

GEC PAC Meeting

Wednesday October 7th, 2026

@ 6:30 pm in the GEC Learning Commons



In Attendance:

Nichola Vermiere (Co-Chair, PAC)
Alison Pienaar (Co-Chair, PAC)
Jill Fujibayashi (Vice Chair, PAC)
Russel Snow (Hot Lunch Coordinator, PAC)
Kim Holtby (Treasurer, PAC)
Lindsey Volker (Secretary, PAC)
Kate Saunders (Member at Large, PAC)
Natalie Davies (Member at Large, PAC)
Nicole Strahl
Meg Rosen
Karla Kerr
Megan Cole
Christine Hulme (Principal, GEC)

Meeting call to order - 6:33pm

Land acknowledgement – Christine Hulme, Principal

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was distributed in the e-bulletin on October 1st. Move to approve. It stands approved as distributed.

Chair Report - Nichola Vermiere

Hello! This is our first PAC meeting of the year. Thanks for being here. For anyone new to Gleneagles I am the PAC Chair. This is my 4th year on the PAC and second year as chair. And this year I have a Co-Chair, Alison Pienaar, who I am very thankful for.

For those of you that are new to the school, the purpose of the PAC is to support, encourage and improve the quality of education and the wellbeing of the Gleneagles Ch'axay School students. We work together to:

- Advise the Principal and staff on parents' views or matters relating to School programs, policies, plans and activities;
- Communicate with parents and promote cooperation and support with the School in providing the best education for our children;
- Assist parents in gaining access to resources in the educational system;
- Organize, in conjunction with the Principal, volunteer PAC activities and events which support the School; and
- Contribute to the effectiveness of the School by promoting the involvement of parents and other community members. Parents interested in finding out more about the PAC or in volunteering are asked to contact any member of PAC Executive (gecpacchair@gmail.com); Jill Fujibayashi is the contact for Class Parents, and if you haven't already, please join our GEC PAC WhatsApp Group. This is a one-way thread, where we post reminders about special events, theme days, early dismissals, etc. If interested, please email gecpacchair@gmail.com with your name, child's name and phone number; a link will be emailed back to you to sign up.

Review of September 2026 events:

- **Welcome Back Parent Coffee:** Welcomed new and returning parents on the first day of school.
- **Welcome Back Open House BBQ:** Held September 23 before classroom visits, with parent volunteers supporting food preparation, setup and cleanup.
- **World Teachers' Day:** Recognized October 5 with coffee and baked goods provided to teaching and administrative staff.

Upcoming Student Activities and Fundraisers

- **Early Dismissal Movie Afternoons:** Scheduled for October 14–15 in the school gym from 12:30–2:35 PM. *Hoppers* will be shown Wednesday and *The Super Mario Galaxy Movie* Thursday. Registration is \$25 per student through MunchaLunch, including a light snack, with approximately 50 spots per screening. Students attending must bring a packed lunch; no hot lunch will be available. Lions Bay families must arrange private transportation home, as the bus will not run at regular dismissal time. Five parent volunteers are needed each afternoon, alongside Grade 7 leadership students and EAs.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** Scheduled for November 16–20 in the school library/multipurpose space.
- **Canadian Red Cross Safety Courses:** Tentatively planned for the November Pro-D day, offering Stay Safe (ages 9+) and Babysitting (ages 11+). Three to

four parent volunteers are needed for student check-in, supervision and pickup.

Class Parents and Volunteer Coordination

- **Class Parent status:**
 - Every classroom division across the school now has a confirmed Class Parent volunteer.
- **Core responsibilities of Class Parents:**
 - Serve as direct two-way liaisons between classroom teachers and parent cohorts.
 - Relay targeted grade-level PAC announcements, volunteer calls, and

Div	Grade(s)	Teacher	Parent	Parent email
1	6/7	Shawna Staples	Elsbeth Halverson	Elsbeth.halverson@gmail.com
2	6/7	Alysha Phillip, Laura Odegard	Brittany Curby	brittany_m50@hotmail.com
3	6/7	Lauren Bernie	Danielle Lavallee	Dmlavallee@gmail.com
4	4/5	Hilary Sawyer, Suzanne Goeson	Joanne Schalke	joanne.schalke@gmail.com
5	4/5	Catherine Maledy	Roz Dickett	Rozdickett@gmail.com
6	3/4	Vanessa Zandvliet	Emily Sandhack	Emilysandhack@gmail.com
7	2/3	Lisa Harquail	Aimee Fildes	Aimeefildes@gmail.com
8	1/2	Meaghan Robertson	Amanda Clark	amandaleeclark82@gmail.com
9	K/1	Bea Sedwick	Leslie McGuire	Leslie@lesliemcguire.ca
10	K	Sophie Carter	Christine Thornton	christinegthornton@gmail.com

school reminders.

