**Denman Island Community School PAC Meeting Minutes -**
**Tuesday November 10th in the Denman Island Community School Library and via ZOOM**

Meeting Minutes: Valerie Goudreau

**Chair:** Kristen Wright
**Vice Chair:** Valerie Goudreau
**Treasurer:** Adrien Wright
**Secretary:** Valerie Goudreau
**DPAC Rep:** Sara Schouten
**Members at Large:** Tahiti Rey-Linton & Gerli Metsar

**Regrets:** Tahiti Rey-Linton, Adrien Wright

**Attendance:** Gerli Metsar, Karla Neufer, Kristen Wright, Valerie Goudreau

**ZOOM participants**: Sara Schouten

**Meeting Called to Order** at : **5:38**

| Agenda Item | Action Required |
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| **Welcome and Recognition of Traditional Territories**<br>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. | Completed |
| **Introductions** of all meeting attendees | Completed |
| **Confirmation of Quorum** with three officers present | Completed |
| **Assignment of the Meeting Timekeeper** | **ACTION:** Val 5 min/topic |
| **Approval of October meeting minutes**<br><br>**Motion Moved: Valerie**<br>**Second: Gerli**<br>**Motion: Sara and Valerie** | |

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| The Chair explains the Consent Agenda (Pages 12-15) which includes reports from various officers and committees. The Consent Agenda aims to streamline meetings by including reports that don't require further discussion.<br><br>**Call to remove any items from the Meeting's Consent Agenda for further discussion or clarification:**<br>- None<br><br>**Motion** to accept all written reports on the Consent Agenda dated November 10, 2026<br>**Motion Moved: Gerli**<br>**Second: Valerie**<br>**Motion: carried** | |
| **Motion** to approve the Meeting Agenda for November 10, 2026<br>**Motion Moved: Valerie**<br>**Second: Gerli**<br>**Motion: carried** | |
| **<u>New Business</u>**<br>1. **Denman Road Committee- School Involvement**- Kristen & Sara<br>- A member of the Denman Roads committee has reached out to the school about our continued safety concerns. We have been in touch with them to find out how PAC can lend our support. We will need parent volunteers who also have a passion for keeping our students safe. Sara previously showed interest in getting a grant to be able to paint a sidewalk and will be able to provide an update.<br>**Discussion:**<br>- Yes to being involved and sharing the schools safety concerns<br>- Will ensure safety measures are put in place for kids with the use of reflective stickers, key chains, ect… | **ACTION: Re 1:**<br>● **Kristen** will reach out to Johanne Shepperd<br>● **PAC** will look into a handheld stop sign**.**<br>● **Sara** will look at her stock and possibly donate |

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| - Possibly do a safety discussion one afternoon at the school, idea put forth by Karla<br><br>2. **New baby gift for staff on behalf of PAC**- Kristen DIV 1 teacher Kayla Myles is expecting her first little bundle in February. She has shared this information with the DIV 1 class. She is having a baby boy. Would PAC like to give a gift to her? Would we like to solicit parent involvement from the class to see if they would like to contribute as well<br>**Vote:** Yes for PAC to do provide the gift<br>3. **School Playground Upgrades or Improvements** (Val)<br>- Have the playground more appropriate for the current students at DCS<br>- Can we add or change equipment?<br><br>**Motion Moved: Valerie**<br>**Second: Gerli**<br>**Motion: carried**<br>4. **Student Council?** (Kristen & Val)<br>- Invite students to come to meetings and share their ides<br>- This was discussed and had buy in but nothing came from it<br>**Discussion:**<br>- There was interest but due to summer holidays nothing more came from it. | **ACTION Re 2:**<br>● **Kristen** will ask about a registry<br>● **Kristen** to reach out to DICES to see if they would like to make cards with the after school programs and the children for Div 1<br>● Contact **Sara** for Ms Myles baby's blanket<br><br>**Action re: 3**<br>● **Val** will reach out to Rotary Club<br>● Look into options<br>● Get different ideas of park and playground we wanted<br><br>**Action: Karla** will check with Olena if there's still interest in building a student council |

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| **<u>Old Business</u>**<br>1. **2026-2027 Educational Experiences & Passion Funds** - Kristen & Karla<br>● Formerly called “Field Trip Funds”, these funds support enrichment experiences for kids, and can be used for both in class/school and outside school experiences<br>● Last year, $3500 allocated to D3 (largest class, big end of year trip to Strathcona Lodge); $4000 allocated to D1 and D2 and D4 together - amount based on per capita calc working back from D3 amount, allocated as a lump sum to allow teachers to work as a team on enrichment and acknowledging that $ spent does not equal quality of enrichment<br>● Leftover funds from last year: $3,456 remain (combined from Divs 1, 2, and 4; D3 used their full allocation).<br>● Decision at September & October meeting*:* Additional funds will be allocated by November, giving teachers time to consider what they might wish to use funds for and give input.<br><br>2. **School Growth Plan Discussion**- Karla<br><br>**Discussion:**<br>- Q: How is the school being supported to include more indigenous education and cultural enrichment without having an ISW this year, specifically how does the district support this?<br>- A: Increased culture enrichment and indigenous education is included in the curriculum and supported | **ACTION**: **Re: 1**<br>No more funds needed at this time. Teachers will reassess in the spring or once the remaining funds are gone.<br><br>**Action: Re 2:** no action needed<br><br>**ACTION: Re.3**<br>● Soup is going to be what we will make for the Crafts fair<br>● **Sara** will reach out to Dan to see if children would like to volunteer to serve soups.<br>● **PAC** will rent a food safe kitchen to prepare the soups and |

by the teachers. The district will be helping to facilitate different members of indigenous education to come to the school for enrichment days.

