

AGENDA for the Annual General Meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held Isfeld Library & via Zoom, on **MONDAY, February 2nd** at 6:30pm.

ATTENDANCE:

Joanne Barr - DPAC Chair
 Jennifer Fisher*- DPAC Vice Chair (Isfeld Alt)
 Megan Cowling - DPAC Sec(Brooklyn/Highland Alt)
 Kendall Packham* - DPAC Director at Large (Glacierview)
 Sarah Jane Howe - SD71 Trustee
 Dr. Jeremy Morrow - SD71 Superintendent
 Catherine Crowe* - Ecole Robb Rd
 Jacqueline Simmons - CDTA
 Jen Storey - Miracle Beach Elementary

Shawn Thir*- Lake Trail Middle School
 Jennifer Vaino - Highland Secondary
 Emily Hansen*- Airport Elementary
 Haley Datoo* - Vanier Secondary
 Graeme Hahn* - Royston Elementary
 Roxanne Power*- Huband Elementary
 Carly Wintschel*- Brooklyn Elementary
 Aimee Pollard*- Cumberland (alternate)
 Sarah Schouten* - Denman Island Community School

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

*indicates DPAC Rep

1 Call to Order 6:34pm

Recognition of Traditional Territories

Introductions

Approval of the [MINUTES](#) from January

Motion to Approve Minutes Moved by: Graeme Seconded by: Shawn Motion Carried

Approval of the Agenda for January 5, 2026 *Motion to accept Agenda.*

Motion to addition: rethink the drink does not align well with the current info. Add to Building Sharing. Motion to approve amended Agenda: Catherine, Motion second Emily

2 Correspondence

- Family Smart Event Invite: Topic: '[Parenting When Our Kids Can't go to School](#)'

Sometimes mental health challenges keep our kids from going to school. Parenting when our kids can't go to school is hard. Learn from this conversation with John Solano, Registered Clinical Counsellor, and Kathy Buhler, a parent with lived experience. Discover how focusing on our relationship with our child can help, and where we can find support. Doors will open at 6:15pm and the video presentation will begin at 6:30pm.

This video presentation will be followed by a facilitated discussion by Megan Watson and Cresslynn Brodhagen, Family Peer Support Workers in the Comox Valley. **This event is for parents/caregivers only, and we are not able to provide childcare.**

When: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 from 6:30-8:00pm

Where: Mark Isfeld Secondary (Multipurpose room)

Register: For more information and [to register](#), [click here](#). 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.

3 Building and Sharing

- Questions about supervision during recess and breaks.
 - We are hearing from parents and PACs that some schools feel like they don't have enough supervision during recess breaks. Questions around how that can be rectified.
 - Dr. Vivian Collyer mentioned in the November meeting about an honorarium for parents who come to provide recess/lunchtime supervision. At this point only happening in five schools?

Airport, Arden, Aspen, Hornby, Courtenay El. Discussion around supervision shortages and challenges with resources: no coverage for sicknesses, sightlines, complex behaviours, etc. Some schools have play areas that are closed for recesses because of supervision resources. Current schools with lunchtime supervision: Airport (took awhile to hire), Arden (both left to be EAs), Hornby, Aspen, Courtenay El. Question around how everyone feels they are resources for supervision: Royston does pretty well, Brooklyn forest closed during recess, Miracle Beach tough sightlines, Huband is ok but needs more, Cumberland we need more, Puntledge is a struggle for supervision when there is missing coverage and sightlines, Denman quite early dropoff for parents catching the ferry and that needs supervision. If anyone wants to discuss more please reach out.

