

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/dpac/>

**MINUTES** for the General Meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held at the Isfeld Library and via Zoom, on **MONDAY March 3rd** at 6:30pm.

## ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Barr - DPAC Chair  
 Jennifer Fisher- DPAC Vice Chair (Isfeld Alt)  
 Megan Cowling - DPAC Secretary - (Brooklyn/Highland Alt)  
 Kendall Packham\* - DPAC Treasurer - Glacierview  
 Dr. Jeremy Morrow - Superintendent  
 Shannon Aldinger - Trustee  
 Sarah Jane Howe - Trustee

Kari Pratt\* - Isfeld Secondary  
 Carly Wintschel\* - Brooklyn El  
 Rae Walsh\* - Vanier Secondary  
 Jenn McQuoid\* - Puntledge Park El  
 Karen Parkinson\* - Aspen Rep  
 Catherine Crowe\* - Ecole Robb Road  
 Shawn Thir\* - Lake Trail Community School  
 Brooke Finlayson\* - Highland Secondary

**9 of 21 voting reps (min. of 7 req'd for quorum)**

*\*indicates DPAC Rep*

## 1 Call to Order 6:32 pm

Recognition of Traditional Territories

Introductions

Approval of the Minutes from *February 3rd 2025 Motion to Approve: Jenn Seconded by: Shawn*

Approval of the Agenda for *March 3rd 2025 Motion to Approve: Kendall Seconded by: Catherine*

## 2 Correspondence:

- Vancouver DPAC Advocacy Request - National School Food Program Letter
  - Forwarded email to all DPAC reps:
  - From the email: *"The federal government is funding \$1B for a National School Food Program. The funding will be used to provide students with nutritious meals, promoting health and well-being across Canada's school communities. The government of BC can access millions of dollars of this funding just by signing an Agreement (that five other provinces have already signed) but they need to sign it by **March 9<sup>th</sup>**!"*
  - Vancouver DPAC, in partnership with BC's Coalition for Healthy School Food, is asking our provincial government to sign the Agreement, and we need your help! **To make this vision a reality, we need to gather as much grassroots support as possible before the March 9<sup>th</sup> deadline.** We've made it super easy for you to ask Premier Eby to sign the Agreement. **Please just fill out the form [HERE](#) and click submit.** Thank you! Kind regards, Food Framework Working Group - Vancouver DPAC"

## 3 Presentations

- Nothing scheduled

## 4 Reports

### Chair Report - Joanne Barr:

- February was the Longest Short month ever!
- As an executive we attended the Open Committee of the Whole which is open to the public held at the board office every month in person or virtually, this month there was a wonderful presentation from EDAS (everyone deserves a smile), Karma Taiji presented on Equity, Diversity and Non-Discrimination, and there was a quick Budget Process Overview Presentation.

- We also attended the Public Board meeting. I will leave the details of this meeting to our wonderful trustee to report on.
- We also had our 1 hour monthly meeting with the superintendent, attended our own sub-committee meetings and our own individual PACs.

#### **DPAC Treasurer- Kendall Packham:**

- Last month we were on Zoom, this month we would like to vote on our new budget.
- Budget is the same as last year, \$5000 for Speaker Series.
  - Last year was weird because of the timing for Change of Signors, but we spent \$2500 on Speaker Series. Current budget: (SEE GRAPHIC BELOW) \$50 Stationary (binders etc.) Incidentals/Speaker gifts \$500. Bank Fees \$25. Reserve \$25 per diem for travelling. District stipend \$2500 currently reserved.
  - Gaming: has our BCCPAC costs \$250 BCCPAC \$2500 Speaker Series.
  - Opening numbers: \$5031.81 Gaming \$4136.89

Motion to Approve: Jenn Motion: Approve the Budget as presented. Seconded by: Catherine. Motion carried.

Budget Item	Amount Budgeted
Speaker Series	\$5,000.00
AGM BCCPAC Costs	\$150.00
Stationary	\$50.00
Incidentals/Gifts	\$500.00
Bank Fee's	\$25.00
Website & Admin Fee's	\$150.00
Per Diem for BCCPAC	\$25/day
District Payment	\$2,500.00

Budget Item	Amount Budgeted
BCCPAC	\$250.00
Speaker Series	\$2,500.00

#### **Anti Racism Committee - Carly Wintschel** (Handouts: DRAFT navigating the system flowcharts, Community Justice Centre Racism posters)

- Two members of the Committee are doing anti-racism response training, with two PVP also attending. History of racism in Canada, concepts and language. Active witnessing model. How to respond to either as a bystander or someone experiencing it.
- On Feb 10th the Committee met with Karma. Karma has applied for a grant with Vancouver Foundation for anti-racism that would be \$300K over three years. [Comox Valley Community Justice Centre](#) and the
- [Wachiy Friendship Centre](#) continue to offer presentations to schools about anti-racism that feature storied content to engage students. Presentation offered to the Committee sometimes near the end of April.
- Shared the DRAFT student-focused flowchart with Karma, she is working on it and will give us feedback when we meet at the end of the month. Best practices and resources and what we might expect.
- The flowcharts are draft working copies intended to assist families with system navigation and student-centred reporting. We appreciate all of the staff and parents that have worked with us in the ongoing and open drafting process of these flowcharts. It's a welcome opportunity for conversations and perspective sharing that all helps to hopefully enhance the usefulness of these materials.

