

MINUTES



DPAC
DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: November 23, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

Executives in Attendance: Shannon Rose, Chair
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer
Winsome Rauch, Secretary
Clara Chahwan, Inclusion Representative
Amy MacKenzie, Director

Attendance: See Zoom Attendance attached.

Special Guests: Deputy Superintendent Nathan Ngieng, Trustee Rupi Kanda-Rajwan

1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. A quorum was met.

2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

3 Special Guests – Deputy Superintendent Nathan Ngieng and Trustee Rupi Kanda-Rajwan

3.1 Presentation from Deputy Superintendent Nathan Ngieng

The presentation focused on Middle Schools within the school district, emphasizing a commitment to 4,500 students across 6 middle schools, with a vision for a joyful inquiry-based learning experience. The district is aligned with the strategic plan pillars, particularly emphasizing student success. An equity framework is in place to ensure schools are equitable and inclusive on individual, interpersonal, structural, and pedagogical levels.

The middle school philosophy, guided by Dr. Leyton Schnellert, centers on valuing diversity, identity, and personal learning, with a focus on collaborative practice and differentiated instruction. The middle school years are recognized as a crucial period for brain development, encompassing aspects of independence, peer groups, and identity formation.

Student well-being is a priority, with annual participation in a youth development survey and a commitment to improving well-being compared to provincial benchmarks. Key areas of focus include literacy and numeracy, curriculum collaboration through professional development, and collaboration on learning support services, particularly mental health and well-being.

The Truth and Reconciliation commitment involves projects such as the Welcome Project and the Paddle Project in collaboration with the Indigenous Education Department led by

district principal Darlene MacDonald. These projects engage Indigenous students in activities like Grade 5 drum-making and Grade 12 blanketing ceremonies, aiming to reshape the experience of Indigenous students in the school system. The presentation highlights specific activities, such as a Grade 8 Paddle Project trip to Harrison Lake, and emphasizes the importance of storytelling and cultural engagement. YouTube videos are available to showcase these projects, and they form part of the onboarding process for employees.

3.2 Q&A with Deputy Superintendent Nathan Ngieng and Trustee Rupi Kanda-Rajwan

3.2.1 French Exceptions in Individualized Education Plans (IEP): Is the district discontinuing French exceptions in the context of an IEP? The response was that there hasn't been a change in this regard. The suggestion was that the concerned parent engage in a conversation with the principal to address any discrepancies or confusion. If needed, the district can offer clarification and support.

3.2.2 Inclusivity of Indigenous Activities: Are indigenous activities only for indigenous students? The response was that the aim is to include all students, but certain activities, like the Paddle Project, are specifically available to indigenous students. Complementary activities for the entire class are also organized. The First Peoples Principles of Learning are incorporated in curriculum, and there is a Truth and Reconciliation graduation requirement, providing opportunities for everyone.

A follow-up question was asked about whether these activities were at the discretion of the teachers or indigenous support teachers. The reply was that we want to offer these opportunities to all indigenous students so they are managed at the district level. For instance, all grade 8 students in the district participate in the Paddle Project.

A clarification question was asked about the after-school activities. Some indigenous support staff are highly engaged and set up clubs open to all students in the school, though this may not be the case at all schools.

Assistant Superintendent Ngieng's slides are available to be sent out upon request.

4 Approval of the Minutes from October 26, 2023

4.1 Approving the minutes

Secretary Winsome Rauch read the minutes of the October 26, 2023 meeting.

It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Vice Chair Michelle Bastien THAT the minutes of the October 26, 2023 General Meeting be approved as presented.
CARRIED

5 Old Business

5.1 BCCPAC Memberships

Chair Shannon Rose reminded three schools that 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, the pending schools should follow through. Renewing membership with this code grants members the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and on resolutions.

6 BCCPAC DPAC Summit Recap

Secretary Winsome Rauch attended the BCCPAC DPAC Summit on Friday, November 17, 2023 on behalf of Abbotsford DPAC and provided a summary of the conference. The theme of the conference was Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Tracy Humphrey was introduced as the new executive director of BCCPAC.

- 6.1 Associate Deputy Minister Melanie Stewart began with emphasis on PACs' crucial role, addressing diversity, and post-COVID enrollment challenges. Legislative updates included Bill-40 receiving royal assent, bringing changes for indigenous peoples, and mandatory Holocaust education for high school students for 2025/26. Budget 2023 prioritized long-term funding for food programs, workforce shortages, and innovative school construction. Challenges like workforce shortages were mentioned. A \$156 million capital investment in pre-fabricated additions for 104 new classrooms, report cards, and child care concerns were discussed. Q&A sessions covered inclusive education progress, gender-based violence, and assessments.
- 6.2 Additional morning sessions on Accessible BC Act and SOGI-Inclusive Education were held, emphasizing the need for accessibility committees and inclusive policies. The afternoon session focused on reconciliation in education, aligning with broader efforts for inclusivity and equity.
- 6.3 Parents are urged to participate in the Child Care - School-Aged Parent Survey (ages 4-12, K-7) that will be distributed on November 21. The survey aims to assess the demand for childcare for school-aged children. Your input is vital in ensuring accurate and comprehensive data for informed decision-making.