- **School Generated Funds** - These are funds schools raise themselves in addition to the Ministry operating grant and district-allocated budgets, and they must be used for school level, student-focused purposes. Examples of where these funds come from: fundraising events, concession sales, school fees, student activities, field trip funds etc.
 - TO BE CLEAR - The provincial **operating budget** (the main budget SD 71 submits and gets approved under the School Act) is mostly funded by the Ministry of Education and covers salaries, programs, facilities, administration, etc. Even though SGF are raised at the school level, **they are still part of the school district's financial statements** and are treated as **assets of the district** that are restricted to specific school programs. This means: The funds are controlled or significantly influenced by school administration (e.g., the principal) in accordance with district policy.
They are **tracked separately** from the main operating fund in financial reports. SGF accumulate throughout the year as schools hold fundraisers, collect fees, etc.
Unspent amounts at year-end remain in the school's SGF account and carry forward, typically subject to internal controls and board/district reporting requirements.
 - Since many PACs fundraise and provide financial support to their schools, it is important for PACs to have a collaborative role, by requesting transparent reporting of SGF helps with that. While specific district procedures may not state this (or even exist), we feel it important for PACs to know the financial picture and where their own funds are being utilized and where these funds are being generated to avoid overlap within these School Generated Funds.
 - Trust accounts annual operating accounts that can roll over. Jeremy will look into this, with a specific question presented. Percentages of budgets to scale.
- February 10th: Student Voice Session: Partners invited for a 1.5 hour engagement session with 10 students, will be recorded. At some point there will also be a video of vignettes they have shared. Students range in age and are represented by grades 8-12.
- Student voice questions, these are the questions that have come to us so far...
 - FLEX Block - how could it be done better?
 - Would you use the anonymous ERASE tool to express a potential threat to friends, school and your school community?
 - When you see a possible threat, how do you communicate that to the adults in the school?
 - Do you know what the purpose is for your school counsellor? Do you know how to utilize your counsellor?
 - How do you pick your electives?
 - Attendance and mental health question?
 - What's the hardest part of your day at school?
 - What makes you feel like you belong?
 - What would you change to make school work better for you or your friends?
 - Who do you think we should be talking to that we aren't? What might they have to share?

Questions and discussions are meant to be reciprocal and generate some really great dialogue. Question: How did the kids get chosen? Forty students in the group District Student Voice group, we invited nine, there are seven in total to attend. Students are great because they add solutions and offer suggestions freely.

Excerpt from some of the mental health supports available mentioned in the most recent Board Meeting here:
[CV School Youtube Regular Public Board Meeting January 27, 2026](https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/MentalHealthSupports.pdf)

- Mental health - school counselling teams, Integrated Care teams, as a district we use our external partners like John Howard Society for Youth & Family Substance Use Services and Child & Youth Mental Health (CYMH) outreach, and there is access to virtual tools like Foundry BC (for ages 12-24) and the 24/7 Kids Help Phone (1-800-668-6868 or text 686868).
<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/MentalHealthSupports.pdf>
- Learn71 is a great resource with lots of information, you don't need a Learn71 Account.
 - <https://learn71.ca/home/mental-health-and-wellness/>
 - Jeremy - we as a school community need to not be contributing to the mental health struggles of students. There are great people doing great work, but there are significant needs and we as a school district aren't able to solve this ourselves.
 - Manifesting the design principles as we are insufficient from a clinical perspective.
 - Question: Is there mental health education at high school? Answer: Lots of educators clear around practices and articulate a lot of the good work you see there. They have a fundamental experience when things are handled in a good way and they retain their connection and sense of belonging.
 - How do we support the teachers to make those connections? What we are hearing is the need for tools.
 - Design principle of personalized learning, at what point is it mathematically impossible.
 - Increased complexity year-by-year.
 - Huge interest in Kindergarten registration in some of our different programs this year.
- Graeme: Would like to discuss the most recent "Rethink the Drink" presentation at Royston. Some questions around presentation goals, age-range and communication. Kids choosing healthier options for drinks. Some age groups present in the discussion cannot rationalize this choice. Our public health dietitian would like to try to be looped in, as she is cognizant of food discussions. We want to make sure eight year-olds aren't counting calories or feeling dietary stress. Focus on all food being healthy, not moralizing food as "good" or "bad" and looking at diversifying your choices. Future ones go through the lens of what ages are receiving this and how it is being communicated. Look for dietitian wording.
 - [SD71 School Food Plan](#) - Thea Cockerton

