

Spirit of Hope Secondary School PAC

AGM Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2025

6:30pm

Type of Meeting: AGM

Meeting Facilitator: Jessica Thompson, Chair

Meeting Minutes Prepared By : Jessica Broswick

- I. Call to Order – 6:47 pm
- II. In Attendance
Crystal Alexander, Teresa Lyons, Jessica Thompson, Jessica Broswick, Chelsea Lohmaier, Teacher Rep: Jon Polishak, Principal: Wade Peary, Vice-Principal: Joanne Brown
- III. Approval of Agenda – With addition of AGM to Open Issues. Motion by C.A. second T.L.
- IV. Approval of April 15, 2025 Minutes. Motion by T.L. second C.A.
- V. Principal's Report to PAC :
 - A. New Staff Introduction
 - Vice-Principal: Joanne Brown
 - Indigenous Grad Coach: Guy Morran
 - French Teacher: Heather Murphy
 - Foods Teacher: Zoe Kirk
 - Grade 7 Teacher: Kevin Craig
 - Jr Counsellor: Robert Skinner
 - Boys Soccer: Coaches Randy Taylor and Richard Haworth. Sr Soccer Tournament Oct 3-4, 2025.
 - Cross Country: Coach Nathaniel Meyerhoff. Cross Country Meet on Monday.
 - Swimming: Teacher Sponsor Jon Polishak
 - B. School Name Change
 - The new name for Hope Secondary School is Shxwelis te Ts'qó:ls – Spirit of Hope Secondary School. The name was suggested by Elder Patricia John and was officially proposed to the Board of Education in May 2025, with plans for the formal change to begin in the 2025-2026 school year. The name incorporates the Halq'eméylem language, with Shxwelis meaning "life spirit of all living things" and Ts'qó:ls being the traditional name for the Hope area.

C. Summary of Name Change Process

- Initial Idea: The concept for the name change originated from student Tristen Kelly.
- Elder Consultation: Elder Patricia John suggested the specific Halq'eméylem name.
- Community Input: The school engaged Elders, staff, and community members to shape the proposed name.
- Formal Presentation: A formal request for the name change was presented to the Board of Education in May 2025.
- Community Feedback: The school gathered electronic feedback from the community on the proposed name change.
- Official Name: The formal name is Shxwelis te Ts'qó:ls – Spirit of Hope Secondary School.
- SOHSS has new floor decals. Will have new name signage, a new Welcome Figure at the entrance, and a new Wall Mural coming.

D. School Updates

- Student enrollment numbers are up, 390 approx. (380 last year)
- The school is down by five staff members – 1 inclusive educator, 1 teacher, 3 educational assistants. We are working to find new educational assistants.
- SOHSS currently has all of the staff that we are allocated for teaching, however the numbers are not currently aligning. Grade 8 has 64 students, Grade 9 has 62-63, which equates to 2.5 classes when school could use 3. We are using inclusive educators to help teach.
- Offering more online than ever – Grades 10-12 can take courses online through the school and can be supported through the school. Sourcing in house allows us some flexibility with ability to monitor, and expands what we can offer.
- There are other courses that we are able to offer online i.e.. Entrepreneurial 12
- 100 course counts of online school – 60 are careers, 12 are outside of the timetable. 40 students adds \$120, 0000 into the school budget
- Parent/Teacher interviews November 27, 2025 & May 7, 2026
- Mountain School: Mt Frosty Hike Tomorrow

E. New Vice-Principal - Joanne Brown

- Has 31 years of teaching, mainly Abby Bateman and Rick Hansen.
- First Vice-Principal position
- Was a science high school teacher - biology 12
- Published articles and won awards – Prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence (PMA) which honors teachers for their use of innovative and exemplary teaching practices.

- Spoke about her personalized teaching where students can collaborate in tests for more authentic assessment and collaboration.
- Skills in instructional assessment and reporting and has experience working with the ministry on this.
- Uses systems more inclusive for students, not just focusing on content but how can you demonstrate the skills. This strategy moves away from memorizing everything.

VI. DPAC Report: No DPAC Rep at this time. Nothing to report.

VII. Treasurer's Report:

- A. General Operating Account Balance \$13,753.86 Gaming Account Balance \$1,064.11. Motion by T.L., second J.B.
- B. Appeal came through in July for the Gaming Grant. Crystal will have outgoing correspondence at the next PAC meeting and have done the grant reconciliation for next month.
- C. BCCPAC membership renewed for 2025/2026 year.

VIII. AGM Resignations/Nominations/Vote :

Chairperson - Jessica Thompson, nominated, no other nominations, accepted, all in favor.

Co-Chairperson - Teresa Lyons nominated, no other nominations, accepted, all in favor.

Treasurer - Crystal Alexander nominated, no other nominations, accepted, all in favor.

Secretary - Jessica Broswick nominated, no other nominations, accepted, all in favor.

DPAC Representative - deferred.

IX. Correspondence:

- A. Email about next PAC meeting – better communication regarding PAC meeting dates was discussed.
- B. PAC Scholarship Criteria was submitted by Keunen DeSerrano and Shiane Simms for cheques to be issued.

X. Other Business:

- A. Separate bylaw review committee to continue to meet to go over bylaw revisions, create and replace bylaws for SOHSS, using the Government of B.C. model bylaws, BCCPAC bylaw sample guidelines, other School District 78 Bylaws and DPAC recent bylaw change process, ensuring they comply with the Societies Act and Roberts

Rules of Order, following SD78 District Guidelines. New bylaws will be adopted in coordination with BCCPAC. Once review is completed, new bylaw will be put forward to membership for 30 days and confirmation via ordinary resolution and then filed at SOHSS and the SD78 District Board Office. Bylaws will be reviewed and approved annually, following PAC AGM.

- B. PAC funded Family Photo/Art Night will be held on Feb 12, 2026, prior to Family Day.
- C. Remind staff of the form for funding requests for Curricular vs. Non-curricular, or submitting through teacher rep – Jon Polishak. Ask for staff to resubmit requests for this year.
- D. Teacher Sponsor request for Drama Trip Subsidy:
 - Day in the city for students to see "Little Women" on Granville Island and "Romeo & Juliet" at Studio 58 in late November.
 - J.T. suggested motion by proxy for PAC to subsidize up to \$2500 – Motion by C.A., Seconded by T.L.

XI. Next PAC meeting October 2, 2025 @ 5:00pm

XII. Adjournment at 7:31pm.