7 Treasurer report

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances as of November 23, 2023

7.1 DPAC Gaming Account

Opening as Oct 26, 2023	\$ 4,490.37
Add	
Less	
Closing Balance Nov 23, 2023	<u>\$ 4,490.37</u>

7.2 DPAC General Account

Opening as of Oct 26, 2023	\$ 3812.62
Less Nov 16, 2023 Shannon Rose #118 Reimburse Bateman BCCPAC Fee	\$ (75.00)
Less Nov 16, 2023 Eugene Reimer #119 Reimburse BCCPAC Fee	<u>\$ (75.00)</u>
Closing Balance Oct 26, 2023	<u>\$ 3,662.62</u>

8 New Business

8.1 Boundary Changes Discussion - November 20 Online Public Board Meeting

Catchment Boundary Changes were deliberated upon during the November 20 Online Public Board Meeting to address the growing demand resulting from new housing developments. The discussion is available for viewing on the Abby Schools YouTube page. Affected Schools that received invites: (East Side) Bateman Secondary, Margaret Stenersen Elementary, Clayburn Middle, Fraser Middle, and Prince Charles Elementary. (West Side) Blue Jay Elementary and Dave Kandal Elementary. If you are from any of these schools, a survey has been sent to you. Regardless of whether you oppose or agree with the proposed changes, it is crucial for the district to gather your input. These changes do not impact current attendees of the schools. For those with questions directed towards city planners, please ensure submission before the deadline on September 1. This ensures that the feedback can be considered in the planning process.

8.2 Parent Night Series third installment, focusing on **Youth Homelessness and Youth Substance Abuse**, is scheduled for November 27th from 7 to 9 pm at WJ Mouat Secondary. All are welcome to attend.

Four speakers from Fraser Health will be presenting on the topic, followed by a presentation session. Additionally, a dedicated period of at least 30 minutes has been allocated for Questions and Answers.

8.3 SD 34 Public Board Meeting on December 5th at 7 pm

9 Open Floor

9.1 Parent Night Series Topics

A question was raised regarding the selection of topics for the parent night series. The response highlighted that topics are determined based on a survey conducted at the beginning of last year. The aim is to align topics with themes relevant to each month. For example, November, being Substance Abuse Awareness Month, would have related topics. The selection of speakers involves collaboration with the district to identify those who would best address the chosen topics.

9.2 Social Media Parent Night Suggestion

A suggestion was made for a session on social media training, focusing on how to educate parents on effective communication with their children and staying informed about the ever-evolving landscape of social media. A past “CyberSafe from Exploitation” online session in April covered social media awareness and was well-attended, but access to the video has expired; you can email dpac.sd34@gmail.com for the slide deck. Mention was made of BCCPAC ERASE sessions, which also address social media education.

9.3 Students at upcoming Substance Abuse Presentation

A question arose about whether children could attend the upcoming Substance Abuse presentation at Mouat. DPAC will confirm and provide clarification on whether children are welcome.

9.4 GEM Presentation

There was a question about the GEM presentation at Bateman, and it was communicated that the executive team would discuss it in an executive meeting immediately following. Members were invited to provide their reflections if they wanted to stay on afterwards.

9.5 DPAC Funding

Regarding DPAC funding, it was explained that Gaming provides \$2500 for parent education. Community partners such as Fraser Health, Foundry, Abbotsford Police Department do not charge us for presenting. \$5000 from the district covers BCCPAC memberships and the minimal surplus is used to purchase refreshments for in-person meetings.

10 Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held January 25, 2024 at 7pm.

11 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Zoom Attendance Report

Name (Original Name)
Shannon Rose
Winsome Rauch DPAC Secretary (Winsome Rauch)
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair
Nathan Ngieng
Kristy Butterworth
Josephine Leonard
Manda-Terry Fox
tracey
Marc - Abby Sr (Marc Vella)
Rupi Rajwan
jas b ats dpac (SD34 DPAC Zoom #1)
Amy MacKenzie - DPAC Director and Dr. T.A. Swift Rep
Amanda Degenhardt - Centennial Park PAC (Dr. Degenhardt)
clara (iPhone)
Dee Sekhon Fraser Middle (Sean)
Deanna- Terry Fox PAC
Josephine Leonard WJ Mouat Secondary# Chief Dan George Middle (Josephine Leonard)
Kristy Butterworth
Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Bateman (Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Clayburn)