- Organize teacher appreciation class gifts for December holidays and the end of the school year.

DPAC and District Leadership Meeting Report

- **DPAC Traffic & Safety Meeting:** Danielle Mah attended as the Lions Bay DPAC representative for the corridor cluster. Discussions focused on student pedestrian safety in the event of permanent standard time, which could mean students walking to school in darkness. The district is developing safety protocols.
- **District Principals & PAC Chairs Best Practices Session:** The district reviewed five key operational areas: after-school programs and facility rentals, PAC fundraising and financial records, Grade 7 graduation celebrations, cultural and multicultural events, and hot lunch administration and vendor compliance. Financial and operational transparency was emphasized, particularly when fundraising generates surplus funds beyond the original project budget. Gleneagles' current practices were confirmed to be consistent with district standards.

Treasurers Report:

As of the meeting date, the PAC holds \$103,862.92 in combined liquid assets, including:

- \$92,137.66 in the BMO Operating Account
- \$11,050.06 in the BMO Gaming Account *
- BMO Trust Account balance to be confirmed
- \$675.20 in petty cash

The operating account balance includes \$26,038 in Term 1 hot lunch receipts collected through MunchaLunch. Approximately \$20,831 is payable to food vendors, so the PAC's true available operating cash will be lower as these bills are processed.

*The annual provincial Gaming Grant provides approximately \$5,000 and must be used for eligible extracurricular student activities, such as field trips, performance residencies and extracurricular clubs. It cannot be used for curricular supplies or staff compensation. The gaming account balance is higher than usual because eligible expenses were paid from the operating/savings account without the corresponding year-end transfers. Kim Holtby will reconcile the accounts and complete the required transfer.

Recent Expenditures and Reimbursements

- \$750 released for the Principal's Discretionary Fund.
- \$4,100 distributed to teachers for classroom instructional funds.
- \$62.99 reimbursed for numeracy resources.
- Approved School Wish List items released for administrative purchase.
- Approximately \$1,200 submitted for PAC reimbursements related to the Welcome Back BBQ, Open House hospitality and World Teachers' Day refreshments.
- Spirit Wear generated a net profit of \$170.

The proposed operating budget for the 2026–2027 school year was reviewed.

- **Projected Revenue:** \$36,500 from hot lunch, provincial gaming grants, movie afternoons, and fundraising initiatives.
- **Projected Expenses:** \$56,350 to support classroom supplies, technology, guest performers, library resources, Grade 7 graduation, and staff appreciation.
- **Projected Deficit:** \$19,850.

The projected deficit is intentional, allowing the PAC to use surplus funds accumulated in previous years to support current school needs rather than maintaining large cash reserves.

An annual contribution of **\$1,000 toward Grade 7 graduation celebrations** was also confirmed.

Proposed 2025-2026 Budget

The right-hand column is the proposed budget for 2025-2026. To view the Treasurers Report and the Budget for 2026/2027 [click here](#).

Principal's Report

- **Classroom Modernization:** Mrs. Sedgwick's Kindergarten/Grade 1 classroom was updated with five collaborative round tables funded by the PAC. New PAC-funded iPads are being used for Grade 3/4 research and digital media projects.
- **Cross Country:** Strong participation across all grades, including 12 Grade 7 athletes. Five volunteer teacher coaches received \$10 Starbucks gift cards from the Principal's Discretionary Fund.
- **Terry Fox Run:** Raised approximately \$450 for the Terry Fox Foundation.
- **Orange Shirt Day:** Students explored Indigenous children's literature and created artistic feather displays connected to classroom learning.
- **POWER Values:** Students demonstrating the school's core values are recognized with weekly Friday ribbons and prize draws.
- **Volleyball:** The inter-school season has begun.
- **Dance in Residence:** A PAC-funded artist will teach dance routines to all divisions. The program alternates biennially with tennis or badminton.
- **Remembrance Day Assembly:** Scheduled for November 10. Lions Bay Elementary students will travel to Gleneagles to support continuity ahead of their Grade 4 transition.
- **VSO Field Trip:** On November 19, students in Grades 1–3 will attend a Vancouver Symphony Orchestra performance alongside Lions Bay students in Grades 2–3.
- **ELL Welcome Tea:** New English Language Learner specialist Ms. Gosin hosted a welcome tea for multilingual families.