3. **2026-2027 Fundraising & Christmas Craft Fair**- Kristen & Val

- Do we have interest in doing this again?
- Are we sticking with tacos or switching to something else?
- DICES to assist in volunteering to show our connection
- Soup & a bun or cup of mac and cheese with a bun. Have the soup names be a play on words for book titles, school spirit or Denman related.
    - ❖ Chicken Soup for the Denman Soul- *Chicken Noodle Soup*
    - ❖ Stone Soup
    - ❖ Green Eggs and Ham Soup- *Split Pea and Ham Soup*
    - ❖ Tomato Potter & The Sourcers Soup- *Tomato Soup*
    - ❖ Denman Dragon Mac Attack- Mac & Cheese
- Other options: School Dance/ Under-Ager Rager (before winter break) Fun Fair (End of year & start of the year), Plant Sale,

**Motion Moved: Valerie**
**Second: Gerli**
**Motion: carried**

**<u>Information items & Events:</u>**

November 17th is our special meeting at Lone pine farm at 5:30

November 24th we will be cooking the soups in the food safe kitchen

**<u>Creative Ideas Parking Lot :</u>**

- none

- School Dance as fundraiser before spring break
- End of the year fundraising bouncy castle
- Beginning of the year pancake fundraiser
- Mothers day plant sale? If DICES or Div 3 does not want to do it
- **Kristen** will check with Dan F. about the plant sale for his division
- **Val** will reach out to Keith to postpone the garden clean up

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| **TABLED TO NEXT MEETING:**<br>- none | |

**Meeting Adjourned** at 6:29pm

**Next Meeting:** December 8th 2026 at 5:30pm

**Motion to Approve these Minutes:** Done at the next meeting

# PAC Consent Agenda - November 10, 2026

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**PAC Coordinator Report - Kristen Wright**

We are officially 2 months into the 2026/2027 school year and we have already experienced so much incredible community involvement. The Div 3 class has successfully kicked off the Spirit days in the school with lots of participation from both students and staff. The next one is scheduled for November 28 as “Stop, Drop & Dance”! The Div 1 class has hosted a family appreciation event in their class with the most turnout that I have seen in my years at the school. The Div 2 class has been adding to their artwork in the school halls and it looks AMAZING! The halloween parade saw more than 30 family members join in the schools long standing costume parade and dance party, way to go Denman Dragons!

I put myself forward as PAC Chair because I really care about our school and the community we’re building around our kids.

I’ve had the privilege of being both Vice Chair and Chair of Blackberry Lane Children’s Centre for four years in a row, and as the school's PAC treasurer this past year. These experiences have taught me a lot about listening, working together, advocating for children, and making sure everyone has a voice. Inclusivity is something I’m especially passionate about—not just for neurodivergent people, but for every member of this community, because every community member deserves to feel like they belong.

I also bring over 20 years of experience in the medical field, including the last four years managing a specialist medical office based in Calgary, remotely from our family farm and now doing the same for a specialist in Victoria. I’m used to organizing, problem-solving, juggling a million things (and personalities) at once, and, most importantly, working with people. As a proud Métis and Indigenous person, I also care deeply about respect, inclusion, cultural awareness, and creating spaces where everyone feels welcome.

Outside of work, I’ve loved being involved in our island community—teaching dance, volunteering at fundraisers and school events, helping with the Free Store, and most recently, getting involved with our Hot Lunch program. (Be sure to email DICES if you as well want to be involved.)

I am excited to bring my experience, energy, and heart to PAC and to work alongside our families, staff and students to make our school community a place where every kid and community member feels seen, supported, and proud to belong.

We will continue to work on getting community involvement and volunteer efforts from not only our school community but the Denman community as a whole. As we find new and easier ways for community members to share their heart, passions and ideas with our students we promise to keep you all informed. We do still have an active Community Member Directory that was started by our previous chair that will still be utilized. Feel free to sign up yourself or a friend through the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfsgNW8UyBaVkWE2HVEqvathrL__nbEXHyhp6Ha2hqjISl9Hg/viewform?usp=header

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**PAC Treasurer Report - Adrien Wright-** *Kristen Wright due to access not being transferred over*

**Accounts as of November 13, 2026**

**General Chequing:** $ 6, 989.16

**General Savings:** $2,501.05 **Shares:** $100.00

**Gaming Chequing:** $2,000.00 **Gaming Savings:** $0.01 **Shares:** $25.00

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**Denman Island Community School DPAC Representative - Sara Schouten**

DPAC meeting was November 2, 2026. Minutes to follow

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**Principal Report - Karla Neufer**

Report to PAC, November 2026

Consent Agenda submission

1) Action Item:

Request from PAC for update on plans for Enrichment Funds given to Div. 1, 2, and 4: The teachers are planning a swimming field trip to the aquatic centre, the money will cover the cost of bus, ferry, and admission. They have booked a science presentation (DinoLab) from the resource shared by Emily A, the money will cover the cost of the presenter. They are discussing a possible field trip to Hornby to the Natural History Museum, looking at covering the cost of transportation. There is a possibility of covering the cost of clay and glaze to support bringing in a local potter.

