

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

ATTENDANCE:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Joanne Barr - DPAC Chair | Emily Hanson*- Airport Elementary |
| Megan Cowling - DPAC Vice Chair (Brooklyn/Highland Alt) | Graeme Hahn* - Royston Elementary |
| Jennifer Fisher*- DPAC Secretary (Isfeld Alt) | Roxanne Power*- Huband Elementary |
| Kendall Packham - DPAC Director at Large | Carly Wintschel*- Brooklyn Elementary |
| Michelle Waite- SD71 Trustee | Brooke Finlayson* - DPAC Highland Secondary |
| Janice Caton- SD71 Trustee | Emma Graham* - Cumberland Community School |
| Thea Cockerton - SD71 Food Program Coordinator | Julia Tabernero- Huband Elementary Co-Rep |
| Dr. Jeremy Morrow - SD71 Superintendent | Erika Davis*- Arden Elementary |
| Jen Storey - Miracle Beach Elementary | Kari Pratt*- Isfeld Secondary |
| | Sara Schouten* - Denman Island Community School |

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

***indicates DPAC Rep**

1 Call to Order: Called to Order at 6:35pm

Recognition of Traditional Territories - I respectfully acknowledge that the land we gather on is the unceded traditional territory of the Pentlatch, Ei'ksan, Sahtloot and Sasitla people, now collectively known as the K'ômoks First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land.

Introductions

Approval of the Minutes from *February 2, 2026* Moved by: Carly, Seconded by: Kendall - Motion Carried.

Approval of the Agenda for *March 2, 2026* Moved by: Kendall, Seconded by: Jen - Motion Carried.

2 Correspondence

- BCCPAC [2026 Community Gaming Grant Presentation](#)
 - Held March 11 at 7pm via Zoom. Must register in advance, deadline March 9th. This 90-minute online session on the 2026 PAC and DPAC Community Gaming Grant application. Amy Bond, Community Gaming Branch Manager, will walk through key requirements, timelines, and practical tips to support a strong submission.
- **Conference & AGM**
 - We are excited to welcome parents and caregivers from across the province to the in-person Parent Leadership Conference on April 24, 2026, held alongside our Annual General Meeting on April 25 & 26 in Richmond.
 - This event brings together parent leaders to connect, learn, and advocate for the future of public education in BC. All parents are welcome to attend the Conference, and BCCPAC members are encouraged to participate in the AGM.

Visit our website for more details: [2026 Conference & AGM](#)

3 Presentation and Building and Sharing: [YouTube from board meeting presentation](#) 15 minutes -Inclusive Technology in SD 71: Expanding Access for Every Learner - and group discussion. (Youtube presentation starting 6:40pm)

Presenters are:

Support for Students Using Assistive and Accessible Technology: Jane Rondow

Email: Jane.Rondow@sd71.bc.ca

Support for Inclusive and Accessible Classrooms: Shannon Hagen

Shannon.Hagen@sd71.bc.ca

Link to the feature page: [Learn71 Comox Valley Inclusive Technology Handbook](#)

Questions & Reflections:

- Who is the presentation designed for? Who is the audience? Audience is the Board. Wondering about screen recording and walkthroughs, recording user stories and specific user walkthroughs for families on each tier. I wonder what the school district has on this topic? Do this for a couple profiles on each of the tiers. Lots of really cool stuff. As a parent who uses this, I always find things I didn't know about.
- Really interesting when these things happen, but it is hard to get to stuff.
- Teachers don't always have the support to use these tools. It is not easy.
- Learn71 -> Inclusion Resources -> Assistive Tech
 - <https://learn71.ca/home/mental-health-and-wellness/counsellors-corner/>
- Build resources to help families.
- Some kids do not want to be the only one utilizing the technology.
- Phone as accessibility tool.
- How to connect this information to those families that need it?
 - Flow chart for parents to help navigate to the resources, and an explanation for the purpose of the resources?
- Potential side committee, bring back to PACs for feedback.

4 Reports - Attached

Executive Report - Our Treasurer position is still vacant, but we have interested parents we hope will finalize their decision soon.

- This month we had the opportunity to participate in a Student Voice Partner Group Engagement Session, Calendar Committee, Budget discussions with the acting Secretary Treasurer, monthly meeting with Superintendent, Anti-Racism meeting with Vivian Collyer where we met Simmy Pahl, Collaborative Advocacy Committee, attended the Regular Public Board Meeting, and this coming month (although short) will be busy.
- Treasury Report: we had a deposit of \$90 from PACs for their FoodSafe, we are still waiting for a few PACs to finalize their payment. General account has \$6843.66 Gaming account has \$5715.14

Monthly Report		
Jan 31 to Feb 28		
	General	Gaming
Income		
	90.00	0.00
Opening Balance Jan 31	6753.66	6185.39
Total Income	6843.66	6185.39
Expense		
BCCPAC Membership	0.00	0.00
BCCPAC AGM/Conference Costs	0.00	0.00
Speaker Series	0.00	0.00
Informational Materials for Parents	0.00	0.00
Stationary	0.00	0.00
Incidentals/Gifts	0.00	0.00
Website & Admin Fees	0.00	0.00
Bank Fees	0.00	0.00
Per Diem For BCCPAC \$25/day	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	0.00	0.00
Balance	6843.66	6185.39

- Question: What is the time commitment for the Treasurer role?