4 Reports

Executive Report -

- Attended Committee of the Whole - [School Growth Plans](#). Big takeaways: while confident that classroom educators are finding ways to beautifully interconnect the Strat Plan with Core Competencies within their classroom, we have some residual inquiries around School Growth Plans. Most of the queries revolve around how PACs are included in the School Growth Plans. Another major question for us revolves around timelines. With yearly plans, we can read the plan for the school year 2025-2026, which should be implemented this year. Is next year's plan being developed in the background while implementing this year's plan? As DPAC we worried about PVP workload for both simultaneously being asked to implement a plan for 2025-2026 while also incorporating feedback and developing an additional plan for 26-27. Where/when is the review of the School Growth Plan outcomes and school community portion of feedback into next year's plan.
- Attended BCCPAC Advocacy Workshop: January 14th, 6:30pm online
The content was advertised verbatim as:

Advocacy: Next Steps

-When to Appeal to the Superintendent or Board

-When issues must go outside the District ([Section 11 / BC Teachers' Regulation Branch](#))

-Understanding [Section 177](#)

-Working with PACs DPACs or School District

-How DPAC supports district-level systemic change

- Rights holders and Rights Bearer Most interesting content was from BC Human Rights Tribunal presenters. <https://www.bchrt.bc.ca/>

- We have a busy February ahead, with Calendar Committee meetings, student voice, advocacy, and district interviews.

DPAC Treasurer Report:

- Funds were received and distributed from Food Safe which was held on Jan 11.

Q3 Jan, Feb, Mar		
Monthly Report		
Dec 31 to Jan 31		
Income	General	Gaming
Opening Balance Dec 31	30.00	0.00
Total Income	6763.66	6185.39
Expense		
BCCPAC Membership	0.00	0.00
BCCPAC AGM/Conference Costs	0.00	0.00
Speaker Series	0.00	467.25
Stationery	0.00	0.00
Incidentals/Gifts	0.00	0.00
Website & Admin Fees	0.00	0.00
Bank Fees	0.00	1.50
Per Diem For BCCPAC S26day	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	0.00	468.75
Balance	6763.66	5716.64

Subcommittees:

- **Anti Racism Committee** - Carly Wintschel
- Our next committee meeting will be held 9-10:30am on Friday, February 13th in Comox. New members are welcome. Please contact antiracismcommittee.sd71@gmail.com for more information.
- Discussion: Have you shared our [Anti-Racism Resource Guide](#) with your PACs? Any questions or feedback? Highland was appreciative. Miracle Beach appreciated. ERR appreciated.
- This month, we highlight the Gulf Islands School District (SD64) Code of Conduct for its inclusive language, which clearly acknowledges the many individuals who are part of the school community -
- Parents, guardians, caregivers, and any other visitors to our schools are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Conduct and to model positive communication through behaviour and words that support a safe, caring and orderly learning and working environment. The Code of Conduct applies to all individuals at the school/district site and at school/district activities and events. Every school has their Code of Conduct available on their school website.
- See more here:
<https://media.sd64.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/parentguardiancaregiver-code-of-conduct.84656d6609.pdf>
- **Sexual Health Committee** - Brooke Finlayson: Verbal Report
- The GBV Report was presented at the Board of Education's [Regular Public Board Meeting](#) on Nov 25, 2025; at that time the draft policy was referred to the Board's policy committee and the report was

referred to Superintendent Jeremy Morrow to review in relation to actioning its operational recommendations;

- Superintendent Jeremy Morrow provided an update at our Regular Board Meeting on Jan 27, 2026, informing that:
 - the district will hire a teacher lead to oversee the district's sexual health education and gender-based violence initiatives; the position will be for 2 years and will be posted this week; a member of the GBV committee may be asked to assist with interviews;
 - he has referred the GBV Report's recommendations regarding Administrative Procedures to our Acting Secretary Treasurer Harold Cull; members of our committee may also be asked to assist with reviewing any draft(s) that are prepared; and
 - the GBV report has garnered significant positive feedback and support from our partner groups;
- The Minister of Education and Child Care has responded to our Board's request that the province develop and fund an action plan to address sexism and misogyny in BC's K-12 schools. The letter informs that the Minister has shared the GBV Report with her Ministry's Student Safety Team and that the team lead, Danielle Carter-Sullivan, Executive Director of Early Learning, Mental Health and Student Safety, will be reaching out to the district "to discuss potential next steps". The Minister's letter is attached at p. 66 of the Board agenda package:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/1-AgendaPackage-RegularBoardMeeting-20260127.pdf>

