

**Strawberry Vale Elementary PAC**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 13th, 2026 @ 6:30pm**



## 1. Call to Order

- 1.1. Territorial Acknowledgement
- 1.2. Welcome / Introductions
  - Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm
  - Attendees: Christina Pelletier, Matthew Martin, Carolyn Murray, Andrew Balo, Melanie Styles, Jack Buchanan, Alex Eberle, Lauren Lemieux, Garnett Humenick, Danielle Grbavac, Meaghan Wilson, Alberta Schulmeister, Kristie Hargreaves, Aubri Porter
- 1.3. Approval of minutes: February 2026
  - MA: Garnett; Seconded: Andrew
- 1.4. Approval of agenda: April 2026
  - MA: Garnett; Seconded: Lauren
  - *Agenda was amended to include the funding request for two-way radios (Section 7) and discussing the Panego Pizza fundraiser as an option for SVE next year (Section 9).*

## 2. Guest Spotlight

**Kristie Hargreaves**

- 2.1 Presentation on the parent-led national initiative called Unplugged Canada which is raising awareness about the negative impacts of smartphones on kids.
  - In summary, Unplugged Canada is a grassroots, volunteer based, parent-led initiative that is a resource for families who are navigating the complexities of introducing smartphones to their children. The presentation focused on data-based research that showcases the harms that smartphone/ social media has on developing minds including increased anxiety, depression, loneliness, exposure to cyberbullying and explicit content, reduced academic performance, focus, and sleep quality, as well as signs of dependency and emotional dysregulation. It is also a community where like-minded parents can feel less isolated in their desire to withhold smartphone/ social media until after adolescence. Kristie also talked about Pledge Canada whereby parents can sign the pledge to acknowledge that they are thinking of delaying smartphones/ social media. There are 9,000 families across Canada who have made the pledge. Kristie mentioned that there are currently 5 SVE families on the pledge.
  - The PAC was unanimous in having this information made available to families through the weekly update.
  - Kristie to send Melanie a write-up appropriate for a school newsletter.
  - Melanie to include the above information in the weekly newsletter this week.

## 3. Teacher's Spotlight

**Caroline Murray**

- 3.1 Presentation on the benefits of having an egg incubator for the school.
  - Caroline discussed the benefits of having an egg incubator for the school. Not only is watching chicks hatch an enjoyable experience, there are cross-curricular benefits as well including science (life cycle, making hypotheses, developing observational skills), math (graphing things like temperature), language arts (writing letters to the chicks), and also social-emotional learning (empathy, animal needs). It is an activity that provides the whole school community joy. Once eggs hatch, chicks are returned to a farm where they find forever homes. Her request is outlined in *Section 7*.

## 4. Admin Report

**Christina Pelletier / Matthew Martin**

- Christina provided an update on the return of Sarah Winkler. There is a possibility Sarah will return after the May long weekend but its more likely she won't return until September.
- The new Vice Principal will be announced in the coming weeks.
- Staffing season is underway. Once staffing is in place, building of the classrooms for next year will begin. Families have been sent an email regarding student placement requests.
- For the 2026/2027 school year, SVE will go down to 11 divisions. This is due to an unusually large grade 5 cohort we saw this current year and a decrease in kindergarten registration.
- Ms. Cullen has announced her retirement.
- Expecting some CUPE employees to be leaving but those won't be announced until May/ June.

**Strawberry Vale Elementary PAC**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 13th, 2026 @ 6:30pm**



- May 14th: Grade 5's visit their middle school. Discussion around what this looks like for students not attending the catchment middle school of Colquitz.
- May 22nd: Kindergarten orientation. Discussion around needing PAC volunteers to set up a table and be there to interact with new families.
- September 8th: First day of school.
- September 17th: Welcome back BBQ and meet the teacher night.
- Parent-teacher conferences will be structured differently next year. Instead of having them over 2 days back to back, they will be split up over 2 weeks.
- Student-led conferences will be in May instead of February.
- The school calendar for the 2026/2027 year will be posted to the website in May.
- Matthew gave an update on construction of the two childcare centers on the front field. Due to the field being wet, groundworks have had to pause. There are two, 4 foot deep holes that will house storm water tanks. Once installation is complete, there will be backfilling and then foundations will be started. Work on the foundation is expected to start over the summer months. Project completion is still 1-2 years away. In the interim, activities on the front field will be limited.

