



MSS PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: January 13, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:02 PM

Attendees:

Principal: Dave Andersen

School Trustee: Gordon Swan

PAC Executive:

- Kristina Desmond (President)
- Quinn Rooke (Treasurer)
- Stephanie Johnson (Secretary)

Parents & Guests:

- Diane Walker
- Chandra Bonthoux
- Melissa Pinyon
- Jenn Denton
- Nick Swan
- Wyatt Ramsey
- Jeanette Etchart

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

2. Guest Speakers

Mr. Nick Swan, Wyatt Ramsey and Melissa Pinyon came to speak with PAC about their experience at the play “Women of the Fur Trade” for which PAC donated funds to purchase admission. The play was noted to be excellent, powerful and engaging for those who attended. The play well represented Indigenous actors which was a highlight. The group appreciates the support of PAC.

Mrs. Jenn Denton came to present a request for funds for the Flash Fiction Contest. This will be the 3rd annual contest and PAC has supported this event in the past. It is open for grades 8-12 and students will draw topics to write an essay about and have the essay judged by community judges. This year, the idea is for a live write, with a smaller essay, in order to help combat the use of AI and having to go through the process of having to ensure the validity of each essay. Year 1 of the contest had 40 participants, last year had 52 participants and the hope is the number will increase this year again.

Funds will be used for prizes and food. The group has also secured funding through SD58 and Literacy Merritt. First prize is \$150, second prize is \$50 and third prize is \$25. A lunch is provided to all participants where the winners are announced.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Stephanie Johnson and seconded by Quinn Rooke that the December 9, 2025 Meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.

Kris Desmond is still working with Dave Andersen to get the website up and running with PAC documents for easy access for parents. PAC would love to hear if there is any update with dog therapy at MSS.

4. Trustee Report: Gordon Swan

- Next Board meeting in January 14 in Princeton and as usual it will be live streamed
- In case you were not aware we did have a fire in a boy's washroom last Friday and RCMP are involved as is senior administration.
- January 6th saw the start the next round of consultations on potential school closures with a recap of what was heard and options going forward. You are welcome to attend any of the meetings. Remaining dates are:

January 19, 2026

6:00 pm

MSS/CLC/Diamond Vale/Bench & Nicola Canford

MSS Multi-Purpose Room

January 28, 2026

5:00 pm

Rocky Pines Community Centre

Lower Nicola Band, Nooaitch Band and Shackan Band

January 29, 2026

5:00 pm

Upper Nicola Band

N'kwala School Gym

Dinner at 5:00

February 2, 2026

5:00 pm

Coldwater Indian Band

Coldwater School Gym

Dinner at 5:00 pm

- Meeting at Central Jan 6th minutes are still being prepared (3 hour meeting). I would say there is still a lot of misinformation and mistrust within the community directed at the District Staff and the Board. As an example, it was disputed whether we do a head count on September 30th every year and that that headcount generates our funding. When it was established that yes, a head count does occur people then disputed whether or not we have declining enrollment in what is called K-12 standard (think bricks and mortar) schools. Also, not an understanding between the difference between capital and operating budgets. An example of this was the funds the province provided (capital \$\$) for renovations of two science classrooms at MSS and why those \$\$ were not diverted staffing (operating budget). So, the Board has to do a better job around the two budgets.
- In addition, a lot of unkind words were directed at Diamondvale and Bench school and staff. Some French Immersion parents stated they would home school if the program was moved from Collettsville. For the Board, no decision has been reached, and we are still gathering information and presenting options based on feedback from the first round of consultations, from the community, staff, students and parents District wide as whatever decision is reached will have an effect on all schools, all catchment areas into the future
- There is a consultation online form also set up <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=ViPD7In64UKNFBpzEBXe7WDRA9Tm13BJullGm4puRudUMFIBRExaTFIRQkg0S01BSzNOWkxVVUtXRy4u&route=shorturl>
- The Board will need to make a decision by March/April for two reasons. First is any decision will affect next year's school budget which needs to be presented by the May meeting and passed at the June meeting. Second, if any teacher layoffs (which would be a result of choosing to not shutter any facilities) are to occur staff need to be advised by May as per the teacher collective agreement (there are only two days in the calendar year when layoff notices can be issued under the Master Collective Agreement with the BCTF).
- Weblink for Potential School Closure Process is: [Potential School Closure Process | Nicola-Similkameen School District](#)
- Timeline of Process:
 - Data Analysis – December 2025
 - Release of Summary Reports to facilitate School Closure, Strategic Plan & Budget Secondary Consultation processes – December 2025
 - Secondary Community Consultation on all 3 Processes – January-February 2026
 - Board Decisions on School Closure and Strategic Plans Goals & Objectives – March 2026
 - BoE Decision on 26/27 Budget – April 2026
- As mentioned, the Board Meeting is January 14 in Princeton. I will post / email out District reports next week after the meeting.

