

MINUTES



DPAC
DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: September 28, 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
Clara Chahwan, Inclusion Representative
Kara Dickson, Director
Amy MacKenzie, Director

Attendance: See Zoom Attendance attached.

Special Guests: Superintendent Sean Nosek, Trustee Stan Petersen

1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. A quorum was met.

2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

3 Special Guests – Superintendent Sean Nosek and Trustee Stan Petersen

The Superintendent shared that he felt welcomed in the community as he visits our 46 schools and district sites. Excitement is building for the upcoming school year, with a focus on fostering a "culture of thriving" for students and staff.

- Progress was noted in planning educational platform work and maintaining excellent school facilities. Notable mentions included the modernization of Abbotsford Traditional School and capital projects at Auguston and Margaret Stenersen, adding eight classes at each site.
- Community outreach efforts included a Back-to-School program collaboration with Archway and the Salvation Army, distributing 800 backpacks funded by Tim Hortons Smile program.
- The IT department launched 5000 new Winbooks, and enrollment trends are positive, exceeding projections by about 200 students. The district serves just under 20,000 students, including 3000 ELL and 2000 Indigenous students.
- Staffing challenges persist with a significant labor shortage, though progress has been made since May in filling teacher and casual positions.

- The Superintendent introduced changes to the senior leadership team, welcoming new members with renewed energy.
- Upcoming events include a non-instructional day, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and Orange Shirt Day.

4 Q&A with Superintendent Sean Nosek and Trustee Stan Petersen

4.1 A question was asked regarding the oversight of high, middle, and elementary schools by the Assistant Superintendents. As of now, the distribution of roles is as follows: Jay Pankratz will oversee the secondary portfolio; Carla Danielsson will be responsible for elementary schools; Deputy Superintendent Nathan Ngieng will continue to handle middle school matters and operational aspects of SD; Bruce Cunnings will primarily focus on curriculum and provide support to Carla Danielsson in managing elementary schools.

4.2 A question was raised concerning the recent media coverage of our schools and the related issues. The Superintendent acknowledged that, recently, there have been protests around SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) both in Abbotsford and at the School Board Office. He expressed concern about the prevalence of misinformation regarding what our schools are implementing. He clarified that SOGI is not a specific program or curriculum and that some of the allegations and claims circulating about our schools do not originate from reliable sources.

The Superintendent emphasized that SOGI is about creating safe and welcoming spaces for everyone within our schools. He stressed that it's not an issue of ideology but rather a commitment to providing inclusivity and safety within the educational environment.

The discussion continued with a focus on addressing these concerns first at the classroom and school level and providing accurate information to the public.

4.3 A concern was raised related to explicit content in school libraries, as listed on social media. If a student brings home books that are deemed inappropriate for their age or grade level, parents are urged to discuss their concerns with the classroom teacher. The Superintendent stressed the importance of open communication at the school level rather than approaching these issues from an ideological standpoint.

4.4 A question was asked if there was a policy in place that allows children to keep secrets from their parents. The Superintendent stated that there is no policy that encourages children to keep secrets from their parents. However, he noted that the situation might be nuanced, particularly concerning the age of consent and a child's desire to be referred to by a certain name and gender. The school district's preferred approach is to facilitate these conversations with the support of the family. In instances where a young person feels unsafe, the response will be tailored to the child's age and circumstances. The

Superintendent emphasized that the school will not disclose a child's personal information to anyone else within the school community without proper authorization.

4.5 The Superintendent provided clarification on the age of consent, emphasizing that, from a legal standpoint, there is no exact age set but generally it falls around the age of 12. He highlighted that this pertains to matters concerning an individual's own personal life. He urged that if any family within the school community has encountered a situation related to the age of consent or any related matter, they should consider initiating a conversation at the school level. The aim is to tailor the response and support to the specific circumstances and needs of each family.

4.6 Participants inquired about the school district's long-term strategy concerning student enrollment and catchment boundaries. It was noted that the district is continually monitoring growth patterns and identifying pressure points within the educational system. It was noted that Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk is scheduled to attend the DPAC meeting in February, where he will have access to all relevant data and can address inquiries from parents and stakeholders.

4.7 A question was asked regarding the criteria for teacher qualifications. Currently, teachers in the district are required to be members of the college of teachers and hold a university degree from an accredited teacher college. The superintendent touched upon the challenge of growing demand for teachers, particularly during the winter months when staffing shortages can occur. In response to the demand for teachers, the district is considering exploring the use of uncertified teachers, specifically as Teacher-On-Call (TOCs). Some districts have already adopted this approach. The discussion revolved around the possibility of employing TOCs who may not have formal teaching certification but possess relevant university degrees and the feasibility of running in-house training programs to prepare TOCs to cover sick leave and other temporary staffing gaps.

5 Approval of the Minutes from May 25, 2023

Secretary Winsome Rauch read the minutes of the May 25, 2023, meeting.

It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Vice Chair Michelle Bastien THAT the minutes of the May 25, 2023 General Meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED

6 Treasurer report

6.1 Current Account Balances

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

6.1.1 General = Opening \$1955.18 + \$5000 from school district, less \$267.05 for BCCPAC expenses; closing \$6688.13

6.1.2 Gaming = Opening \$9055.72 + \$102.48 from BCCPAC reimbursing for travel; less \$5470.50 to School district for presentations; less BCCPAC conference \$1414.77; ending balance \$2272.93. We have not received gaming money yet.