Answer: 30 seconds to login, very few transactions throughout the year because our funding can only be used for parent education. What is the time commitment for Exec? Depends on how much time you can spare. Lots of opportunities to assist.

- First Highlight Student Voice: Joyful, deep, emotional. A very diverse group that shared a lot of information. Tasked with homework to change how we look at moving forward and supporting. Notes front and back. Very well organized by Staff.
- Second highlight: Sitting with Anti-Racism Subcommittee and an amazing meeting.

Questions for your Executive Team? None at this time.

5 Subcommittees:

A) Anti Racism Committee - Carly Wintschel (submitted)

- Last Thursday, representatives from our committee met with Joanne, Vivian Collyer (Associate Superintendent), and Simmy Pahl (District Teacher Lead for Anti-Racism) to discuss district anti-racism initiatives for the year ahead. We shared our committee's Terms of Reference, clarified the goals and scope of the new district Anti-Racism Lead role, learned about current and upcoming initiatives at the district level and identified opportunities for alignment and collaboration. We are encouraged by the district's dedication to this work and look forward to supporting Simmy in strengthening anti-racism practices across the district. When we support staff in this work, we ultimately support student safety, belonging, and success.
- Code of Conduct Highlight: We appreciate the New Westminster School District's recent update of disciplinary approaches to racist, discriminatory and hateful acts. It was followed up by a 2025 letter to ensure families and community members would be aware of the updates. It explicitly identifies racism, discrimination, and hate-based actions as harmful to school communities and identifies district actions against such harmful events. The letter also provided examples of racist, discriminatory and hate-based acts, the desire to create learning opportunities and early intervention strategies, and the possible consequences following persistent negative conduct. Please follow the link above to read the letter.
- Our next committee meeting will be Friday, April 10th, 9am-10:30am at the School Board office.
- Going down the rabbit hole of different ways this work shows up in schools. Simmy is in a two-year position. Shared TOR and discussed how we can align and collaborate. Some collaborating and not siloeing the work.

B) Sexual Health Committee - Brooke Finlayson - called away for family emergency

C) Speaker Series Committee - Megan Cowling (submitted)

Excited to share two events coming up, please see the full writeups at the end of the Agenda.

- The first is the SEEN Documentary with the Comox Valley Child Development Centre. This opportunity to partner with the CVCDA came through connection earlier this fall. We are keen to support the CVCDA as a community partner and a significant resource for our families. This documentary was suggested to us as good content destigmatizing discussions of parent mental health for our families. The SEEN Documentary is free with two showings. Find the Youtube trailer [HERE](#), and find the Eventbrite link [HERE](#). Huge thanks to the team at the Child Development Centre for their outstanding work putting this together, we are excited to support tangible and accessible discussions about parent mental health. Currently there are 70 free tickets "sold" for the 12:00 pm show (free childcare on-site) and 43 for the 6:30pm show. See the poster attached at the end of the Agenda.
- The second event is The White Hatter, booked to appear virtually on Wednesday March 18th from 6:30-8:30pm on the topic of "Raising AI-Ready Youth: Safety, Privacy, Ethics, and Success Plans." See

the full blurb at the end of the agenda. We are hoping this can be the start of many discussions around AI and its growing impact on the school landscape. The White Hatter often frames content in a “facts not fear” approach, and we are excited to hear content geared towards ethics, safety, privacy and success for our kids.

D) **Emergency Preparedness Committee** - Nothing to Report

6 Superintendent Report - Dr. Jeremy Morrow - Verbal Update

- Starting talking about accessible technology
- Support the great work that Jane and Shannon are doing, finding ways to support that work at a systemic level
- Bug fixes and iterations based on fixes
- Reservoir of great material to be accessed
- Find new and creative ways to share info
- As of today SD71 has a new Secretary Treasurer: Harold Cull (filling in for a medical leave)
- DPAC was a part of panel of Human Resources Director - ongoing
- BC Parks has chosen us as a pilot project, 5 of our schools have been selected to have a “re-wilded” space around the school
- Budget process really trying to increase the number of contacts we have with partners and public
- This year we have over 500 responses on the survey
- Partner groups presenting to the Board to hear some of the themes and hopes for the budget
- Stabilizing enrollment means cost-pressures
- Realistic narrative not a tonne of funds
- Update of School Growth Plans coming
- Delay of practicing safety lockdown drills at schools until after Spring break.
 - Anything around our District’s safety around unlocked doors and access points?
 - Question: plan for AI regulation and accountabilities for threats detected online?
 - March 13 VTRA Level 2 training for staff