**5. Executive Update**

**Sam Jassal / Chantelle Bowden**

- None at this time.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

**Andrew Balo**

6.1. Financial Overview Update

- Expenses paid include the Home Alone course and the Dr. Rees presentation held in March.
- Movie night brought in a profit of \$584.
- Cheques from fundraisers deposited including Art Cards and Purdy's.
- Across all three accounts, there is \$22,157.

**7. Funding Requests**

7.1 Egg incubator for the school. Preliminary research shows a cost of approximately \$400.

- A request for up to \$500 to purchase a sturdy egg incubator for the school.
- Motion to approve up to \$500: Andrew; Seconded: Lauren; Vote: unanimous yes

7.2 Two-way radios.

- Matthew Martin and Lauren Lemieux gave an overview of the benefit of having a set of 12, two-way radios. Currently, SVE is not equipped to handle emergencies especially during outside time. The radios should be weather-proof, shatter proof, come with a base for easy charging, and be sturdy to last numerous years.
- A request for up to \$500 to purchase 12, two-way radios.
- Motion to approve up to \$500: Andrew; Seconded: Jack; Vote: unanimous yes

**8. PAC Programs, Events, Fundraisers (updates / feedback / action items)**

|                              |                |   |
|------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 8.1. <b>Parent Education</b> | Lauren Lemieux | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The presentation by Dr. Allison Rees on March 9th was well received and well attended.</li> <li>● As of the meeting, no parent ed opportunities scheduled for the remainder of this school year.</li> <li>● Lauren talked about the time commitment needed to take this item on for next year to the group given that there were some new people in attendance.</li> </ul> |
| 8.2. <b>Fun Lunches</b>      | Melanie Styles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The next fun lunch is <b>Friday, May 1st</b> and will be Subway.</li> <li>● Online ordering went live on Monday and will close on <b>April 23rd</b>.</li> <li>● Our next fun lunch is <b>May 29th</b>. We will be having The</li> </ul>  |

**Strawberry Vale Elementary PAC**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 13th, 2026 @ 6:30pm**



|  |                                  |   |
|--|----------------------------------|---|
|  |                                  | <p>White Spot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Melanie to connect with the rest of the PAC executive around pricing.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>8.3 Art Cards</b>   | Danielle Grbavac                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No updates since last meeting.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>8.4 Russell's Book Fair</b>                               | Chantelle Bowden/ Lauren Lemieux | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well attended and lots of positive feedback on having the book fair align with student-led conferences and being open until 6:30pm.</li> <li>Potential timelines for next year to be discussed at the May meeting.</li> <li>Meaghan Wilson will be the new book fair lead for next year.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>8.5 Movie Night</b>                                       | Raven Yager                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lots of discussion around if this is a valuable event to continue. The group agreed that while there are some setbacks including the older grades not being really into it, low attendance, and a lack of volunteers, it is a good community building event and fun for the students who do go.</li> <li>Also discussed that whoever takes the lead on this next year already has a template to work from in terms of pizza orders, what prizes to get, signup genius in place, and working with admin to pick the movie.</li> <li>Discussion around maybe doing something else for the grade 4's and 5's like a boardgame night. This to be discussed at the June meeting.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>8.6 Island Sexual Health Sessions/ Home Alone Program</b> | Jack Buchanan                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Island Sexual Health</u>: Teacher resources should be arriving at the school late April to early May. ISH has offered to do a parent workshop via zoom. The group agreed this would be a good idea before the teachers roll this unit out in their lesson planning. Jack to give the following dates to ISH for the parent workshop: <b>Monday, April 27th, Monday, May 4th or Monday, May 11th</b>. Jack to report back at the next meeting.</li> <li><u>Home Alone Program</u>: It was decided by the group to let Dirk Poppen know that we are looking to run this program again next May for our grade 4's. Advertising for this program will start in January 2027 so that families are aware before registering their child for this course independently.</li> </ul> |
| <b>8.7 VCPAC</b>   | Melanie Styles                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The last meeting took place on March 12th.</li> <li>Items discussed were 1) the upcoming AGM on April 16th where nominations for a new executive will be made; 2) the upcoming BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils) AGM at the end of April. There are two motions that the VCPAC is putting forward including the negative consequences of moving to strictly daylight savings time and a request for more support to EA's.</li> <li>The next meeting is <b>Thursday, April 16th</b> at 7pm and is available online and in person. Melanie is unable to attend.</li> </ul>   |