6.2 Presentation and approval of 2023/24 budget

**Abbotsford DPAC
 Proposed Budget
 June 30, 2024**

	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>GAMING</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
REVENUE			
Funding from Abbotsford School District	5,000.00		5,000.00
2023/24 Gaming Grant		2,500.00	2,500.00
Unused 2022/23 Gaming Grant		2,272.93	2,272.93
Unused 2021/22 Gaming Grant		0.00	0.00
	5,000.00	4,772.93	9,772.93
EXPENSES			
BCCPAC membership dues - DPAC		150.00	150.00
BCCPAC membership dues - schools (\$75 x 44)	3,300.00		3,300.00
DPAC Summit - hotel room (2 nights x 1 room)		600.00	600.00
DPAC Summit - meals (2 executive x 2 days @ \$50/day)	200.00		200.00
Conference and AGM fee for 2 executive		600.00	600.00
Hotel fee for conference & AGM (3 nights x 1 rooms)		900.00	900.00
Meals for conference & AGM (2 executive x 3 days @ \$50/day)	300.00		300.00
Zoom license - DPAC		224.00	224.00
Zoom license - PACs	224.00		224.00
Guest speakers for Parent Night Series		1,000.00	1,000.00
Snacks and drinks for Parent Night Series (8 events x \$25)	200.00		200.00
Snacks for DPAC meetings (7 meetings x \$20)	140.00		140.00
DPAC website		500.00	500.00
	4,364.00	3,974.00	8,338.00
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	636.00	798.93	1,434.93

It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Inclusion Representative Clara Chahwan THAT the budget be approved as amended CARRIED

7 Old Business

7.1 GEM (Gender Equity Movement) Presentation

Shannon Rose reported that at the end of June, the GEM team was informed that if they were still interested in partnering with DPAC, they could arrange a time to present their presentation. However, as of August, no specific date for the presentation had been suggested, even though it was expected by Labor Day weekend. It was noted that the responsibility for scheduling the GEM Presentation now lies with the GEM team. DPAC will continue to await communication from the GEM team and to ensure that the presentation is appropriately vetted before it is presented to the district, trustees, and DPAC community.

8 New Business

8.1 BC Gaming Account Summary Report

Gaming summary reports for the fiscal year ending on June 30th are due 90 days after year-end, which falls on September 28. The financial report serves as a comprehensive record of how funds were allocated and spent during the year. Failure to submit this report on time may result in the withholding of gaming funds.

Additionally, it was mentioned that organizations should expect to hear whether their gaming applications have been approved in the next week or so, with October 15 being the target date for depositing approved funds into their bank accounts. Deposits are expected to be made during the week of October 16.

8.2 BCCPAC Memberships – Please email your request to have your PAC membership paid to DPAC tonight if you have not submitted it yet.

8.3 Elementary Education Night – This will address general questions about the operations of a PAC. It is currently in the planning stages and information will come soon about dates and whether it will be offered in-person or online.

8.4 Parent Night Series

8.4.1 The Welcome Project – October 11 7-8:30 pm at Indigenous Centre. District staff Darlene MacDonald and Christine Seymour presenting.

8.5 SD34

8.5.1 Stetis imexstowx (walk beside us) Gathering – September 30 10 am to 2 pm at the Civic Plaza. Abbotsford Children’s Theatre will present a “storybook live”.

8.5.2 Board Meeting – October 17, 7 pm at school board office

8.6 Be Well, Be Safe Presentation – October 18, 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM at Abby Arts: This informational session focusing on sex trafficking is intended primarily for parents of middle school and high school students but is open to the broader community.

9 Open Floor

9.1 Posting of Minutes: A question was asked about where the meeting minutes are posted. It was clarified that draft minutes are posted on Facebook and are made available on the district website after they have been approved.

9.2 Movie License Renewal Requirements: Participants inquired about movie licenses for schools. It was explained that each school should already have a movie license, and it needs to be renewed annually. Even short YouTube clips require a movie license. The license typically belongs to the school, not the PAC. Therefore, if a PAC wishes to show a movie, it should not be labeled as a PAC event; instead, the school should host it, and the PAC can provide support. It was emphasized that all schools are required to have a movie license, and principals should be contacted to confirm its status. While some schools may believe they don't need one, the potential fines for non-compliance are high.

9.3 DPAC Website Development: A question was asked about the potential DPAC website. The idea was to create a resource-rich website that could serve as a hub for information. The proposed website would collect emails and enable communication with PACs. It would act as a resource center with links to various topics, such as autism assessments, mental health resources, and guidance on obtaining an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). It was noted that the district does not currently provide such comprehensive information, making a DPAC website a valuable resource. Additionally, the website could be used to store DPAC meeting minutes and other relevant documents.

10 Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held October 26, 2023 at 7pm (Board office).

11 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM

Zoom Attendance Report

Name (Original Name)
Shannon Rose
Heidi (she/her) DPAC Special Education Rep
Winsome Rauch - DPAC Secretary
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair
Sean Nosek
SD34 Stan Petersen
Brooke SandyHill PAC
jas ats dpac rep
Elyse bradner elem
Maddison Niplow - Bradner Elementary
clara chahwan
Kim Hooper - South Poplar
parampreet kaur grewal- Blue Jay & Eugene Reimer Middle
Marc Vella - Abby Senior
Dee Sekhon - Fraser Middle
Jocelyn Radom/Bradner Elementary
Ray Velestuk
Josephine Leonard-Chief Dan George Middle and WJ Mouat Secondary
Amy MacKenzie (she/her) - TA Swift Rep & DPAC Director
Chelsea Smith
Megan Steenhuisen - Alexander Elementry PAC
Amanda M - Terry Fox Elementary
Diana Madden (Bradner)
Tara Lawrence - Clayburn Middle
Marlee Bassani
Aimee Miedema
Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC (Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Bateman)
Ginna Attal -Clearbrook PAC Rep
Kara DPAC Director- IKT Rep