

**Denman Island Community School PAC Meeting Minutes -
May 12, 2026 in the Denman Island Community School Library and via ZOOM**

Meeting Minutes: Kristen Wright

Chair: Emily Anderson

Vice Chair: Becky Nykwest

Treasurer: Kristen Wright

Secretary: Vacant

DPAC Rep: Sara Schouten

Members at Large: Lleilah Chernovsky, Will Lepore, Tahiti Rey, Quinn Lundberg, Leanna Pugsley, Mitch Dublanica

Regrets: Will Lepore, Tahiti Rey, Leanna Pugsley

Attendance: Becky Nykwest, Kristen Wright, Emily Anderson, Quinn Lundberg, Olena Starchuck, Lleilah Chernovsky, Keith Porteous, Karla Neufer, Gracie MacDonald, Mitch Dublanica, Gerli Metsar, Sara Schouten

ZOOM participants:

Guests: Karla Neufer, Gracie MacDonald

Meeting Called to Order at 5:36pm

Agenda Item	Action Required
<p>Welcome and Recognition of Traditional Territories We acknowledge that our community lies in the beautiful unceded and traditional territory of the K’ómoks First Nation, who have been the caretakers of the land that we live, work and play on since time immemorial.</p>	
<p>Introductions of all meeting attendees</p>	
<p>Confirmation of Quorum with three officers present</p>	
<p>Assignment of the Meeting Timekeeper</p>	<p>ACTION: Mitch , 5 min/topic</p>
<p>The Secretary explains the Consent Agenda (Pages 12-15)</p>	

<p>which includes reports from various officers and committees. The Consent Agenda aims to streamline meetings by including reports that don't require further discussion.</p> <p>Call to remove any items from the Meeting's Consent Agenda for further discussion or clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DICES Report - Items brought forward by a parent <p>Motion to accept all written reports on the Consent Agenda dated May 12, 2026</p> <p>Motion moved by: Quinn</p> <p>Seconded by: Keith</p> <p>Motion: Carried</p>	
<p>Motion to approve the Meeting Agenda for May 12, 2026</p> <p>Motion moved by: Keith</p> <p>Seconded by: Gerli</p> <p>Motion: Carried</p>	
<p>New Business</p> <p>1. <u>Election: PAC Secretary, Term May 1 to October AGM (Emily)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3 Calls for Nominations-<u>first call</u> (unanswered), <u>second call</u> (unanswered-role explained by Emily), Keith-suggested that a PAC executive to fill in the roll, good idea by everyone, <u>third call</u> (unanswered) ● Nominee names: None ● Open due to Kathryn resigning due to family reasons, roll does need to be filled as per our bylaws 	<p>ACTION: Re 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared roll by PAC executives <p>ACTION Re 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NONE

2- DICES Report:

- The use of the portable is up in the air, but should know by the end of the summer if it is approved for DICES to use. It is proposed to be used for afterschool program's, the foodbank and other DICES related items.
- The hot lunch program at the school is going well. There have been some cut backs, due to budget and food costs (currently, 4 families are using subsidies), DICES is hoping to have Tahiti to return for next year. The job will be posted.
- DICES received an unannounced inspection visit on April 23 during its after school programming, in response to a complaint filed with the Community Care Facilities Licensing division of Island Health. Karla participated in the inspection visit, due to a family emergency for Gracie. It was noted that no other community school has been reported in the past. Karla noted that the findings of the investigation will likely be made available on the licensing website. The findings were taken before the board and the outcome was positive and that DICES was not found to be in contempt/breach of any rules/regulations. And was not deemed to be running childcare. Previously, BBL, DICES and the school met to discuss licensing rules as it was brought up during a training session from licensing and so DICES was aware of the specific rules around offering after school programs. There will be another surprise visit from licensing in the near future.

Question from the room: Person wanted to know if

the superintendent was aware?

Answer: No, but the trustee is aware of the report.

- On more positive and exciting news, the Monday soccer club has been invited to Hornby, for a friendly game. DICES will take Monday soccer kids over to Hornby for the game, this will be in June, an exact date has not yet been set.

3. Collecting Voices and Experiences reflecting things we love or appreciate about our school (Karla)

Discussion:

- **Purpose:** To contribute to a document that reflects the culture and community of our unique school as a tool to support positive forward growth and to build on our strengths.
- **Collection Method:** to be decided at the meeting
- **Final product:** A celebration and acknowledgement, a resource, a legacy statement

Discussion Points:

- Lots of negativity directed at the school and the idea of bringing positive testimonials about the school and the kids who attend was thought to be a fantastic way to positively change that. Our school has been doing things similar to other schools in the district. We are striving to be the model school for how community school could and should be. This was brought forward by Dr. Jermev Morrow, SD71 superintendent.
- Some examples that have been heard already

ACTION: Re 3

- **PAC members** to ask 5 people for their testimonials and send into the PAC email account to be added to a working google document.
- **Kristen** to create a facebook post- "What makes a Denman kid"
- **Emily:** Will collect the submissions and send email final to Karla

are, “kids are creative”, positive interaction from a former student. “Nice and polite and enjoys coming here to work over schools”. “Community loves the school and supports the school and the kids”

- The idea originated from Quinn and Emily.
- **Sara:** suggested making art somehow to display the testimonials. This was met by overwhelming support.