7 Trustees Report: Michelle Waite and Janice Caton

- Trustee report for March 2, 2026 DPAC meeting (Submitted)
 - Our hearts and thoughts continue to be with the students, family and community of Tumbler Ridge. Deepest condolences for the lives lost and the impacts on those who were injured, and to the school community and families, and every person whose life has been impacted by what took place at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School on February 10, 2026.
- Upcoming Opportunities:
 - Monday, March 10 the Board of Education invites you to a Public Engagement to share information on budget feedback and enrollment projections.
 - Due to the upcoming Spring Break our next public board meeting is just around the corner, on Tuesday March 17th.
- Recent Events:
 - Student Engagement:
 - CVS hosted two events in February to hear from students that are part of the CVS Student Voice One event was a panel of students from CVS Student Voice that answered questions that were submitted by IEC and partner groups (including DPAC). The circle of attendees included representation from partner groups and trustees. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from students and witness these leaders of today supporting and validating each other throughout the session.
 - The second event was a quarterly Student Voice session where students connected about the upcoming budget and continued the work they prioritized regarding the Strategic Plan.
- Please find attached the February Board Business Report and some additional information below:

- Board Meeting February 24:
Approval of the 2027/28 International Student Fees
- Inclusive Technology Presentation
 - Focus on universal, targeted, and individual supports for students.
 - Highlights of tools such as iPads, assistive technology, and digital accessibility resources.
 - Success stories from literacy grants and provincial assessment accessibility improvements.
- Close Circuit TV/ Video Surveillance Annual Report: (requirement under School Act)
 - Overview of compliance with FIPPA and the School Act.
 - Updates on the installation and operation of surveillance systems in schools to ensure safety and property protection.
- Safe and Active Schools Program Update:
 - Collaboration with the City of Courtenay to improve school-area safety and active travel.
 - Engagement activities, preliminary findings, and early actions completed.
 - Next steps include community consultation and finalizing recommendations.
- 2026/27 Budget Update
 - Revised budget consultation process with increased community engagement.
 - High-level enrolment estimates showing a slight decline in standard enrolment and growth in online registrations.
 - Anticipated provincial budget impacts to be clarified in March.

Next week on March 10th there is a public engagement session on budget feedback and enrollment 6-730, be in the room. Tomorrow night is all the Partner Groups meeting re: budget. Topic of Student Voice, Janice will speak to the topic as she has been working to ask for Student Voice for many years.

Public Board Meeting on March 17th.

Janice: Thankful we are not facing cuts. Bathrooms are ongoing issue. Nice for students to have their voices included. The Student Voice are the ones that are bringing the other students in. With budget, one thing they said they want to keep was Student Voice.

8 **New Business** - Code of Conduct for DPAC Executive.

- Code of Conduct for DPAC Executive through a personal interaction and advocating for a parent and met with Associate Superintendent to relay the correct information to a family. Clarity for process to confirm the process. Through conversation it was misunderstood by the Principal and they felt as though they went over a head. We have created this to make sure we do not use our position in a leveraging way or that we are breaking the process that we are consistently preaching. Intended to go alongside our C&B but not to replace it. We would like everyone to take it back and review it and make notes and come back so we can refine it and pass it. If you have questions please send to the DPAC email: dpac@sd71.bc.ca
 - Code of Conduct can be found [HERE](#)
 - What is the role of the Director at Large: intended to build capacity with less time commitment.
 - In addition to Subcommittees with Exec members sitting on them, committees at the District level, Director at Large are included in exec and this Exec Code of Conduct will apply to them, is it not applicable to DPAC reps.

9 **Upcoming Events** *MyEd Session postponed until April - collect feedback*

- Arden elementary - Maker Market - April 18th, 10am-3pm at Arden Gym
- High five to everyone involved in the Fine Arts Showcase

10 **Next Meeting:** Monday, April 13 6:30pm

11 **Adjourn Complete at 8:05pm**

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

seen

THE FILM

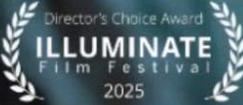




Official Selection
ILLUMINATE
Film Festival
2025



MELBOURNE
DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL
OFFICIAL
SELECTION
2025



Director's Choice Award
ILLUMINATE
Film Festival
2025



MAGGIE DENT
Parenting author



DOCTOR
BILLY GARVEY
Developmental



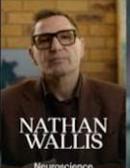
LAEL STONE
Educator, author



PROFESSOR
SELENA BARTLETT
International investigator
in translational



DOCTOR
VANESSA LAPOINTE
Parenting educator,
speaker and best



NATHAN WALLIS
Neuroscience

SEEN is an award winning feature documentary about the transformative power of personal healing for parents. Through the unfiltered and authentic narratives of real parents and science-backed insight, it shows how addressing trauma and attachment can reshape parenting and support healthy child brain development. A compelling, hopeful call to self-reflection, connection, and generational change.

