



**Queen Margaret's School  
Parents' Association (PA) Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2025**

**Attendees:**

**PA Executive**

Neemet McDowell (Chair)  
Michelle Gergely (Treasurer)

**Regrets:**

Darrel Siegel (Vice Chair)  
Taren Phillips (Secretary)  
Asti Williams (Community Welfare)  
Natalie Macgregor (Past Chair)

**QMS Staff**

Heather Bartfai, Director of Alumni, Community & Donor Engagement  
Elisabeth Ruitter, Vice Principal, Junior School  
Alison Galloway, Principal, Junior School`

**PA Members**

Kevin B

- Call to Order 7:03pm (Neemet)
- Territorial Acknowledgement (Neemet)
- Welcome and Introductions
- Attendance (recorded)
- Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2025
  - Elisabeth - approved; Kevin - seconded – all in favor.

**Reports**

**Chair:** Neemet McDowell

- The Holiday Market & Fair was a very successful event and it created a great connection with staff, students, parent volunteers and people from the community. Fundraising total was ~\$25,000. We were able to update and improve on things from last year and are collecting input and ideas for next year. Have also reached out to vendors for their ideas for ways we can improve.

- Thank You Breakfast was well attended – thank you to Jess and Heather for all of your help with the market and the breakfast!
- Special mention to Kevin, our Raffle Ticket seller extraordinaire!
- We had a lot of new parents get involved this year, which was great.
- Consider selling any remaining pre-orders at the Wrestling Tournament that takes place shortly after the market.

**Vice-Chair:** Darrel Siegle (per Neemet)

- Raffle sold over \$12,000 (still finalizing numbers). Aim to announce student ticket sale winners at the Jingle Jog on Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Working on moving the raffle sales online next year. Currently getting quotes from different companies that manage online raffle sales. Other schools have seen a large increase in money raised from fundraising after moving online. Most of the pre-order sales and vendor sign-ups were made electronically this year.

**Secretary:** Taren Phillips (per Neemet)

- Very excited about how smoothly the HMF came together this year. It was wonderful to see all of the families and volunteers supporting each other to make the event such a success!

**Treasurer:** Michelle Gergely

- HMF Expenses: \$4008, Profit: \$24,858
- PA donated \$6000 on Giving Tuesday.
- General account balance *\$20,784.02 (update)*
- Gaming account balance *\$183.36 (update)*

**Community Welfare:** Asti Williams (per Neemet)

- Sending out congratulations and condolences.
- Preparing a holiday thank you e-card for staff.

**Past Chair:** Natalie Macgregor (per Neemet)

- Created a fun miniature golf game that can be used at future events.

**Guest Speakers**

Alison Galloway, Junior School Principal & Elisabeth Ruter, Junior School Vice Principal. Both will return in March for the PA Meeting.

- Alison is new to her position as Junior School Principal this year but acted as Junior School Vice Principal for the past three years and is thrilled to be working with Elisabeth.
- Elisabeth has been at QMS for 10 years, teaching grades 6 & 7, and she is also alumni. She is very happy about her new role as VP!
- Working on building connections with families by offering more initiatives such as coffee mornings and guest speakers.



- Julian Richards, who spoke to families about anxiety last year, is coming back in January to speak about social media usage and its effects on students.
- Open to suggestions on ways to improve the connection with the families at the school.
- One suggestion from parents was about making the transition from Grade 7 to Grade 8 easier and more seamless. Alison said they are doing more throughout the year to help the students feel comfortable, including info sessions and get-togethers. They welcome feedback from parents.

### **For Discussion and Updates**

#### Staff Appreciation

- PA to give out holiday e-cards in early December, followed by treats in early February.  
Option to order cards by Created by Kids (2026)

#### Grade Reps

- Ideas to make next year even smoother for the grade reps.
- Lucy sent out a summary to the grade reps about the highlights from the market, including the results of the silent auction and the raffle.

#### Mabel's Labels (ongoing): more funds coming in.

- Reminder to parents that this is a great fundraiser, if you need labels for your children, home or office.

#### Community Fun Night – Heather considering dates for a spring event.

Parents to keep an eye out for student group fundraisers coming up!

### **New Business**

- Review addendum from the November Meeting Minutes regarding the approval to donate \$6000 towards Giving Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. These funds will go towards the Wish List.
- Aim to have the Wish List by Spring Break, to allow more time to approve items.
- Volunteer call-out for the Jingle Jog Fundraiser happening on Friday, Dec.19<sup>th</sup>
  - Require 7-8 parent volunteers between 9:45-11:15am to help hand out hot chocolate and cookies.
  - The event is a great way to bring in the holiday spirit!
  - Supports the Clement's Centre, with is a great local organization that helps people with intellectual and physical disabilities find work in the community so that they can gain independence.

All meeting minutes are posted on the parent portal for reference, and any questions can be emailed to [qmspac@qms.bc.ca](mailto:qmspac@qms.bc.ca).

### **Next Meeting:**

Monday, February 2, 2026 at 8:30am in Karin Quinn Hall  
Meeting Adjourned, 7:45pm (Neemet)

