Hello, and welcome to this summary of the Lord Nelson PAC Meeting held on Wednesday, November 19th, 2025. This overview provides the key discussions and action items from the meeting, organized by the official agenda topics.

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1 & 2. Welcome and Approval of Minutes

The meeting began with a land acknowledgement and introductions of the PAC Executive, Co-chairs Emily Lefebvre and Tegan Williams, and Principal Jason Eng. New microphones were tested in a bid to improve AI transcription and automate minute-taking. Following revisions by PAC members, the AI-drafted minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

3. DPAC Update

DPAC Representative Katherine Rosenbaum reported on highly political issues involving the VSB, primarily concerning real estate and land dealings. Key concerns included:

• The contentious closure of Carlton Elementary despite community need.

• The rezoning and leasing of Fleming Elementary grounds for condos, which removes expansion space for the growing school.

• The VSB underspent its federal grant for inclusive education by over a million dollars, redirecting that money into administration salaries.

• Declining literacy rates in BC, with the VSB receiving grant money for dyslexia screeners but failing to adequately implement them.

4. Principal's Report

Principal Jason Eng provided updates on school functionality and upcoming events.

A requisition was submitted for three additional bike racks for the school grounds, with the estimated $4,000 cost being shared between the PAC and the school. Regarding school grounds beautification and adding shade, Jason proposed a working group of interested parents and plans to host an initial walkthrough to generate ideas, which will be a focus at the next PAC meeting.

Upcoming events include the Winter Concert on December 11th, a PAC-funded Digital Literacy Session for Grades 3 to 5 after the break, and a new structure for the Black History Matters Workshops designed to provide unique content for students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 year after year.

Finally, Nelson Elementary is piloting the new electronic report card system, *Spaces EDU*, which will replace the outdated CSL. Families must look out for an invitation email to set up their accounts this week.

5. Treasurer Update

Treasurer Christine McCallum reported strong fundraising returns, including $1,800 netted from Sun Oka Apples. The PAC received the Gaming Grant of **$9,360** for student and parent activities. Hot Lunch subsidies totalled nearly $1,200 for nine children, noting that profits and subsidies are successfully netting out as intended. Initial funds ($3,500) were spent securing the Bouncy Castle and stage for the Spring Fair. Christine suggested a mid-year budget assessment, as teacher stipends are currently underspent.

6. Equity, Inclusion, and Awareness Initiatives

The PAC approved a targeted **Holiday Donation Drive for the Kettle Society**, running from November 24th to early December 8th. The drive seeks specific non-perishable foods like cranberry sauce and stuffing, adult winter clothing (especially wool socks), and cash donations, which the PAC will facilitate through platforms like Muncha Lunch or School Cash Online. Students will also be involved in creating anonymous holiday cards.

7 & 8. Garden Club and Hot Lunch Updates

The Garden Club is focusing on developing upper garden beds with indigenous plants and is running the West Coast Seeds fundraiser. The club made an urgent call for new volunteers, particularly those available on **Fridays between 1 pm and 3 pm**, and those interested in long-term leadership.

Hot Lunch is operating smoothly but requires more volunteers, especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays and for the upcoming White Spot Day. The PAC agreed that volunteer recruitment should emphasize the enjoyable and social aspects of participation.

9 & 10. Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

Pancake Day is scheduled for Monday, December 1st, and volunteers are needed to help cook and distribute pancakes (including vegan and gluten-free options).

Following the Movie Night, a proposal was made to purchase a $1,500 popcorn maker, which would be available for free school use and Grade 7 fundraising. The PAC decided to first **rent or borrow a 6-ounce popper** to test its capacity before committing to the capital purchase.

For resilience, organizers were reminded to identify and train a second person for all events and fundraisers to ensure continuity. Donald’s Gift Card runs are planned for February, April, and May.

11. Communications and Other Items

The most critical item discussed was executive succession. The PAC is in **critical need of a Treasurer for next September** as the PAC cannot function without this role. Co-chairs Emily and Tegan will also reach their term limits soon. The Secretary position was highlighted as a good "soft entry" point for new members.

Finally, parent feedback was requested regarding the current school photo provider. Feedback noted dissatisfaction with the white backgrounds and the high volume of candid "silly face" photos. Jason Eng

agreed to take the collected feedback to the current photography company to explore options for providing both classic seated portraits and candid shots.