#### **Sexual Health Committee - Brooke Finlayson**

Submitted by Brooke Finlayson:

- GBVC ([Gender-Based Violence Committee](#)) continues to collate information collected from community agencies, school counsellors, and students participating in Student Voice.
- We are excited to share an opportunity for input from students, parents and staff about the committee's work. An on-line anonymous survey will be launched on the district website this week and the committee will be seeking input/suggestions from students, parents and staff about how the school system can better prevent GBV and better respond to disclosures/reports of GBV.
- Our next meeting is this Wednesday in the board office.

- Please see the link to the survey here and share with your PACS and parents. [Gender-Based Violence Committee Anonymous Survey for Students, Parents and Staff](#)

### **School Food Subcommittee - Shawn Thir**

- School Food Subcommittee met Wednesday. Small meeting. Basically checking-in. Talked about school food letters and the work of the [Coalition for Healthy School Food](#). School Food Subcommittee aware of the work by the School Food Advisory Committee (internal committee), and the School Food Subcommittee (external committee) shifting to meeting every two months. School Food Subcommittee has a different perspective and there is value in the outside perspectives and networks.
- School Food Advisory Committee cancelled this month. Really interesting discussion and really valuable to have Student Voice. The very important aspects of school food such as where to eat. Eating on empty stairs instead of a cafeteria.

### **Speaker Series Committee - Megan Cowling: Find the [Speaker Series Library HERE](#)**

- Partnership presentation with the [CDTA](#) on the Pro-D Day, February 18th. Big thanks to Michelle and Leslie at the CDTA for all of the work on top of their Professional Development Day work. Thank you Patrisha & [Martin](#) for a practical and heartfelt presentation.
  - Unfortunately we only had eight parents in attendance, which has been the trend for parent education presentations. Thank you to all the reps who weighed in re: communication and survey results.
- The next presentation for Speaker Series is planned for Thursday, September 25th at the School Board Office (upstairs meeting room.) The topic theme will be 'Understanding [IEPs](#) ([Individual Education Plans](#)) for Parents.' (Formal Title to be announced.) We appreciate Tracy and the [Inclusive Education](#) team for coming to help parents/caregivers better understand these complex topics.

### **Emergency Preparedness Committee - Shawn Thir**

(handout seacan contents [SEACAN MATRIX Fall 2023](#))

- Second meeting at SBO after being postponed due to illness and snow day, to discuss the Emergency Preparedness, communications, food and notes. We sat down with Yinka Adewole (Manager of Health and Safety) and Jay Dixon (Associate Superintendent.) It's been a few years in the works to review the matrix of seacan items and the audit. Look and compare - this school has this this school doesn't - clear the District is working on a baseline standard, and sufficient equipment. We talked about food, which can be easily solvable issue, kids probably won't be stranded, worst-case scenario overnight. Reviewed a draft letter where they did the math [on increment times enrollment] with a basic food kit: one granola bar, one fruit cup, one water bottle per student. \$17K budget to come out of Operations in the first year. Would be zero waste as it could be rotated into food kids are already eating. Staff acknowledged that given the environment of the Seacan, the fruit cup and water may freeze over winter. Baseline and room for thinking about alternatives. Maybe something canned makes more sense? \$17k standard set of food, shelving in the cans, stacked everything.
- We talked about communications, specifically Huband and Miracle Beach, as the district is making sure there are satellite phones with working batteries and generators. With regards to communicating internally and externally: the [Letter 2024](#) has all definitions in one: lockdown, etc. blocked information, lends itself to social media, Craig will work on putting together things. Another current form on the SD71 website for emergency preparedness is also here: [2022 Letter](#)
- We also had a list of questions that we gave to staff for homework - [Emergency Preparedness Questions](#)
- Information that people should know. (Jay said that would make a good FAQ)
- SD46 has a webpage that has a great communication page with all of the information. It makes a lot of sense as a good starting point for educating parents all on one single page. Potential to copy it instead of reinventing the wheel.
- Shawn's concern with breathless reporting on the news, it may add to the panic when an actual earthquake happens (e.g. pile of sand slumped over.)