FREE SCREENINGS

Friday, March 13th at 12:00 pm and 6:30 pm
Stan Hagen Theatre at NIC, 2300 Ryan Road, Courtenay, BC

Movie is 1h 15 mins, pre recorded Q&A lasting 30 mins will be shown after a 5 min intermission.
*Childminding available for the 12:00 pm showing, with drop off being at 11:45. Spaces are limited:
email childcare@cvvca.ca to inquire about a spot.

Thank you NIC
for the
generous
support!



Scan to Register



or go to

comoxvalleyseenthefilm.eventbrite.ca

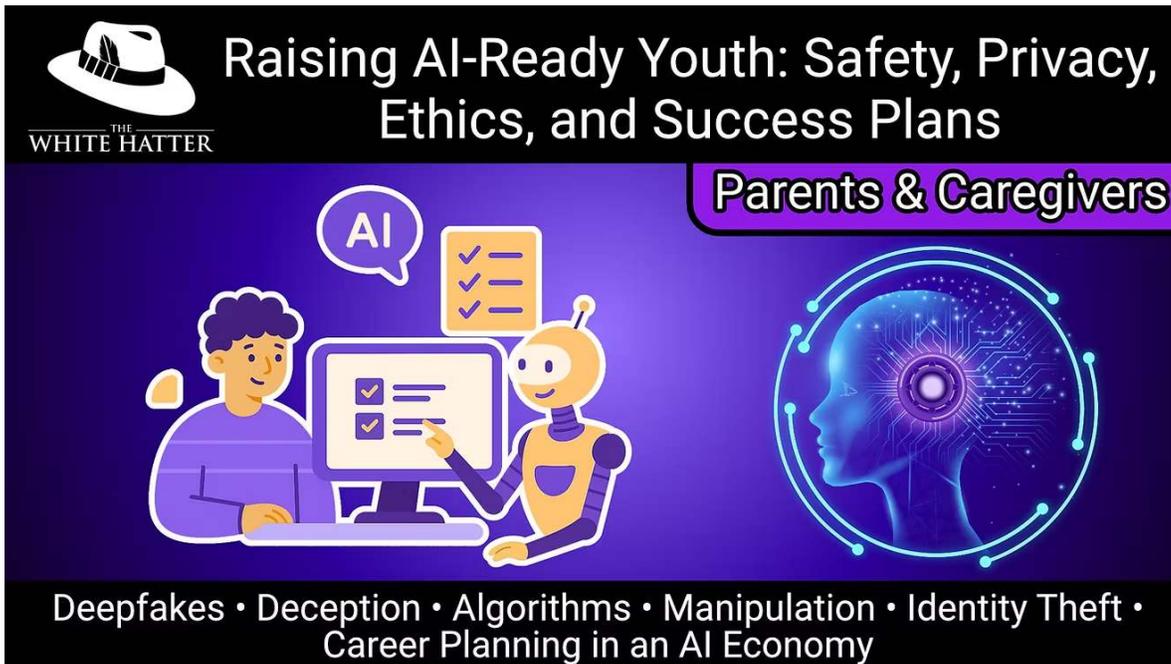








The White Hatter "Raising AI-Ready Youth: Safety, Privacy, Ethics, and Success Plans"
Wednesday, March 18th 6:30-8:30pm



Parents & Caregivers

Deepfakes • Deception • Algorithms • Manipulation • Identity Theft •
Career Planning in an AI Economy

This program will empower parents, caregivers, and educators with the knowledge and tools they need to understand how artificial intelligence is shaping youth experiences, and to help young people navigate AI's impact on their safety, privacy, digital wellbeing, and learning.

Key Program Components

Topics covered Include:

- Understanding AI in Everyday Youth Experiences
- AI Algorithms, Surveillance & Manipulation
- Seeing Is No Longer Believing: AI Deepfakes & Digital Deception
- AI Deepfake Sextortion & AI-Generated CSAM
- AI Fraud, Voice Cloning, and Identity Theft
- AI in the Classroom: Assistant or Shortcut?
- The Future of Work: Career Planning in an AI Economy
- Strategies for Parents, Caregivers, and Educators

By the end of this course, participants will:

- Understand how AI is integrated into youth digital environments.
- Identify specific AI-related risks to safety, privacy, and identity.
- Model and teach critical AI digital literacy skills.
- Advocate for balanced, ethical, and protective uses of AI.