2) Please find attached a summary of this year's school growth plan. You can find the full document on the school district website at 2026-27 School Growth Plans - Comox Valley Schools Let me know if you have any questions.

Parent Teacher conferences are on Thursday, November 19, students do not attend school that day, they are welcome to come with their parents to the meeting.

Whole school ice skating field trip on Nov. 27 th , volunteers are welcome, especially

those who can skate. The Winter Concert is Friday, Dec. 11 th , 4:30 p.m., at the Community Hall. It is the same day as Moonlight Madness at the request of the Moonlight organizers. Having the concert at this time apparently brought more people to Moonlight Madness and created a wonderful festive feel. The feedback from the majority of participants was very positive.

# DENMAN ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

## 2026/27 SCHOOL GROWTH PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

### SCHOOL FOCUS

Strengthening social awareness and responsibility by helping students resolve problems peacefully, build empathy, and deepen their understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

### WHAT MAKES DENMAN UNIQUE

A small K-7 community school of approximately 55 students where strong relationships, multi-grade learning, outdoor education, and community partnerships create highly personalized learning. The school includes an outdoor classroom, garden, blended learning program, and Community School supports.

### KEY PRIORITIES

- Develop students' ability to consider how their actions affect others.
- Strengthen peaceful problem-solving skills and foster empathy.
- Celebrate diversity and create an inclusive, welcoming community.
- Expand knowledge of K'ómoks language, culture, and Indigenous perspectives through experiential learning.

### EVIDENCE GUIDING THE WORK

- Students continue to perform well in literacy and numeracy overall.
- Student surveys show opportunities to further strengthen problem solving, empathy, attendance, and understanding of Indigenous cultures.
- The school's small size allows staff to respond to individual learner needs.

### SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

- Students demonstrate empathy and care for others.
- Students resolve conflicts respectfully and peacefully.
- Students value diversity and celebrate individual differences.
- Students recognize and celebrate Indigenous cultures and perspectives.
- Students build stronger connections to each other, their community, and the land.

### HOW WE'LL GET THERE

- Experiential and land-based learning is woven throughout our program.
- Increase opportunities for Indigenous language and cultural experiences.
- Monthly staff collaboration to plan, reflect, and adjust instruction.
- Buddy activities and community-building opportunities.
- Partnerships with local organizations and the Denman Island community.
- Student self-reflection and goal setting.
- Strong connections with families and caregivers.

**DICES Executive Director's Report - Gracie MacDonald, ED**

DICES ED Report to PAC November 2026

After school programs are mostly full, and the only one we had to cancel due to low enrollment was Cooking from the Garden. Hopefully there will be more interest in the spring!

Thank you to the activity centre folks who are renting their gym to us one day a week to run table tennis!Our volunteers Michael, Wendy, Peter, Enrico and Angus are indispensable this fall. Thank you!

There is still room in the food safe course coming up, which is now on Nov. 28, all day.

In the school kitchen, we're been using seasonal local ingredients when possible (including the contents of the Gather Farm brown box, and donations from Two Roads Farm!) Thank you also to the Brodsgaards for donating their soup starters. And thanks to Kristen for helping the first few weeks, and for Gerli who is here volunteering every Thursday!

At our recent AGM we welcomed three new board members, Pam Willis, Jessi Schlegel and Nicolas deCosson. They join Enrico Wauri, Ann Paisley, Kevin Hutton, Larry Lepore and Becky Nyqwest on the council. Pam was the very first DICES coordinator, 30 years ago!

In staffing, Kiah Robichaud is now our school coordinator, and she and Anne Lys Erikkson are in charge of school lunches, with help from Gracie and Gerli and students. Jessi Schlegel has passed along her book keeping role to Francis VandenDam. Lunches and after school will end the week before Winter Break and resume the week after.

Thanks everyone!

Gracie

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**Blackberry Lane Children's Center - Becky Kaulback & Poppy Edwards, Co-Presidents**

We've hired a new manager! Gigi Von Kirchenheim. Welcome to the Blackberry Lane family. Contact us if you would like to donate baked goods for the annual Christmas Craft Fair in December. This fundraising event pre-dates the establishment of the Denman Island Pre-School Society and is a much anticipated part of the Denman Christmas Craft Fair. Help us make it another year for the record books. All proceeds go directly back into supporting the kiddos attending Blackberry Lane.

BBL Website: https://denmankids.ca BBL email: denmanislandchildcare@gmail.com