- Sunshine coast has a great resource page for emergency preparedness can be found here: <https://sd46.bc.ca/district-information/board-of-education-and-governance/policies-bylaws-and-regulations/emergency-preparedness/>
- Questions: This form is from 2023?
- Answer: We have a baseline, the plan is that by September of this year we will be up to snuff in every sea can. We hope to offer that every parent can add required medication (e.g. epipens, inhalers, insulin, etc.) to the Seacans in September. Looking at the plan for multiple mylar blankets vs. a few large wool blankets (prone to storage issues.)
- Moving away from the past idea that the school district would be a hub for caring for students for 72 hours, but closer to 24-hour care in the worst case scenario.
- Share this info out to parents: Karyn? Answer: yes.
- Question about budget: Kari? Answer: Not work for DPAC/PACs to pay for.
- Question about Emergency Radios - Jen? Answer: not to my knowledge.
- Question about asking for donations - Answer: relying on donations is not an equitable system.

### **Superintendent Report - Dr. Jeremy Morrow**

- Continued work to stock and fill seacans, hope, advocate and push forward on.
- Gender-Based Violence Committee update with Trustees: GBV Student Voice met with 22-23 students upstairs in the SBO talking about the issues in schools today. Seeing firsthand the work done behind the scenes facilitating for students to share. Students are really candid about problems and often bring solutions. Our students had no issues discussing their concerns. Gratitude for the work and Trustee Aldinger's work facilitating discussions with the students.
- Leadership group hosted a presentation from Mischa Oakes on the topic of SOGI Masterclass. More tools as we work to make sure every student has a safe passage.
- Briefly share about land KFN voting on Treaty on March the 8th. [Treaty Vote date & time.](#)
- [Skills Canada](#) Event - lots of students and staff off to provincials. Note that there are many types of student gifts to match many types of opportunities. And these student gifts are not necessarily connected to the classroom.
- The school schedule can feel as though it paces itself to spread to each break.
- [CDTA](#) Event March 12th. Topic: Occupational fatigue.

### **Trustees Report - Trustee Sarah Jane Howe (Cumberland) & Shannon Aldinger (Courtenay)**

- Sarah Jane Howe: District PAC
  - March 2025 Aboriginal Students Report (2023-24): Associate Superintendent Joe Heslip: A review of student achievement, graduation rates, and ongoing initiatives to support Indigenous learners. The district is focusing on systemic change, student voice, and holistic measures to improve outcomes. The meeting discussed the Aboriginal "How Are We Doing?" Report, highlighting data from 1999 to 2021. Indigenous students comprise 16.6% of Comox Valley students but are overrepresented (47%) in alternate programs. In grade four, 63% of Indigenous students are emerging in numeracy, compared to 39% for non-Indigenous students. By grade ten, 34% of Indigenous students are proficient or extending in numeracy, versus 50% for non-Indigenous students. The five-year completion rate for Indigenous students is 75%, compared to 82% for non-Indigenous students. The discussion emphasized the need for systemic changes and collective responsibility to address these gaps. • Follow up with the director of Indigenous education at the ministry to get tighter data on the number of Indigenous students. • Incorporate more student voice and stories into the equity scan process. • Explore ways to better support Indigenous students' feelings of belonging and safety in school. • Continue to look at a range of data, not just academic metrics, to get a more holistic understanding of Indigenous student experiences. • Focus on improving post-secondary pathways and outcomes for Indigenous graduates.
  - 2024-25 Amended Annual Budget: 2024-25 Amended Budget: The Board approved a \$163.48M budget, reflecting a \$3M increase in operating revenue, primarily due to enrollment growth and cost-of-living adjustments. 86% of expenditures go toward salaries and benefits. Future budget

pressures require careful review. The meeting discussed the updated budget submitted to the Ministry on February 14, highlighting growth in online enrollment and a slight leveling off in the next two years.

Operating revenues, primarily from the Ministry of Education, increased by \$3 million, with a significant portion due to a 1% cost of living adjustment. Enrollment increases contributed \$1.9 million. Expenditures were detailed, with 86% allocated to salaries and benefits, and 14% to services and supplies. The budget includes new positions and one-time initiatives, funded by surplus restrictions. The operating budget increased by \$3.8 million, with a contingency reserve of \$3.1 million, representing 2.6% of operating expenses. • board approval and adoption of the \$163,000,483.16 budget bylaw. • Continue to review and make difficult budget decisions in the upcoming budget cycles due to inflationary pressures and expanding needs.

