

# MINUTES



**DPAC**  
DISTRICT PARENT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Date:** October 26, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Executives in Attendance:** Shannon Rose, Chair  
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair  
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer  
Winsome Rauch, Secretary  
Heidi Smit Vinois, Special Education Representative  
Kara Dickson, Director  
Amy MacKenzie, Director

**Attendance:** See Zoom Attendance attached.

**Special Guests:** Assistant Superintendent Carla Danielsson, Trustee Korky Neufeld

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## 1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. A quorum was met.

## 2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

## 3 Special Guests – Assistant Superintendent Carla Danielsson and Trustee Korky Neufeld

### 3.1 Presentation from Assistant Superintendent Carla Danielsson

Assistant Superintendent Danielsson's talk centered on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in schools. In the past two years, elementary schools prioritized connecting students with caring adults, informed by neuroscience. There was a shared understanding among teachers, EAs, administrators, and noon-hour supervisors about the needs and challenges of young learners, forming the basis for creating safe, nurturing, and courageous learning communities. The "why" behind behavior was emphasized, recognizing it as a form of communication, often expressing needs for safety, belonging, and trust. Noon hour supervisors play a vital role in nurturing SEL. The Assistant Superintendent introduced "BBRAVVE" as a key SEL concept, emphasizing the Brain-Behavior relationship, the centrality of Relationships, Amplify Visibility of positive behaviour recognition, Validation of Experience, and understanding emotional brain functioning. The meeting concluded with a commitment to implement SEL principles through ongoing collaboration. The presentation will be shared on the DPAC Facebook page when available.

### 3.2 Q&A with Assistant Superintendent Carla Danielsson and Trustee Korky Neufeld

A question was asked regarding addressing students' experiences or their emotions. The response emphasized the importance of looking at situations from the child's perspective and understanding that experience encompasses both the situation and the associated feelings.

Training for noon-hour supervisors was discussed. Noon-hour supervisors received training October 16 and 17, with 80 people already trained. Plans were made to continue training at a different time for those not covered in the initial sessions. On-boarding for new supervisors might include this training as a mandatory component. Additional training sessions in January were considered, with outreach to schools not represented during the initial training. Staffing challenges due to the redeployment of the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) teacher were noted. The training sessions were approximately 2 hours long, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Advanced notice was sent to principals a week and a half ahead of time.

### 3.3 Trustee Neufeld provided insights into recent activities and concerns he has been involved with, including:

- A meeting on October 19, where all board chairs in the province discussed funding, teacher shortages, and various pressing issues with MLAs in the legislature. However, no specific timeline for resolution was mentioned.
- Minister Singh's new requirements regarding indigenous living on reserves and indigenous issues in general.
- The district's plan to revisit the strategic plan in the coming year, with a strong focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) due to the challenges faced by students and staff post-COVID.
- The introduction of a new superintendent, Sean Nosek, and two new assistant superintendents.
- Discussions with three South Asian temples to address concerns and provide information about SOGI 123 and the district's requirements. The desire for more dialogue to improve communication was expressed.

Trustee Neufeld concluded by mentioning the challenges of managing an unexpected increase of 400 students and the resulting pressure on the district. He noted that the district is handling these challenges fairly well.

### 3.4 Second Q&A with Assistant Superintendent Carla Danielsson and Trustee Korky Neufeld

A question was raised parents' access to their children's grades, noting that currently, only students have access to this information on MyEd. They inquired whether this limitation was a technical issue. It was mentioned that in the past, there were platforms like "Check My Progress" and "Check My Mark" that allowed parents to access grades promptly.

However, the district transitioned to the MyEd platform this year. The parent portal for online access is not yet activated as staff training is in progress. In elementary schools, parents can use Seesaw, but this feature is not available for middle and secondary school parents. The goal is to make this information available for parents, though it's expected to be implemented later in 2024.

It was clarified that while not all elementary and middle schools use Seesaw or offer direct after-school communication with teachers, the district is prioritizing secondary and middle schools for the implementation of the parent portal in MyEd. Most elementary school parents are comfortable emailing teachers for information about their children's progress.

A follow-up question sought to confirm if parents could currently check online whether their child is passing or failing. The response was that parents need to email the teacher to inquire about their child's performance. The plan for the next school year is to implement a system where parents can view their child's academic progress online.

Another concern raised was related to district support well-being and camaraderie at a school, especially given the cancellation of the Christmas concert. A connection was suggested between the parents and Assistant Superintendent Danielsson to discuss the situation at the school.

#### **4 Approval of the Minutes from September 28, 2023**

##### 4.1 Approving the minutes

Secretary Winsome Rauch read the minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting.

