

Barriere Secondary School
PAC minutes
January 19th 2026

Attendance

Emma Greenwell, Michelle Johnson, Jen Crosman, Elizabeth Ekins, Colleen Tremblay, Angie Farrow, Michelle Quigley, Mr. Markides

Approval of previous minutes pending addition of Academic Awards

Financial

General \$1486.28

Gaming \$5967.27

Bursary \$4393.53

Sign \$ 1434.61

Girl's raffle brought in \$1500

Boys raffle brought in \$896

The sign on the score keeping table has been paid for. The cost was \$184.44

There are three bursaries from 2024 that were not claimed totalling \$900. Funds will go back into the available bursary funds.

There are still \$1500 worth of bursaries outstanding from 2025

Community Forest Grant was approved for \$11800. It is less than was applied for so Mr. Markides will consult with all those who applied and figure out what can be reduced.

The gaming report for the raffles are done.

Principals Report

There was a meeting with grads about bursaries and valedictorian. Bursary applications should be available soon. Commencements will be June 12th and the dinner and dance June 13th.

The Junior Boys basket ball team played well last weekend at their Cougar Classics and finished 2nd

The Senior Boys placed 6th in Pleasant Valley Tournament

The Senior Girls placed 2nd in Merritt Tournament

There is an email that will be going out in February. It is a review of how the principal is doing and Mr. Markides encourages everyone to participate. There was an email recently that went out to let parents know when to watch for the performance review email.

DPAC

There was no meeting in December and the January meeting will be tomorrow January 20th

Old Business

Youth in trades Bursary:

This has been tabled to be discussed by the Bursary Committee

Fence Art:

The money set aside for fence art will be reallocated to a different school beautification project to be chosen in the future

Score Keeping Table:

The score keeping table is finished and paid for. A white outline will be added to make it stand out better

Picnic Tables:

Picnic tables will be discussed again in the spring. The hope is that the school will pay for one and the PAC will pay for a second one. Mr Ruberg can look into the cost. It was suggested we could try and get wood donated and have the shop kids build them but the school prefers not to do it that way. There are accessible picnic tables that allow for wheel chair use. The picnic tables would be placed on the asphalt.

Golf and Restaurant Fundraiser:

We have sold only 7 cards so far. There are lots of cards still available. Since this is an open-ended fundraiser we will start advertising again online. Michelle will get Mr. Markides a PDF so he can put it in the newsletter.

Outside Basketball Hoop:

There are no hooks to add a net so the hoop will remain without.

Life Touches:

There have been multiple complaints before they had completed the first day of grad photos. Grads were not allowed to use props and were not getting their full 15 minutes. Petra called Life Touches and the issue was hopefully rectified. Mr. Markides will be talking to someone from Life Touches about quality next week so that any retakes should be better. We can always discuss different companies but many of the big ones won't come out here but there are definitely some other options if we decide we are unhappy with Life Touches.

Academic Awards:

The plan at this point is to move forward with academic awards though it will include more than just grads. There will be more info at our next meeting.

Bathroom Doors:

Jen received a copy of a letter from a parent who had also forwarded it to our school Trustee and the School District. The parent asked if PAC would support the letter stating their concerns regarding bathroom entry doors being removed from the school. They were concerned for safety, privacy, and physical/mental health. They also voiced concern for PAC making decisions that all parents should have had a say in.

PAC discussed the topic and will not be supporting this letter. A response will be drafted. Though PAC recognizes removing doors may not be ideal, it appears to be the best solution at this time. It is also important to note that there are individual bathrooms available to use for those not wishing to use the bathrooms with stalls, though there can be a wait, as they are single use.

Some discussions around the letter included:

PAC is the voice of caregivers. We give our feedback and advice to the school, but do not ultimately make decisions for the school. PAC was consulted prior to the doors being removed and has discussed this topic at most meetings this school year. When PAC has had concerns about the bathrooms, administration made adjustments or gave additional clarification. All parents are members of PAC and welcome at all meetings. This is where we are able to bring up concerns and address them with the school directly.

The decision to remove the doors was made by the school to prioritize student safety by reducing vaping

and vandalism in the bathrooms. Mr. Markides reports that the amount of vandalism has been reduced and staff is seeing an increase in their students using the bathrooms again.

Some students may be avoiding the washroom because of the doors, but previously there were students avoiding the washrooms in greater numbers because of the vaping. Vaping has been discussed at meetings for years with no real solution. There are other measures in place to deal with vaping in general, but this specifically allowed students to feel more comfortable using the washrooms. Vandalism is also down, enabling the school to use its limited funds as intended, as well as keeping washrooms in working order for student use.

Regarding privacy, PAC had walked around to look at the bathrooms last meeting to ensure sight lines, but will do so again after this meeting to see if there is more that needs done to ensure privacy. Mirrors have already been relocated or removed, and the school is open to making additional adjustments.

Most public washrooms and all other schools in our District that we have been in lately have either single washrooms or multi-stall washrooms without main entry doors. Our school has the option of using either.

PAC acknowledges that there are challenges with doors being removed and that there isn't a 'perfect' solution that will fit everyone and every scenario. If there is a plumbing issue or a lock down, there isn't a door to lock. There may be more students using the single washrooms, creating longer waits.

Parents who have contacted the school with concerns have typically come away with a better understanding of the situation. PAC encourages those with concerns to talk directly to the school for accurate information as opposed to social media.

Summer Gym Scheduled:

There is no work scheduled for the gym over the summer as of right now so in theory there should be gym assess most of the summer. The lights do need to be fixed and Angie has asked that the banners be hung when the high rise is already in the gym doing the lights.

Bursary Committee:

Emma Greenwell

Michelle Quigley

Angie Farrow

Jen Crosman

Elizabeth Ekins

Next meeting February 2nd at 5:30pm