- **Speaker Series Committee** - Megan Cowling

- Foodsafe - special thanks to Shawn for hosting our passionate group of volunteers willing to give their whole Sunday to make sure they are following food safe practices for their school community. We will host another in September, please chat this up to your PACs now so everyone is prepared for the next offering.
- Comox Valley Child Development Association [Seen Documentary](#) progressing with location decision at the Stan Hagen, next planning meeting is February 13th. Would anyone like to assist with the EventBrite work for the event? Stan Hagen seating is 200.

- **Emergency Preparedness Committee** -

- Media in December reported on an assessment released by the Province of BC (*British Columbia Disaster and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessment*) released October 2025). It's 700 pages long!. I call such reporting "disaster porn" because such reports are explicit. This is both good and bad.
 - Good: Explicit details can heighten awareness of risks and dangers, and spur people and organizations into action.
 - Bad: It's explicit. "Gory" details can be traumatizing or cause anxiety, especially if you look at maps that show your town or neighborhood in the disaster area.
- The media focused on details such as a megathrust earthquake causing 3,400 deaths and over 10,000 injuries, \$128 billion in losses, the destruction of 18,000 buildings, and serious damage to another 10,000.
- However, they missed reporting on more significant parts of the report that should reinforce why it is so important to prepare and be prepared:
- Climate change influence

While tectonic processes that induce earthquakes are not influenced by weather conditions, the occurrence of an earthquake during the hazard season (for example, wildfire or flood seasons) greatly affects its impact and the potential for triggering secondary hazards. Climate change models indicate that as global warming raises temperatures and modifies precipitation patterns, B.C. will experience more frequent extreme climate events, potentially occurring over a longer period of the year. Specifically, the occurrence of longer, hotter and dryer warm seasons exacerbating drought, extreme heat and wildfires, and larger amounts of precipitation during storms increasing the likelihood of

flooding, earthquake will coincide with a climatic hazard and an existing emergency. Such co-occurrence enhances the likelihood of an earthquake or its resulting damage triggering secondary hazards such as landslides, floods and fires. (p.124)

[This rings true given the flooding that occurred in Courtenay on January 30]

Link to report: <https://climatereadybc.gov.bc.ca/pages/dcrra>

- Also in the news, "Experts say Victoria should brace for one of the hottest years on record"

Read more at:

<https://vicnews.com/2026/01/22/experts-say-victoria-should-brace-for-one-of-the-hottest-years-on-record/>

Related to the above assessment, the media are increasingly reporting on how hot our summer may be. Wildfire season could be very active. Just look at our mountains—they had snow, now much of it has melted. We are likely in a period where precipitation will be infrequent but intense. This will affect our water supply and lead to dry forests. The time has passed for mitigation, which is why we need to prepare now.

- Emergency food supplies in sea cans. Sea cans across the district were stocked with basic food supplies from September 2025. However, some food is already getting rotated. Nutrigrain bars Courtenay EI received a Best Before Date of March 2026. The school recently received new stock and as in the process of eating the old stock. It is great that this food seems to be actively managed, but the turnover time of a few months is way too short and can end up being unnecessarily costly. Care should be taken to purchase items with longer shelf lives, such as canned goods.
 - Jeremy - The District is aware, cycling that food into the food programs and it is being replaced with the next rotation.