- Next DPAC meeting is January 20. DPAC has also sent a letter that will be in the Board package on your behalf as a member of the DPAC expressing concerns that PACs have not been made aware of the budget consultation last year not the school closure consultations. I have a concern when the DPAC is speaking on your behalf around matters that I believe I made you aware of. I understand the DPAC president did not share the letter/email sent with MSS PAC so I wanted to confirm.
- District is continuing to provide supports to Bench and MSS Re: 2 events in December motor vehicle accident December 13 involving students @ MSS & December 16 death of Pamela Jarvis.
- Providing supports Upper Nicola - Re: Suicide incident
- School Closure at John Allison in December due to Evacuation Alert Re: Atmospheric River event.

5. Principal's Report: Dave Andersen

Winter Dance & Staff Support

MSS hosted its Winter Dance on December 11th, and it was one of the most well-attended and positive school dances we have seen in recent memory. Students were engaged, respectful, and clearly enjoyed the evening. I would also like to recognize the incredible level of staff support, well over half of our staff volunteered their time to chaperone.

Student & Staff Support Following Tragic Events

In the days leading up to winter break, MSS experienced several tragic events that impacted our school community. During times like these, we work closely with the district office and follow the Critical Incident Response Guidelines, which outline clear steps for communication, student and staff support, and access to counselling resources. Our priority during these moments is ensuring care, compassion, and appropriate supports are in place for those affected.

Provincial Assessments (Literacy 10 & 12)

This week, MSS begins the first round of Provincial Assessments for Literacy 10 and Literacy 12. We would like to extend a special thank you to Lia Larson for her organization and leadership in coordinating these assessments. Lia also offered practice sessions ahead of time for interested students, which was greatly appreciated and well received.

January 6th Evacuation

On the morning of Tuesday, January 6th, MSS was evacuated in response to a small fire in one of the boys' washrooms. Students and staff exited the building calmly and responsibly, demonstrating excellent awareness and cooperation. The fire department was dispatched; however, the fire had been extinguished prior to their arrival. Additional time was required to clear smoke from the area and complete a safety assessment before students were permitted to re-enter the building. Repairs to the affected washroom are expected to be completed this week.

Semester 1 Wrap-Up & Semester 2 Planning

As we move into the final weeks of Semester 1, there are several important dates and planning considerations for students and families. The last regular instructional day of the semester is Wednesday, January 28th. January 29th will be an "I" Day, providing students with time to complete or improve outstanding learning tasks, with attendance communicated by teachers as needed. January 30th is the semester turnaround day, and classes will not be in session. Students are also encouraged to review their Semester 2 schedules. Counsellors will be meeting with students for schedule adjustments in a grade-specific order over the next three weeks. Please note that many courses, particularly in Grades 9 and 10, are already full, and not all change requests can be accommodated.

6. Treasurer's Report: Quinn Rooke

Category	Amount
Gaming	\$5,571.14
Operating	\$515.52

Moved by Stephanie Johnson and seconded by Diane Walker to accept the treasurer's report

Stephanie Johnson is to be reimbursed for the \$100 annual membership fee for BCCPAC (membership expense approved in previous motion).

Moved by Kris Desmond and seconded by Stephanie Johnson to approve \$900 for the Flash Fiction Contest.

Dave Andersen brought forward a request from the SD58 Rocks Program which is a program that gives kids a chance to operate heavy equipment to promote trades. The program is open to 10-12 students in grades 11 & 12. They receive training and practice on the machines. The request is for \$500 to purchase 1 of 2 meals for the students and operators.

Moved by Stephanie Johnson and seconded by Kris Desmon to approve \$500 for the SD58 Rocks Program.

7. New Business:

- DPAC Report – Jenn was unable to attend the meeting but a letter has been prepared by the DPAC to be sent to Gordon Swan in regards to lack of transparency in the school closure and budgeting process.
- Chelsea Werrus is attending the BCCPAC Advocacy Workshop via zoom and is available for other members to attend.
- Watched a presentation on Human Trafficking.

8. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM

Next meeting February 10th at 6:00PM