

THOMAS HANEY SECONDARY SCHOOL

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Parents Working Together to Connect and Communicate

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PAC MEETING MINUTES - Feb 26, 2026 @7pm

- 1) Call Meeting to Order & Welcome to parents and staff
 - Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.
- 2) Motion to adopt agenda as presented
 - Adopted, all in favor
- 3) Motion to adopt meeting minutes from Jan 28 2026 (online meeting) [THSS-PAC-Minutes-January-28-2026.pdf](#)
 - Adopted, all in favor

GENERAL REPORTING FROM PAC AND ADMINISTRATION ON SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

4) Administration Report – Darren

Darren shared several recent highlights and initiatives at THSS:

- The Winter Formal was a huge success, featuring a themed evening with dinner, photo booth, student performances, and a dance.
- Senior boys basketball and wrestling teams have been actively competing.
- Spanish 8 students completed a rotation focused on cultural learning, including making and presenting piñatas.
- The Forensics and Connections classes collaborated on a major project titled “*Who Killed Mr. Rowell?*”, which was a significant and engaging undertaking.
- Random Acts of Kindness Week included a full week of student-led activities.
- Students attended an outing to Academie Duello, where they participated in a medieval weapons and swordplay experience.
- Outdoor Education and Peak Pod 9 students travelled to the Whistler Olympic Centre for a biathlon experience.
- Olympic hockey viewing in the rotunda created great school spirit and energy.
- The school theatre production of *The Play That Goes Wrong* runs February 25 – March 6.
- A SetBC story and video featuring Rayna will be shared in an upcoming newsletter.
- Special recognition was given to the Education Assistants who consistently go above and beyond in supporting students.

Parent Survey

- Darren reviewed the upcoming THSS “Learning at Our School” parent survey, which will be distributed later this year.
- PAC provided feedback, including a suggestion to add a comment section below each question to allow for additional input.

Discussion on Cell Phone Use

- The BC Schools cell phone policy requires districts to reduce student cell phone use. Darren noted that consistent monitoring can be challenging.
- The book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt (PhD) and research by Jean Twenge (PhD) were referenced regarding the impact of social media. The average teen reportedly spends approximately 4.8 hours per day on social media. Identified concerns include:
 - Increased rates of depression
 - Higher levels of loneliness
 - Reduced face-to-face interaction
 - Sleep deprivation
 - Difficulty concentrating
 - Greater exposure to harmful content
 - Displacement of healthy activities
 - Addictive use patterns
- THSS staff held a group discussion regarding these impacts and shared observations from their own classrooms.
- A potential direction for next year is to allow laptops and tablets for school use only, with no cell phone use during the school day.
- An optional technology tool called “The Brick” was also discussed. Students would tap in to limit accessible apps during school hours and tap out when finished.
- Approximately 70% of students have access to laptops at home. School laptops would also be available for sign-out through the library.
- PAC members feedback - agreed this is a positive direction. Laptop use is considered an important life skill, while cell phones are viewed as highly distracting in the school environment.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Discussion

- Darren reviewed projects and statistics, including a “Technology Timeline – 11,000 Years.”
- THSS has formed an AI Planning Team. Initiatives implemented include digital literacy education, AI and mental health discussions, and a “Modern English” course that incorporates AI tools.
- Some teachers emphasized that AI is here to stay and that students need to learn how to use it appropriately. The focus is on teaching creative and productive uses of AI while discouraging lazy or harmful applications.
- Student and teacher survey results (both school-based and national studies) show comparable trends.
- A potential future program under district discussion is Microsoft Copilot, an AI tool integrated into Microsoft 365 that supports learning and productivity. This may be implemented for students aged 13 and older.

- Once a school-sanctioned AI program is implemented, there was a suggestion to provide parent education sessions, recognizing that some parents are very supportive of AI while others have concerns.

