) Tina Etchart gave an update on the DPAC:

- o They provide funding for parent engagement
- o They have a \$2500 gaming grant – can only be spent on parent resources

- They are looking at doing more advocacy through the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils, i.e. re-establishing connections, advocacy through the province.
- All parents are welcome to join the DPAC.

6. Next Meeting (s)

- Next meeting scheduled for October 9, 2025, at 6:30pm at Collettsville Elementary School Library.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.