4. DPAC Update (Sara): (not included this meeting)

5. Leanna’s request for discussion(These items below were copied directly from an email sent into the PAC account):

A: Pride Month: The school doesn't seem to be doing anything to acknowledge pride. If this is because it's covered by doing rainbow day in may this isn't a representation for pride as it's a June world wide event and should involve an assembly regarding the topic and individual class discussion and activities that educate around pride and show celebration. I would like to think of Denman as a diverse and all inclusive school and this is a very important educational topic.

Discussion Points:

- Education and curriculum already covers the topic. No individualised day is needed or assembly as it is supported in daily academics. There is currently a small student body at the school, with that, it was addressed

ACTION: Re 5

- **A:** See if Leanna can help with the Denman Pride event? Join the regular pride event with the **student council**.
- **B:** discussed during Old Business Item 1.
- **C:**
 - **Karla** to email to be sent out to families when there are water issues
 - Will discuss with both facilities to see if the use of their washrooms and sinks can be used in

that as an example, gender orientation is discussed in the class, the teachers feel that the stress can be caused if someone is singled out. Kids and the entire staff support each other as is and are usually discussed.

- **Sara:** Can Leanna help with Pride? Sara typically picks the date for the Denman Pride Parade depending on when others are done in surrounding communities. Hornby and Denman have been in contact to coordinate
- **Emily:** Idea, for the student council to be invited to help as well. The members of the student council already help out and will likely continue to.
- **Olena:** As a teacher and parent has made note that, it is not specifically pointed out, as students are supported as who they are without a label.
- Question from the room about SOGI in schools? Answer: SOGI: "A way of operating" and is integrated as per the curriculum. The school is very inclusive and diverse, kids are accepted as kids

Cross Pollination Festival:

- I saw from the previous minutes that an end of year event was discussed about a fun fair idea. I would like to put to the table of an all ages school wide disco as we've not had that before since I've been here anyway. The annual cross pollination festival is happening on the 5th of July and is a free full community event just as summer approaches, funded by DIRCS. We are having a full line up of performers and there's an opportunity to have stalls of goods for sale. We always want this event to turn into more of a fun fair vibe but

another water disruption.

getting community involvement has always been tough. If PAC, parents or the school would be prepared to run activities we will pay for them. It doesn't need to be long windows, each activity runs between sets for 30 mins and shouldn't take many people per event to run. Many hands make light work and were happy to pay for the things required....Ideas of slip and slide, face painting, tug of war, egg and spoon races, sac races, 3 legged races etc have been discussed. If things like cream pies in faces, apple bobbing or any other fun activities or bigger items like bounce house we could look at that too. The main thing is having people to help and not duplicating already existing events. Please let me know if there's any volunteers interested and any ideas from the PAC and kids that's of interest to make happen. Please confirm if the PAC as a whole, the school or any individuals in the room are keen to take on a window and run a particular event/s.

-Tabled to later in the meeting and discussed at Old Business item 1.

C: No water at the school:

- Please can we have more clarification around the lack of water issues? Things happen of course but there's been no communication directly to parents, I've had to find out from the kids both times and it would be nice to hear this from the school. I would also like to have the option to keep them in school or bring them home if that occurs as it's a BC WorkSafe issue and change to manage for

neurodivergent kids can be tough so as much notice as possible is needed. We've had some big unmasked days afterwards on those days.

Discussion points:

- Email was sent to the families during the last water shortage, sadly it was reported to DIRCS. It was an error in mentioning which facility was used during the day. This has since been communicated and discussed with the DIRCS Chair and has been sorted out.
- This past water disruption, the plumber came to work on the pump for the school's well. The school was given the standard "it won't be long" and "only takes an hour, will be back in a bit due to the cistern". These updates came throughout the day and by the time the plumbers had informed the school that the water was not coming back on it was already 2:00pm.
- Karla was able to find out that it is ok to not flush toilets and did log a complaint with worksafe about the lack of water. Humorous comments were made about Denman kids being used to outhouses and the suggestion of adding the possibility into a welcome package given to all new families at DCS
- Gracie: has history with schools in the past with no power and no water. It was noted that it is hard to close the school and that the superintendent makes the call to close
- Karla will do her best to email parents when there are water issues. This will be challenging to do on a Monday or Tuesday due to her teaching schedule.
- Question from the room: Possibility to use Community Hall or Activity Centre for emergency bathroom usage? Answer: Yes, and communication will happen with said boards.