5) Chair Report – Erin

- BCCPAC, [Awards](#). submissions due Feb 28. Upcoming AGM being held in Richmond April 25/26th: 2026 Parent Leadership Conference –[2026 Parent Leadership Conference](#) If we have anyone who would like to attend and carry our proxy, we can put that forward. Registration fee (early bird pricing end of Feb – Mar 19) is an eligible expense to utilize gaming grant funds.
- Board of Education Feb Meeting cancelled, next meeting Mar 4th
- Upcoming DPAC Meeting (May) will highlight Treasurer 101, great idea to attend if you are thinking about potentially volunteering/building this skill.

6) Treasurer’s Report – Sarah

- Balance in the account is \$15,654.06
- March 12th is the deadline for teachers for submitting receipts – Sarah will write up a message for Darren to distribute.
- Has many receipts submitted already, improvement from last year

7) DPAC Rep Report – Kim (see below DPAC Rep Report Notes Feb. 19, 2026

8) New Business/Sharing from parents

- We need more PAC members for next year. Please spread the word. Will ask Darren to advertise, in newsletter, on Instagram, can we make an ad with our roles to send out?

9) Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:25 all voted in favour.

DATE CHANGE Next PAC Meeting: **Wednesday April 22nd** (moved due to student conferences)

Last PAC Meeting of the school year: Thursday May 28 @7pm

DPAC Rep Report Feb. 19, 2026

Reports

- **Superintendent:**
 - New code of conduct

- It's a public statement re: staff treatment and on-site conduct
 - Recognition for schools as sites of both work and learning
 - importance of parents/community to role model conduct for students
 - Staff also have a "Standards of Conduct" policy
 - Code of conduct posters will be visible after Spring Break
- Tumbler Ridge Tragedy
 - Board has reached out to District 59 to extend sympathy and offer support
 - *NB: DPAC has also connected with the District 59 DPAC to offer condolences and support.*
- **School Board Trustees:**
 - CommunityLINK funded services planning is underway
 - Two key motions put forward
 - Improving standards for modular school buildings
 - Ensuring teacher prep programs are providing pre-service teachers with sufficient training in literacy, numeracy, and inclusive instruction
- **MRTA:**
 - CUPE still negotiating
 - Parents can show support by writing the Minister of Education
 - Demo of innovative ways AI is being used for teacher's prep (i.e., improving prompts, setting professional preferences)
- **CPF:**
 - For all families, and not just those in French Immersion
 - CPF's goal is to promote language and culture through events/resources
 - To learn more and join: <https://cpf.ca/join-cpf/>
- **DPAC:**
 - Gaming licenses, gaming grants, Treasurer 101, Q&A
 - At May 14 DPAC Meeting
 - Current and potential treasurers welcome
 - *Reminder:* Gaming webinar: Feb. 25, 11:30am-1pm. New 2026 program guidelines will be addressed. To register: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gaming-grants/cgg-presentations>
 - Unclear whether webinar recording will be made available: TBA
 - District has shared resources for families via the portal re: Tumbler Ridge tragedy
 - <https://www.sd42.ca/announcement/supporting-through-difficult/>
 - Requests from DPAC for PACs
 - Provide budget input: struggles, successes, concerns, etc.
 - Gauge parent interest in a 2nd e-scooter info session
 - Important Dates:
 - [Gaming webinar](#) - 2026 Program Grant Guidelines – February 25, 2026 11:30am – 1pm
 - Grade 8 Registration Closes February 24, 2026
 - School Board Meeting – March 4, 2026 @ 6pm
 - Public School Board Meeting – 2026/27 Budget Presentation – April 15, 2026

- Online Public Budget Survey Part 2 – April 16 – April 22, 2026
- Board Finance Committee of the Whole – Public Meeting – April 22, 2026 – 6pm
- Long Time Parent Service Award – [Submission deadline](#) May 1, 2026
- Community event: Earth Day on Sat. Apr. 18, 10-2pm Memorial Peace Park
 - Various events and a family freecycle
 - Photo & Poetry Contests: <https://rmrecycling.org/earth-day-poetry-photo-contests>
 - Volunteers needed
 - General info: <https://rmrecycling.org/community/celebrate-earth-day-maple-ridge>
- For info on district events, resources, and DPAC info:
<https://sd42dpac.wpcomstaging.com/resources-2/>