

Watson Elementary School
PAC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 @ 7:00pm
Location: Watson Elementary School Library

In Attendance:

- **Executive Council:** Mimi Nearing (Chair), Justin Nearing (Treasurer), Kele Nash (Secretary)
- **Administration:** Jackie Berkes (Principal), Katie White (Vice-Principal)
- **Attendees:** Kelsey Ohs (Past PAC Chair), Meghan Kerr, Allison Lenz, Kairy Pennington

1. Welcome & Call to Order:

- Mimi N. called to order the PAC General Meeting of the Watson Elementary School Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 29, 2026.

2. Introductions:

- Mimi N. led introductions for all members present.

3. Adoption of Agenda:

- Copies of the agenda were distributed and posted online prior to the meeting.
- **Outcome:** Motion to accept the agenda passed (**CARRIED**).

4. Adoption of Minutes from the June 18th, 2026 Meeting:

- Minutes from the June 18, 2026 meeting were reviewed. Copies of the minutes were available for viewing and posted online.
- **Outcome:** Motion to accept the June 18, 2026 General Meeting minutes passed (**CARRIED**).

5. Reports:

A) Chair's Report:

- **September Highlights:**
 - **Meet the Teacher Night (Sept 23):** PAC hosted an info booth to answer questions and recruit volunteers. Congratulations to **Allison Lenz**, winner of the PAC Prize Basket!
 - **New Family Tea (Sept 25):** Watson Administration and PAC hosted new families for a casual info session.
 - **Orange Shirt Day (Sept 29):** PAC volunteers prepared and delivered over 500 pieces of bannock to students, teachers, and staff. Special thanks to **Rogers Foods** for donating the flour.
- **Annual Goal:** Focus on engaging volunteers to take on leadership roles and contribute to the school community.

- **Upcoming Fundraisers:**

- **Mabel's Labels:** Ongoing.
- **The Great Little Coupon Book (GLCB):** Sept 14 – Oct 8 (Booklet distribution to families on Tuesday, Oct 13).
- **Neufeld Farms:** Oct 26 - Nov 12 (Pickup: Wednesday, Nov 18 @ 5:30pm in the school parking lot).
- **Purdy's Chocolates:** Mid-November (date TBA - December 1st (Pickup scheduled for Thursday, Dec 10).

B) Hot Lunch Coordinator's Report:

- **MunchaLunch:** Term 1 ordering (September–December) is now open.
- **Upcoming Lunch & Treat Days:**
 - **Hot Dog Day:** Thursday, October 8
 - **Jim's Pizza & Pasta Day:** Friday, November 13
 - **SinAmen Bun Co. Treat Day:** Friday, December 4
- **Food Security Donations:** \$399 raised so far. A full financial summary will be provided at the next meeting after Hot Dog Day purchases wrap up.

C) Treasurer's Report:

- Justin Nearing proposed the 2026/2027 Budget. Please see attached.
- **Great Little Coupon Book Proceeds:** Designated for the Teachers' Wishlist (19 divisions receiving \$200 each).
- **2026/2027 Budget Amendments:**
 - CYCW and Indigenous EAs are well-funded by the district and do not require PAC funds.
 - Proposed adding \$200 to Support Resources to accommodate a new 0.6 FTE Learning Support Teacher, raising total support funding from \$1,000 to \$1,200. (Covers ELL, Library, Resource, Language Arts, Counselling, and Learning Support). **Motion Passed.**
- **Field Trip Funding:** Budgeted \$1,000 total (\$500 General Account / \$500 Gaming Grant) for the Primary Field Trip to Greendale Acres. **Motion Passed.**
- **Budget Approval:** Motion to adopt the 2026/2027 proposed budget with the \$200 amendment for Learning Support passed unanimously (**CARRIED**).
- **Inclusive Playground Project:** Phase 1 is complete. Looking for a shadowed coordinator to assist Kelsey Ohs during her final year at Watson for the Phase 2 (Inclusive Playground). Funds are currently held in a GIC while matching grant opportunities are pursued.
- **Long-Term Planning:** Discussed strategy for when the 6-year Knight Road Legacy funding ends.
- **Gaming Grant:** In September 2026, Watson PAC was approved for \$8,260 based on last year's enrollment (\$20/student) for the 2026/2027 school year.

D) Grade 5 Fundraising Report:

- Thursday Freezie sales are ongoing to fund the Camp Squeah spring overnight camp. No representative was present for further updates.

6. Old Business: None.

7. New Business & Volunteer Opportunities:

- **DPAC Representative:** Kairy Pennington volunteered and was appointed to the role. Congratulations Kairy! Code of Ethics and Bylaws to be sent.
- **Open Roles Seeking Volunteers:** Co-Chair, Hot Lunch Coordinator (shadowing Kele Nash), Playground Phase 2 Lead (shadowing Kelsey Ohs), Fundraising Lead (e.g., Bike Sale), and Family Dance Coordinator.
- **Halloween Dance (Wed, Oct 28):** Discussed having a Grade 5 parent lead the event, with concession proceeds benefiting the Grade 5 Camp fund.
- **Communication Strategy:** Focus on concise, bulleted emails with infographics to communicate volunteer needs clearly to parents.

8. Principal's Report:

- **This Year's Theme:** *"Building Our Best"*
- **Enrollment:** 384 students across 19 divisions.
- **Boundary Review:** Upcoming review involving Stitó:s, Unsworth, and Watson. Info dates TBA.
- **Staffing Updates:** Ms. Bjorndal (Wednesdays with Ms. Thiessen), Ms. Gueretski (EA), Ms. Major (Prep & PE), Mr. Brien (0.6 FTE Learning Support).
- **Cops for Cancer (Tour de Valley):** Watson hosted the team on Sept 18 and raised \$1,107.75 through the "Pick a Perk" day held in Spring of 2026.
- **Truth & Reconciliation:** Held a school assembly and walk around Garrison Crossing for Orange Shirt Day.
- **Key Dates:**
 - **Oct 1:** Student Photo Day
 - **Oct 6:** Science World Presentations (grouped as K–3 & 4/5)
 - **Oct 9:** Pro-D Day (Focus: Decolonizing Education)
 - **Oct 12:** Thanksgiving (No School)
 - **Oct 13:** Bus Evacuation Training
 - **Oct 21:** Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:00-5:00pm
 - **Oct 22:** Early dismissal 11:24am
 - **Oct 23:** Provincial Pro-D Day
 - **Sept 28 - Nov 6:** Grade 4 Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) window
 - **Weekly Events:** Friendship Fridays (mixed-aged groups) & Wildcat Wear Wednesdays. Upcoming Friendship Friday dates to be shared. Students can wear Red or Blue or their Watson Gear every Wednesday!
 - **Terry Fox Run:** Postponed to April to align with Terry Fox's start of his run timeline.

9. Open Discussion:

- **Student QuickPay Donation Option:** Request to add a donation option on Student QuickPay (raised by Allison Lenz). Jackie Berkes and Katie White will look into this further. It was shared at the meeting that other schools in the district have already adopted this option.

9. Next Meetings:

- **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2026**

10. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Minutes Submitted by Kele Nash.

WATSON PAC - PROPOSED BUDGET - 2026/2027 - MAIN ACCOUNT

BUDGET ITEMS	OPERATING FUNDS	NOTES
Teachers Wishlist	\$3,800.00	19 divisions projected for 2026/2027 (\$200/ division)
Support Resources	\$1,000.00	see supplementary data tab *Need to include Indigenous EA & CYCW?
PAC supplies	\$300.00	
PAC meeting refreshments/snacks	\$200.00	
Family Food Security Support	\$2,000.00	\$1500 for Winter Hampers; \$500 (+any extra donations from MAL) in June
Munch-a-lunch account fee	\$369.60	\$330 + tax
Meet the Teacher prizes	\$100.00	sign-up incentives
Custodial Appreciation Day	\$75.00	
World Teachers' Day	\$150.00	
Office Admin Appreciation Day	\$75.00	
Principal Appreciation Day	\$75.00	
Staff luncheon	\$1,200.00	
Year end admin baskets	\$200.00	
Kinder Fair	\$150.00	
Welcome tea	\$150.00	
Ready Set Explore	\$25.00	
Grade 5 Continuation Ceremonies	\$500.00	
Term Treat Days	\$750.00	
Primary Greendale Acres Field Trip	\$500.00	Split between gaming & main account (\$1000 total)
Playground Funding*	\$10,000.00	Contingent on new Playground Coordinator

Budget Total **\$21,619.60**

Current bank balance	\$34,423.00	As per Aug 31, 2026 (Includes pending 10K playground transfer from last year)
Expected 2026/2027 Revenue	\$23,850.00	
End of Fiscal Year Expected	\$	58,273.00
End of Fiscal Year - Desired Balance	\$20,000	Float we want to be left with at end of year
Total Budget Available FY 2026/2027	\$38,273.00	

Budget vs. Total Available \$16,653.40 Difference between current budget and total available

2026/2027 Year End Account

Total (Expected) **\$ 36,653.40**

2026/2027 Revenue Expectations	
Hot lunch& treat days	\$5,000.00 Same value as 2025/26
Fundraisers	\$3,350.00 Est. based on Profit 2025/2026
Knight Rd. Grant	\$15,500.00 Yearly grant (est.)
Total	\$23,850.00

WATSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PROPOSED BUDGET 2026/2027 - GAMING ACCOUNT

BUDGET ITEMS	GAMING FUNDS	NOTES
Field trips-bus transportation	\$5,000.00	
Musical Instruments	\$740.00	
Dances-DJ fee	\$800.00	<i>(2 dances, \$400 ea)</i>
Dances-Decor	\$100.00	
Grade 5 camp	\$1,500.00	
Maker Kits	\$500.00	may not need full amount this year
Term 1 & 3 Treat Days	\$500.00	Bannock Days (Term 1 & 3)
Primary Greendale Acres Field Trip	\$500.00	Split between Gaming & Main Account
Student Enrichment Fund	\$22.79	<i>Ad-hoc overflow amount to use all gaming funds</i>
TOTAL	\$9,662.79	
Current bank balance	9,662.79	
YEAR ENDING AMOUNTS		
Difference	\$0.00	<i>All funds to be used yearly</i>

WATSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PROPOSED BUDGET 2026/2027- PLAYGROUND ACCOUNT

BUDGET ITEMS	PLAYGROUND FUNDS	NOTES
TOTAL	\$0.00	
EXPECTED REVENUE		
PAC contribution	\$10,000.00	planned June deposit*
Total	\$0.00	
YEAR ENDING AMOUNTS		
Difference	\$0.00	