District and Community Updates

- **Traffic Safety:** School administration is arranging a meeting with West Vancouver municipal traffic engineers to discuss permanent speed humps on Keith Road, updated school-zone speed signage on Marine Drive, and vehicle access to the unpaved parking lot beneath the overpass.
- **Feeding Futures:** The provincial program supports student food security through daily fruit and granola bars available in the office, subsidized hot lunches arranged confidentially through MunchaLunch, and grocery gift cards for families. Families can contact the principal or email FeedingFutures@wvschools.ca for confidential support.

- **Cultural Diversity:** The school is exploring opportunities to recognize more cultural traditions, including Diwali, in addition to existing celebrations such as Lunar New Year and Nowruz, based on parent interest.

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL)

The school is beginning a new three-year learning improvement cycle. The previous cycle focused on written literacy, including the quality and structure of student communication. Teachers will be surveyed and parents will receive questionnaires to help identify the next focus area, such as numeracy, writing development or critical inquiry and design thinking. The goal is to establish a measurable school-wide target by January.

Hot Lunch Update

The hot lunch program is off to a great start, offering students a variety of options while giving families a break from packing lunches and raising funds for the school.

There have been some positive changes this year, including the transition from Sushi Katsu to Aburi Market. The new vendor has been delivering promptly and submitting invoices on time, helping the program run more smoothly.

To date, 305 orders have been placed, generating \$31,105 in gross sales. Term 1 sales are tracking approximately \$7,500 ahead of last year.

A few reminders:

- Hot lunch will not be available on October 14 and 15 due to early dismissal.
- Families are reminded to pack utensils with their children's lunches.
- Repeating-menu ordering is expected to return for Term 2.

Thank you to all the families who have placed orders, our vendors, MunchaLunch, and school staff for their support in making the program a success.

New Business/Open Discussion

Fundraising Events

Trivia Night

- Last year's Trivia Night at Gleneagles Golf Course raised approximately \$7,500–\$8,000 through ticket sales and a large silent auction component.
- This year's event is being planned for late February to allow more time for preparation.

- A planning committee has been formed, including Russell Snow (Quiz Master), Tracy Hayes, Lindsey Volker, Natalie Davis, and Kate Saunders. We will be recruiting more parent volunteers to assist with this specific event.
- Russell will check the school district calendar and confirm venue availability.

School Gardening Committee

- Jenny Clark has prepared a handover document outlining the maintenance of the school garden beds, including weeding, repairs, planting, and harvesting with students.
- The goal is to form a five-person parent committee to share responsibilities.
- A call for volunteers will be shared through the school E-Bulletin and Class Parent WhatsApp groups.

Grade 7 Graduation

- A graduation committee has been formed with approximately 8–10 parent volunteers, including Meg Rosen.
- The committee will work with the principal to plan celebrations in accordance with district guidelines and coordinate the \$1,000 PAC contribution.

Staff Appreciation Lunches

- Three staff lunches are planned for December 1, March 2, and June 1.
- To simplify planning and reduce volunteer fatigue, families will be invited to contribute a suggested \$20 donation through MunchaLunch to help cover catering costs.
- Setup, food pickup, and cleanup will rotate between groups of class divisions for each lunch.
- Natalie Davies will coordinate the lunches and organize volunteers through Class Parents.

Traffic Safety and Parking

- Concerns were raised about congestion on Keith Road, unsafe U-turns, improper parking, and pedestrian safety during drop-off and pickup.
- Proposed solutions include:
 - Reserving the lower loop for Kindergarten to Grade 3 families during peak drop-off and pickup times.
 - Encouraging Grades 4–7 families to use the upper drop area or arrange pickup a few minutes after dismissal.
 - Encouraging families to park at Gleneagles Community Centre and walk to school.
- School administration will request occasional WVPD traffic patrols during busy morning periods.

- Kim Holtby and Ally Pinar will look into a \$300 municipal traffic safety grant to help purchase signage and traffic cones.

Next meeting: General PAC Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 18, to be conducted virtually via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned 7:54pm