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

- We did get a little bit of impact from the recent rainstorm, understandable with 23 sites, a few leaks. Shout-out to our Operations Department for Thursday night leak management.
- Kindergarten registration 426 students, we were at 382 the same time last year. This doesn't automatically translate to higher overall enrollment, but it could. Feb 13th enrollment projections are due to the province, end of September enrollment is the final number that sets the funding.
- Budget process is underway - we are trying a different process this year and the amount of information offered. We are always open to suggestions. This year In addition to individual meetings with partner groups, we will have a meeting with all partners presenting in front of Trustees, as the Board has indicated they want to have an enhanced process. We intend to amplify by going at this earlier with a more robust process. The Budget Survey is open [Public Survey Link](#)
- We have Harold Cull joining us to support, he is finishing with Kamloops then joining us and may be acting Secretary Treasurer to cover a leave (pending board approval in March.)
- Close to filling a Human Resources Manager position. We are actively trying to find someone well-suited to the direction we are heading in with our district and capable of handling a workforce of over nineteen hundred employees.
- Question: what is the goal of the survey? Answer: We hope to find key priorities and then theme those out.
- Question: With the Kindergarten Lottery system this year, did it work ok? Answer: It did not seem to work well for everyone, in that it was not equitable but it was equal.

6 **Trustee Report**- Sarah Jane Howe (Cumberland)

- Lots of things have already been spoken about. Thank you Joanne for detailed comments around the Safe Schools update. I did not have that piece in my report. I do have some things that were brought up in the meeting that are new. All secondary schools are beginning installation of vape detectors in washrooms as a response to student feedback about not feeling safe in those spaces
- Updated naloxone kits, both types in the schools. A small cost associated with the nasal spray kit, needle kit could be a barrier. Those kits will be in our schools.
- Students in Grade 10 Physical & Health Education are now receiving CPR and AED training
- A huge part of the portfolios currently are: low arousal de-escalation techniques, SOGI supports, anti-racism and more mental health supports.

- A big theme: student safety is everyone's job and the district is investing heavily in prevention, training, and student voice.
- Gender-Based Violence Committee Update - Reinforce how proud I am of this work and looking forward to seeing who will be hired for that role. Dr. Morrow: I would like to note that with this work, it is important that we are running parallel and doing work in the District at the District-level while also working on provincial advocacy.
- The Board has officially begun the Superintendent Performance Review process. Suzanne Hoffman has been engaged to conduct this review and will be reaching out to: partners, Staff, Rightsholders, and Trustees.
- The Board passed the Amended Annual Budget based on actual September enrolment. Around the discussion of budget, noted that they did not dip into Contingency Reserves. Enrolment is up significantly (over 270 FTE students) and this enrollment change meant funding increases allowed for: 7 additional teachers (mostly online learning), 18 additional EAs, increased supports for Inclusive Education, increased substitute coverage for Staff absences,
- Simmy Pahl has been hired as the Racial Equity teacher lead. Anti-racism learning planned for: Grade 8 (introductory learning), Grade 9 (active witnessing / not being a bystander), Grade 10-12 assemblies (Team Up Against Racism)
- Portable battery units to charge communication devices were also added to the SeaCans.
- Emergency manuals are being rewritten. The current ones are from 4 years ago.
 - Question: If they are being rewritten, who is rewriting them? Answer: We will circle back to address who in the District is doing work and can be sent to Shawn to review.

7 **New Business:**

- Hayley - Communications and Sharing Out
 - How to get information to Principals directly from DPAC
 - Following topics covered at DPAC - key message for parents

8 **Upcoming Events:**

- No school February 16th for Family Day, and the 17th for Professional Development
- Pink Shirt Day is February 26th 2026

Upcoming Erase Sessions: Multiple Dates, Online and Free:

- **“Establishing Safe, Caring & Respectful Digital Communities”** Jan 21, Mar 11, and May 13

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

“This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sextortion. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.”

- **NEW: “Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying”** Feb 18, Apr 8, June 10

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

“This session covers the global issue of bullying, as well as cyberbullying within the Canadian context. The presentation highlights warning signs for if someone is experiencing cyberbullying behaviours, and the steps to take if you are a victim of cyberbullying behaviours. The presentation also explores sextortion, explaining how it occurs, key apps you should be aware of, the role of artificial intelligence in this issue, as well as the necessary steps to take if you are a target of sextortion.”

9 **Next Meeting:** Monday, March 2nd, 2026 6:30pm

10 **Adjourn 8:21pm.** Motion to Adjourn: Emily