Gender-Based Violence Committee: Gender-Based Violence Committee: The district launched a new website and awareness campaign. An anonymous survey with QR codes is being promoted to gather input. The committee is shifting terminology to "sexual harassment" and "sexual assault" for clarity. The report is expected by March 5. The meeting discussed the district's efforts to engage students and the community through a new website and posters tailored to different student demographics. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5 to determine when a report will be ready. An anonymous survey with QR codes for easy access is being promoted to capture diverse voices. There is overwhelming support for the trauma-informed approach, praised by the district vice principal. Terminology shifts include using "sexual harassment" and "sexual assault" instead of "gender-based violence" in survey materials to better resonate with students. • Finalize the report for the district by the next meeting on March 5. • Promote the anonymous survey to parents, students, and staff to capture as many voices as possible.

LGBTQ+ Inclusion Masterclass: This morning, I attended an LGBTQ+ Inclusion Masterclass, which focused on creating safe, supportive environments for queer students. The speaker shared personal stories and statistics highlighting the challenges LGBTQ+ youth face, such as lower school attendance and increased discrimination. Key discussions included the importance of pronouns, the evolving pride flag, and practical strategies for allies-like modeling inclusive language and addressing misinformation. The workshop emphasized the role of educators and families in fostering acceptance, ensuring all students feel valued. Action items included incorporating LGBTQ+ topics into the curriculum and promoting visible allyship in schools. The session concluded with a call to action for creating safer, more welcoming spaces for all. • Share your pronouns regularly to model allyship. • Avoid getting drawn into debates and instead focus on elevating the conversation and upholding values of inclusion and safety. • Incorporate SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) content across all curriculums, not just in specific lessons. • Follow up on the speaker's book release and stay connected via their social media. • Interrupt and educate on any instances of sexism, toxic masculinity, misgendering, or dead naming • Be vigilant for emerging issues like "barking" or "group stalking" targeting LGBTQ+ students and involve authorities if needed. • Remove gendered language and assumptions from school forms, policies, and practices. • Provide affirming support and leadership opportunities for LGBTQ+ students. • Check in regularly with LGBTQ+ colleagues, students, and community members to offer support. • Display visible allies and inclusion signage (e.g. rainbow flags) to create a welcoming environment.

Question: Shawn: SOGI - thoughts?

Answer: Dr. Morrow: Philosophy: Every child, every chance, every day, come as you are.

- GBV Committee - Report - Shannon Aldinger. The Committee has done a lot of work to gain momentum, two meetings early on to figure out where we are going and now having great conversation both within and with the community partners.
- Have met with all available secondary counsellors, all available elementary counsellors, all available Child And Family Youth Workers, and the Student Leadership Forum.
- Going into each meeting, here is what the committee is about: We recognize what happens in our district is connected to what happens provincially and on a much larger scale. We have struggled with terminology, GBV is a larger umbrella term which is easier but unfamiliar for many people. Did students



understand GBV? [List of Definitions](#) started with two, has grown significantly and all of the subsets, list of definitions form part of the mostly highschools and elementary, and interested parents can answer and or help their children. Hoping for staff and parent input. DPAC reps please help get the word out. Provincial gov't gender-based [violence epidemic](#). [Definitions](#) have been drawn from the Province.

- Also found that it asks two basic questions: How can schools better prevent GBV? How can they better respond to GBV? Idea is to better support students. Not meant for disclosure.
- Met with counsellors and youth workers and students. How people interpret these questions - student's perspective rooted in harassment behaviors at school. Adults have focused on the toxicity of relationships.
- Themes have surfaced regularly - community organizations have the same perspective - kids aren't noticing signs of abusive behavior and how to address it.
- Sexual violence doesn't come out in questionnaire, it comes out in the conversations.
- Students themselves have strong emphasis on abusive behaviour starting in elementary around negative messaging: behaviour not addressed and they get away with it and then it is normalized and viewed as standard rather than problematic.
- Community groups focused on the toxicity of online behaviour (specifically the Internet with prevalence and accessibility of violent pornography.)
- Students need more support navigating all of these worlds.
- Please every PAC rep take these home and send cut and paste of some of these FAQ around the survey. Systemic reform is the goal.
- Relied upon the [post-secondary action plan](#) as a template for action plans within the educational sphere as they had to tackle this problem in starting in 2016. Had to have a protocol around reporting and disclosing. Now these protocols exist for the post-secondary world: college, university, trade school and more.
- Question: When is the survey open?
- Answer: Launch before Spring Break - open until the end of the week after SB. No firm end date.

## **5 New Business**

- Nothing at this time

## **6 Upcoming Events**

- Current Event ERR silent auction until March 11th PAC facebook page - will post on DPAC facebook - fundraising for an accessible playground upgrade.

## **7 PAC Sharing**

- Jen - any PAC do 50/50 gaming licenses? Please chat after the meeting.

## **8 Next Meeting: Monday, April 7th, 2025**

## **9 Motion to adjourn: Moved by Shawn Seconded by Kari**

*Meeting Concluded at 8:30pm*

Any questions or comments please don't hesitate to [contact us](#)