**Strawberry Vale Elementary PAC**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 13th, 2026 @ 6:30pm**



|   |                              |  |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 8.8 Musical   | Matthew Martin               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scheduled for <b>Thursday, May 21st</b> with shows at 1pm and 6pm and will run about 45 minutes long.</li> <li>● This year’s “musical” will be a concert-style event with performances by the dance club, strings, and the choir.</li> <li>● No information on tickets as of the meeting.</li> <li>● The grade 5’s will have leadership roles including MC’ing, directing the younger grades, helping with set design and changes.</li> </ul> |
| 8.9 Walk-A-Thon                                       | All                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scheduled for <b>Friday, April 24th</b>.</li> <li>● Pledge forms were sent home with students on April 2nd.</li> <li>● Donations will be accepted up until <b>May 2nd</b>.</li> <li>● Raffle prizes will be sourced by the PAC executive over the next couple weeks.</li> <li>● The grand prize of a bike or scooter will be secured in May.</li> </ul>   |
| 8.10 Yearbooks  | Chantelle Bowden/ Sam Jassal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Unfortunately, timelines are too tight so no yearbooks for this year.</li> <li>● Item closed.</li> </ul>  |
| 8.11 School-wide Beach Day                            | All                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scheduled for <b>Friday, June 12th</b>.</li> <li>● Transportation scheduled.</li> <li>● Island View Beach booked.</li> <li>● No other planning details required.</li> <li>● Item closed.</li> </ul>   |
| 8.12 Teacher Appreciation Lunch / Teacher Recognition | Melanie Styles               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teacher appreciation lunch scheduled for <b>Thursday, June 18th</b> with set up to begin at 10:45am.</li> <li>● As of the meeting, only Ms. Cullen has announced her retirement.</li> <li>● Ms. Cullen and any of the CUPE staff who may be leaving will receive a gift card from Parachute Ice Cream.</li> <li>● More details to be discussed at the June meeting.</li> </ul>  |

**9. Old / New Business**

|                                |                |   |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 9.1 School Supplies Fundraiser | Meaghan Wilson | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● After looking into this further, it was decided that this would entail a lot of time and effort for the PAC to have supplies sent to the school and organized for each student in all divisions.</li> <li>● Other options discussed included:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) having two ziplock bags sent home at the end of the year: one labelled recycling for proper disposal at home and the other labelled reuse to be used for the next year. This may cut down on families buying things they don’t need.</li> <li>2) providing a link for parents to click where they can order school supplies online and have supplies delivered to their home. This could be</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---|

**Strawberry Vale Elementary PAC**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, April 13th, 2026 @ 6:30pm**



|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
|   |     | <p>expensive and doesn't cater to those who may not have access to the internet.</p> <p>3) Teachers can buy school supplies in bulk and parents are charged at a discounted price. This would require teacher input.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin to speak with teachers about option 3 and provide an update at the May meeting.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>9.2 PAC Executive Positions / Item Leads For 2026/2027 School Year</b> | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion around the various executive roles and program/ event leads that will need to be filled by May/ June as planning for next year will be taking place over the next 2 months.</li> <li>• It was decided by the group that it would be worthwhile having Melanie prepare an email listing all the positions available. The email will also outline that if no one volunteers to lead these programs and events, they will not continue.</li> <li>• Melanie to send the draft version of this email to Christina for approval.</li> <li>• Email to be sent to SVE families the week of May 4th, one week before the next PAC meeting on May 11th.</li> </ul> |
| <b>9.3 Panago Pizza Fundraiser</b>  | All | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion around using Panago Pizza as a fundraising opportunity for the school. Details include choosing the month we would like and for one full week, Panago will advertise in their store window that \$1 from every pizza sold will go to support SVE.</li> <li>• The group agreed that this would be an easy way to raise funds for the school.</li> <li>• Melanie to connect with the contact from Panago Pizza and have SVE added to the list for next year.</li> </ul>  |

**10. Next PAC Meeting**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.
- Next meeting is Monday, May 11th at 6:30pm.