It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Vice Chair Michelle Bastien THAT the minutes of the September 28, 2023 General Meeting be approved as presented.  
CARRIED

##### 4.2 Movie License Question

There was a question about the potential for a collective district movie license for cost-efficiency. The response was that movie licenses are location-specific, so a single district-wide license may not yield cost savings. This idea would be discussed at the district-level board office to ease school-level budget concerns. If a collective license were considered, it wouldn't be implemented until the 2023/24 academic year. The recommendation was for schools to continue buying individual licenses for the current year. Some PACs might contribute half the cost, but PACs have the option to decline payment if the school asks them to contribute.

#### **5 Treasurer report**

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances as of September 28, 2023

#### 5.1 DPAC General Account

Opening as of September 28	\$ 6,688.13
BCCPAC Memberships	\$ (2,625.00)
Mountain Elementary BCCPAC	\$ (70.00)
Meet the Superintendent supplies	\$ (47.95)
Zoom licence	\$ (132.56)
Closing Balance Oct 26, 2023	<u>\$ 3,812.62</u>

#### 5.2 DPAC Gaming Account

Opening as of September 28	\$ 2,272.93
BC Gaming	\$ 2,500.00
DPAC Zoom	\$ (132.56)
DPAC BCCPAC Membership	\$ (150.00)
Closing Balance Oct 26, 2023	<u>\$ 4,490.37</u>

### 6 Old Business

#### 6.1 BCCPAC Memberships

On Monday, codes were emailed to members by BCCPAC, along with instructions on how to renew their membership using the provided code. PAC memberships were paid for by the district, please follow through. Renewing membership with this code grants members the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and on resolutions.

#### 6.2 GEM (Gender Equity Movement) Presentation

The DPAC Executive informed attendees that they plan to watch the Gender Equity Movement (GEM) presentation in the coming weeks. They will then report back on the presentation and its content.

### 7 New Business

#### 7.1 Elementary Education Night

This **Elementary Education Night** is an event to address general PAC operations. Details, including dates and format (in-person or online), will be communicated soon. Schools awaiting information can expect an email tomorrow.

#### 7.2 Parent Night Series

7.2.1 3rd Installment: **Youth Homelessness and Youth Substance Abuse**. Date: November 15<sup>th</sup> Time: 7-9 pm; Location: WJ Mouat Secondary

#### 7.3 SD34

- 7.3.1 **Be Well, Be Safe Presentation.** This was held October 18 at Abby Arts. The focus was on sex trafficking and the target audience was parents of middle school and high school students, but also open to the broader community. DPAC has flyers available for reference and can provide the video link for those interested.
- 7.3.2 **Take Our Kids to Work Day** (Grade 9 students) November 1<sup>st</sup>
- 7.3.3 **Public Board Meeting** on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm
- 7.3.4 **Catchment Boundary Changes** were discussed at October 10 online Public Board Meeting to meet the demand from new housing developments. Watch the discussion on the Abby Schools YouTube page. Affected schools will receive invites from the school district to attend an upcoming meeting with DPAC and the district on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at the school board office to address questions. Affected schools: (East Side) Bateman Secondary, Margaret Stenersen Elementary, Clayburn Middle, Fraser Middle, and Prince Charles Elementary; (West Side) Blue Jay Elementary and Dave Kandal Elementary.
- 7.3.5 **BCCPAC Virtual Townhall** on November 8; Time: 7-8:30 pm via Zoom. Members registered by November 5 can submit three questions for the Townhall.
- 7.3.6 Upcoming **ERASE Parent/Caregiver Training Sessions** Presented by Safer Schools Together. ERASE presentations listed on Facebook page. Three available dates: November 8, November 28, November 30. Theme: Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities.

## 8 Open Floor

A question was asked about communication from BCCPAC. Information from BCCPAC should be going to your school PAC emails.

## 9 Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held November 23, 2023 at 7pm.

## 10 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM

## Zoom Attendance Report

Name (Original Name)
Shannon Rose
DPAC Secretary - Winsome Rauch (Winsome Rauch)
Korky.Neufeld (Abbotsford)
Naomi- Terry Fox
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair
Amanda-Terry Fox
Dr. Degenhardt
tracey
CARLA.DANIELSSON
Maddison Nipkow bradner elementary school (Maddison's iPhone)
Amanda Degenhardt (Centennial Park E) (Dr. Degenhardt)
Amy MacKenzie - DPAC Director & Dr. T.A. Swift Rep (Amy MacKenzie - TA Swift Rep & DPAC Director)
Josephine Leonard - WJ Mouat Secondary and Chief Dan George Midd (Josephine Leonard)
Amanda-Terry Fox
Deanna - Terry Fox PAC
parampreet kaur grewal -Blue Jay Elementary school & Eugene Reim (parampreet kaur grewal)
Bethany White - Aberdeen
Marc Vella - Abby Senior (Marc Vella)
Dee Sekhon   Fraser Middle (Dee Sekhon)
Adaora Ijeoma:Auguston traditional elementary (Hon Adaora)
Kara DPAC Director- IKT Rep
jas ats (SD34 DPAC Zoom #1)
Lisa Brandsma
Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Bateman (Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Clayburn)
Heidi Vinois (she/her)