Old Business

1. End of Year Community School Spirit Event (Lleilah & Spirit Committee)

● **Actions:**

- **Call for volunteer:** appointing an event co-leader to work with Lleilah
- Choosing a date
- Making a rough event plan
- Assigning tasks

Discussion:

- Ideas: Petting Zoo?, bouncy castle, slip and slide, cotton candy, snowcone maker (sugar free syrup), Hot dog roller, popcorn machine (already have), food trucks/tables, cake walk, teacher games (inside & outside: slang decoding, teacher races, teacher jeopardy), foam axe throwing, balloon pop, ring toss with cans, bedazzled corner/art corner and iron-ons, photo booth, face painting, balloon animals, mini golf.
- July 5 2026 for the Cross Pollination Festival, possible cross over/overlap event possibility? **Suggestions:** Not ideal to coordinate for the Cross Pollination Festival as it would possibly make it difficult for students, staff and families to attend as it is after the school year. The idea is to celebrate a completed school year and bring our school community together.

2. Constitution and By-Laws Update (Emily)

- We are working to finalize our updated Constitution and By-Laws by the June meeting. Ahead of that, we are seeking input on the following topics:

- Quorum determination for meetings: *currently 3 executives needed, ?change to the number of voting members outway the non-voting members, (discussion: Keith-have the chair or vice-chair*

ACTION: Re: 1

- **Becky** to send Lleilah Cynthia Midden contact details
- **Lleilah** to meet with Karla to pick a date
- **Karla** to check with the district for any possible restrictions
- **Sara** to ask DPAC as well for restrictions
- **Becky, Kristen, Sara, Emily, Mitch, Gerli, Keith** to help
- **Emily:** email general call to all parents for volunteers
- **Karla** to check with staff for what day works the best for the event.

Action: Re 2.

- Chair or vice-chair must be in attendance and then more voting that non-voting members
- AGM: staying as October

mandatory at the meeting)

- Executive roles, Members at Large, General Members -

Responsibilities:

Discussion: *limit to the number of members at large?, member at large is more active on the PAC without an executive title.*

- Holding multiple roles, unfilled roles:

Discussion: *Exceptions may happen, whoever to chair the meeting cannot also be the secretary during the meeting*

- Term limits:

Discussion: *keep the 3 consecutive years for each role but can rotate between executives*

- Non-voting roles - School Leader and DICES:
- AGM month - keep it in October?:

Discussion: *Keep as October*

- Video participation in meetings and voting,

Discussion: *can vote in the zoom chat, DPAC to get extended zoom opportunities, software available*

- Email voting:

Discussion: *no current language around this, ideas to vote on cannot be established in an email, they must come from the meeting, end date listed on the email vote. Keith: email voting is not helpful-it is helpful depending on a case by case basis. Vote at the meeting to send to an email vote*

- Small expenditure decisions between meetings:

Discussion: *PAC leadership to approve and agreed upon under \$100.*

- PAC communication and representation between meetings:

Discussion: *keep flexible and not super specific*

- Living supporting documents:

Discussion: *Keith: School culture document. Emily: Conflict resolution, advocacy tool kit, use DPAC document (Quinn is using while creating this)*

- Continue to work at our constitution and bylaws
- **Keith** would like join the governance board

ACTION: Re.3

- Tabled to the next meeting for everyone think about different playground
- **Emily:** put in the request for quote of 2 tetherball through the district

o Participation of school staff and teachers who are also parents:

Discussion: *staff first and parent second (cannot vote or be a voting member) if seen as a conflict of interest, that person is seen to be in conflict of interest to remove from the meeting and/or vote*

3. Tetherball Followup (Emily)

- Decision: Request a tetherball quote from SD71?-
Karla: lots of schools are asking the tetherball poles to be removed
- Decision: Expand exploration of possible playground contributions that could be supported by PAC?-**Tabled to the next meeting**
- Vote: Tetherball-
Question from the room: Attendee brought forward the safety around the pole, position of the pole

4.PAC sponsored Experience/Passion Funds (Emily)

- **Continue Discussion:** how do we want funding allocation to look in future years?
- We want to be ready to allocate next year's funds at the September PAC meeting- **Tabled to the next meeting**

5.Correspondence

- None to report

Information items & Events:

“Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities”

Mar 11, and May 13

<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>

“Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying”

Apr 8, June 10

<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-sessions>

<p>Even if you are not sure if you can make it, we encourage you to register as you will receive access to resources following the event via email.</p> <p><u>6.Creative Ideas Parking Lot :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double the amount of stickers due to a printing error, Sara was able to contact the company and have another order sent out, free of charge. The iron-ons are good 	
<p>TABLED TO NEXT MEETING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>PAC sponsored Experience/Passion Funds (Emily)</u> - <u>Cross Pollination Festival & PAC involvement(Leanna)</u> - <u>Tetherball follow up(Emily)</u> 	

Meeting Adjourned at 7:24pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Denman Island Community School Library

Motion to Approve these Minutes:

Made by:

Second:

Motion: