Jamieson PAC General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

In Attendance

Jamieson Staff: Cathy Thomas, Davita Marsden

PAC: Justin Leung, Stephen Au, Grace Hoffert, Maureen Yu, Andrew Kwan, Cindy Fan, Jabin Kim-Cheung, Michelle Leung, Jonathan Au, Tim Matindas, Jude Zhu, Tamara Singer, Regine Zhang, Wendy Man, Katie Ji, Maggie Lam, Tanya Fung, Marie Li, Shirley Leung, Tasnim Vohra

Roberta Brandi, Alice Chao, H.Y Ho, Andrew Lau, Christina Lau, Roanna Leung, Sepideh Lorianfard, Caitlin Ma, Fabiola Moraga, Sean Pan, Dorothy Wong, Peilin Yu, Ivy Yip, Alice Chao, Melinda, Shirley

Call to Order

Justin Leung called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Agenda

Stephen Au moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Tim Matindas. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes (April 15th, 2026)

Jude Zhu motions to approve previous minutes, seconded by Wendy Man, motion carried.

Chair Report: Justin Leung

- **First-day coffee:** Successful, and more coffee will be brought next year. Other schools also ask for coffee donations, so the request needs to go in two months in advance.
- **Meet the Teacher:** An ice cream truck was on site. Talks have started with vendors for future Meet the Teacher events.
- **Pumpkins, Oct 28:** A pumpkin activity is planned for K–3. Bringing the pumpkins to the school instead of paying for a pumpkin patch trip keeps costs lower and lets more kids take part.
- **Carnival and Talent Show:** Carnival planning has already started. There are currently no plans for a Talent Show this year. Parents interested in leading it or another event are encouraged to contact PAC.
- Overall, a great start to the school year.

- **Welcome to new parents:**
  - The PAC advocates for students on difficult topics and concerns, such as how budget cuts affect students. It is a place for those conversations, not just fundraising.
  - Fundraising is still essential, especially with budget cuts. VSB funds come with strict rules on where they can be spent (for example, only at Grand & Toy at high prices), while PAC funds give teachers more options and flexibility.
  - Thanks to all parents who support the PAC and attended the meeting.

Principal's Report: Cathy Thomas

- Thanked parents for an active, committed community.
- **Enrolment:** 512 students in 21 divisions. Waitlists in all grades except K and Grade 3. Catchment students only. 25 new students plus Kindergarten, with families still registering and being placed at nearby schools.
- **Staffing:** District cuts mean almost 1 day less library time, almost 3 days less resource time, one teacher surplus and one fewer SSA. Mr. Colpitts now teaches Grade 5 two days a week and music three days a week. Strings continue, but there will be fewer performances.
- **Literacy screening:** Ministry screening for all K–3 students starts next week. Questions go to the class teacher or can be raised at conferences.
- **Screen time:** Devices in class are for learning only, not free time. Staff are seeing tiredness from late-night use, social media bullying and inappropriate content. Parents are asked to check which sites their children visit and how much time they spend online.
- **Payment fees:** Online payments now add 4% + $0.10 per payment, which were previously included in prices. The hardship policy still applies; families should contact the teacher, counsellor or principal.
- **Cross country:** Starting for Grades 3–7 to build endurance and sportsmanship. It is run with the help of parent volunteers and teachers, and Cathy and Davita will also take part.
- **Upcoming:**
  - Orange Shirt Day assembly: Monday, September 28
  - Photo Day: Monday, October 5
  - Terry Fox Run: Friday, October 16
  - Parent-teacher conferences: October 21–22
- **FSA:** Grade 4 and 7 students will write the Foundation Skills Assessment. Jamieson's literacy and numeracy results are above the VSB average for public elementary schools, which reflects the quality of teaching.

Treasurer Report: Stephen Au

- **2025–26 year-end (Sept 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026):** Surplus of about $5,000.
  - **Revenue:** Hot lunch and the carnival were the biggest sources. Last-minute fundraising, including the Labubu raffle, helped, and revenue beat the estimate by 15%.
  - **Expenses:** Spending was higher than planned because more of the teacher wishlist was fulfilled, including robotics kits that are now in regular use.
  - The year ended with about $40,000 in cash.

    - **Gaming account:** The full $10,000 was spent on pickleball, the carnival and membership fees.
- **2026–27 budget:**
    - Hot lunch costs have gone up because White Spot gift certificates are no longer available.
    - Teacher wishlist items will need to come from cash on hand.
    - About $10,000 is expected from the BC Gaming grant. Only the carnival is tied to it so far, so more could go to sporting events. The grant can pay for the carnival games, while money raised at the carnival is kept separate, since the grant can only be used for things that do not raise money.
    - The PAC still holds a $25,000 GIC at Vancity.

New Business

- **Fundraising:** Additional fundraising, such as bubble tea sales, may be needed. Parents are welcome to lead fundraisers. They should be agreed on together so events don't compete, especially in the same month.
- **Apple fundraiser:** Ongoing. Orders must be picked up on the delivery day, October 27, because apples can't be kept at the school.
- **Carnival:** Wednesday, May 12.
- **Movie nights:** Not planned this year. The PAC doesn't currently have a licence, and last year's event wasn't a great success.
- **Staff appreciation:**
    - The PAC executive usually plans a breakfast, brunch or coffee, or a catered lunch picked up from a restaurant and set up buffet-style in a decorated library.
    - December: Wednesday, December 16.
    - June: Tuesday, June 22 (final teacher appreciation day).
- **Grad:** Thursday, June 24.
- **Technology:** The school laptops are getting out of date, with the iPads to follow. Funds will need to be set aside for replacements, to be looked into by the next PAC meeting.
- **Local deals:** Parents who know of local deals or other fundraising ideas are asked to share them with the PAC.
- **Yearbook:** Photo submissions are needed, any help here is much appreciated.

Adjournment

Michelle Leung moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tim Matindas. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Next PAC Meeting

Next PAC Meeting – NOV 4th, JAN 20th, FEB 24th (virtual only), APR 21st, MAY 26th (AGM)