



PAC

Parents Advisory Committee

Heritage Woods Secondary School PAC Meeting
September 21, 2026, 7:00 pm, School Library

Attendance:

Administration:

Chris Martin (Principal)

PAC Executive:

Present:

Chair: Sheryl Parton

Vice Chair: Sue Corrigan

Secretary: Leah Barrington

DPAC Rep: Grace Wang

Treasurer: Alina Tavaszi

Member-At-Large: Michael Frankel-Lopez

Parents (12) Noemi S., Michelle M., Luz F-L, Leon L., Fiona M., Saloumeh S., Sie G., Diane M., Alexa G., Rena H., Katrina F., Shahnaj I., Monirul I.

Total participants: 20

Meeting Format:

In person meeting.

Call to Order:

Sheryl called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Previous Minutes:

Minutes from last PAC meeting were approved.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Chair Update
3. Treasurer's Update
4. DPAC Update
5. Principal's Update
6. Participant Questions and Answers

1) Welcome (Sheryl)

- Welcome to members and parents present. Introductions were made.



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2) Chair Update (Sheryl)

- a. School Murals are complete and beautiful! Story and details can be found in Anmore Times September edition.
- b. Aftergrad committee will be formed and will keep PAC informed and connected
- c. Special Projects Fundraising Update
 - o Total funds raised last year: \$8793.46
 - o Sheryl has \$185 to deposit from slush sales May 2026
 - o Quilt Raffle and Bake Sale to come at Seniors' Tea
 - o Kodiak Klassic concessions led by Leadership classes, Ms.G, and Ms. Whistler
- d. Event Date confirmation
 - o Career Fair confirmed for Wednesday, October 28, 2026
 - o Teacher Appreciation Luncheon confirmed for May 21, 2027 (Pro-D day before long weekend)
- e. Proposal: Sheryl made a motion, that was seconded by Alina, to create a new advisory position titled "Past Chair". The Past Chair role provides continuity, historical knowledge, and mentorship to the current PAC executive. The role supports a smooth leadership transition and helps preserve the knowledge, relationships and experience developed by previous PAC executives.
- f. Dianne MacSporran (previous PAC Chair) has accepted this role.

3) Treasurer's Update (Alina)

- there is usually no activity during the summer break
- below is a brief overview of our activity throughout the school year:
- every year the PAC Executive endeavours to make the most of all the funds available for our students from the following 2 sources:
 - 1 - the Provincial Gaming Grant: the school receives \$20/student per year based on the PAC application submitted in April
 - 2 - the parent donations collected via Cash-Online at the beginning of every school year
- we work closely with the school's administration team to distribute the funds to yearly events (e.g. Aftergrad, Career Fair) as well as to various school departments, clubs and initiatives, based on the yearly requests gathered in October
- all parents are invited to participate in the November budget session where all the requests are discussed and available funds are allocated

4) DPAC Update (Grace)

- the latest DPAC meeting was on September 16, 2026
- Superintendent Nadine Tambellini shared some updates on school construction. Crews have broken ground and preparation for construction of the Hazel Trembath Secondary has begun, the Dr. Charles Best addition is now complete with 12 new classrooms and about 300 additional spaces, and Burke Mountain Secondary is on track to open in September 2027
- district enrollment is slightly down this year, and the district has finalized classrooms and hired eight new classroom teachers



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- student attendance is also a focus this year. A team working on attendance will be presenting at the November DPAC meeting
- There is a new SD43 website and communication app coming, which will provide more resources and better two-way communication with families
- the guest speakers talked about digital literacy and online safety, including the importance of talking with our kids about screen time, online safety, misinformation, and how to evaluate information online
- looking ahead, PAC 101 is on September 24 online, and the next DPAC meeting will be October 28 in person

5) Principal's Report (Chris Martin)

- one of the goals this year is to have a smooth start-up and not many disruptions to courses, and so far, this has gone very well
- Flex block is working well, and it is great to see most kids in class during Flex, less students leaving the building, and the APP is in place
- Grade-wide assemblies so far have been great, with awesome school spirit, students have been engaged and supportive
- this year's Grade 12 group is the largest ever
- there are over 40 clubs being offered this year, all students are encouraged to get involved
- Senior Sail is coming soon; Mr. Dardano has done an excellent job at organizing the large event
- current enrollment at HWSS is 1500 students
- upcoming events include Pro D Day and Truth and Reconciliation Day
- attendance at school is very important, as is students arriving on time to class
- a reminder to parents that taking students out of school for extended periods of time can have a negative impact on their learning

6) Participant Questions and Answers:

- **Q:** Parent: Is anything being done about vaping in the bathrooms?
A: Chris Martin says this issue is one the school administrators continue to deal with on a daily basis. The situation is getting better than it was, as students are starting to see the negative long-term impacts that vaping has. The administration hope that any consequences that are brought forward for vaping will have the support of the individual's parents. Parent stated that there may be addiction issues involved in vaping, and Mr. Martin responded that any consequences or actions taken would be supportive, working with the family for a positive outcome.
- **Q:** Parent: What is your take on the "bell to-bell" global movement to have devices banned from first morning bell to final dismissal bell?
A: Chris Martin says the situation with cell phones is getting better, and there is more consistency among staff in terms of having students put them in hotels, etc. The administration is not in the position where they feel they can ban them outright. Overall, HWSS is doing a good job to curb cell phone use during class time.
- **Q:** Parent: What about the use of AI?



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A: Chris Martin says we hope we can use AI in a positive way. He says teachers are good AI detectors, and that if students are using it inappropriately, parents will be notified. Parent said he wants to know, so that he can do something about it at home with his children.

- **Q:** A parent wanted everyone to know that there is a special Hallowe'en event at Eagle Mountain Elementary called Tunnel of Terror. He is wondering if this would be a good opportunity for collaboration between HWSS and Eagle Mountain – acting, building, set -up, take-down, etc., and an opportunity for other students to participate and for the community to enjoy.

A: The principal will bring it up to the teachers of the Leadership students for possible collaboration, fundraising, etc.

- **Q:** Parent: Is there a way to reduce the prohibitive cost of prom dresses?
e.g., a way to sell previously owned dresses, at the school?

A: Mr. Hyde explained that storage is a challenge, but there is an initiative at HWSS called The Cinderella Project where the co-ordinator will reach out to students who may need assistance in this area.

Meeting Adjourned: Sheryl closed the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Next PAC Meeting: October 19, 2026.

Upcoming Events:

September 2026

29 – Orange Shirt Day/ Truth and Reconciliation

October 2026

2 – Terry Fox Run

12 – Thanksgiving (no school)

15 – Interims

16 – Interims

19 – PAC Meeting

21 – Parent Teacher Conferences

23 – Pro D day

28 – Career Fair

November 2026

4 – Take Your Kid to Work Day

11 – Remembrance Day

16 – PAC Meeting

27 – Reports posted to Parent Portal

30 – Pro D Day

December 2026

3 – Senior Tea

3,4,5 – Kodiak Klassic Boys Basketball Tournament

18 – Last day before Winter Break



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