MSS PAC Meeting Minutes

Date: February 10, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM – 6:43PM

Attendees:

Principal: Dave Andersen
School Trustee: Gordon Swan
PAC Executive:
- Stephanie Johnson (Secretary)
- Quinn Rooke (Treasurer)

Parents & Guests:
- Diane Walker
- Chandra Bonthoux
- Jenn Denton

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

2. Guest Speakers

Mrs. Jenn Denton is returning to ask for a possible additional $200 for the Flash Fiction Contest due to a large amount of participation – 46 kids. She wants to make sure she will have enough money to cover the cost of lunch for the contestants. She may not need the funds but is asking just in case.

Mr. Dave Anderson spoke on behalf of the girls Grade 8 and Jr (Grade 9 & 10) basketball team. They are seeking funds for new jerseys as the current ones are old, wore out and unflattering for the girls. The estimated cost is around $2500.00. Dave indicated that there is a cost share opportunity with MSS to ensure the girls get new jersey's.

3. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Stephanie Johnson and seconded by Quinn Rooke that the January 13, 2026 Meeting minutes be adopted as circulated.

The website is still a work in progress but the wheels are turning. Dave will continue to work with Kris and Jacob ensuring PAC content is posted for parents.

4. Trustee Report: Gordon Swan

Last community consultation session on a potential school closure was held at Coldwater School on Monday February 2. Web email still open for comments. Final decision will be at the March Board meeting. There are still 4 options before the Board. Documents from all meetings can be found at: Potential School Closure Process | Nicola-Similkameen School District

At the February Board meeting the school calendar will be presented for approval.

Also expecting a delgation (has not yet been confirmed) for the February meeting regarding the options for a potential school closure.

We are currently experiencing a driver shortage for our school buses. Out of extreme caution a noticed was sent to bus parents advising that with cold and flu season we may have to cancel or combine routes. Combining routes will add to travel time. The Quilchena and Douglas Lake runs were combined as a result of the driver shortage for a short period of time. If you know of anyone who has a class 1 or 2 licence and would like to drive bus have them contact the District office for more information.

We are starting the process for creating the 2026/2027 District Budget. It looks like we will lose a further 71 students in the upcoming year based on the number of children born 4 years ago versus the number of graduates/grade 12's this year. This is based on all those born 4 years ago having remained in the District. Kindergarten registration will help confirm this. Kindergarten Registration for French Immersion has started.

5. Principal's Report: Dave Andersen

Artscape Celebration
A highlight of the month was our annual Artscape event, featuring a festive *"Christmas in January"* performance by our band classes, a compelling student production of *The Monkey's Paw* by the Drama 10–12 class, and an impressive gallery of visual artwork created throughout the semester. Families, students, and staff came together to celebrate the many artistic talents within our school community.

Experiential Learning Highlights
Experiential learning continued beyond the classroom. The Sports Management class attended a **Vancouver Canucks** game, giving students firsthand insight into sport event operations, fan engagement, and venue management. In Biology 12, students completed their "Big Body" final projects-detailed, student-created anatomical diagrams demonstrating deep understanding of human body systems.

Curling Season Wrap-Up
January also marked the conclusion of the curling season. MSS is proud to recognize the Panther Boys team, who won the West Zones Championship and placed third in the Okanagan Valley Playdowns, an outstanding achievement that reflects dedication, teamwork, and athletic skill.

Grade Meetings & Student Expectations
This month, grade meetings were held with all students to review expectations and supports for Semester 2. Key reminders included:

- A review of the MSS Code of Conduct and our Circle of Courage behaviour model. Expectations increase as the year progresses, and consequences for ongoing behaviour issues will also become stronger.
- **Course changes will close after Friday, February 6th.** Many classes are full, especially required Grade 10 courses, so not all requests can be accommodated.
- Students not attending courses with waitlists will be withdrawn from those courses to create space for others.
- Students were encouraged to arrive prepared with necessary supplies for new classes; teachers will share any specific requirements.
- **Course selection for 2026–2027** begins this month. Ms. Nicole Thompson will guide students through the process, and information will be sent home to families.
- Students interested in Trades programming were encouraged to connect early with Mr. Van Grootel to begin applications and planning.

6. Treasurer's Report: Quinn Rooke

Category	Amount
Gaming	$4,171.13
Operating	$415.52

Moved by Stephanie Johnson and seconded by Quinn Rooke to approve up to an additional $200 for the Flash Fiction Contest if it is needed.

Moved by Quinn Rooke and seconded by Stephanie Johnson to approve $1500.00 for girls Grade 8 and Jr Basketball jerseys.

7. New Business:

DPAC Report – Jenn was unable to attend the meeting sent the following:

- Most PACs in Merritt supporting Literacy week activities
- Working with Chair Swan on committee appointments
- updating banking account structure (move to business investment account)
- financial support white hatter digital literacy initiative

8. Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM

Next meeting March 10th at 6:00PM