

**MINUTES** for the General Meeting of the **SD71 District Parent Advisory Council**, held Isfeld Library & via Zoom, on **MONDAY, April 13th** 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         |
| Hayley Dato*- DPAC Treasurer (Vanier Alt)                | Carly Wintschel*- Brooklyn Elementary     |
| Dr. Jeremy Morrow - SD71 Superintendent                  | Erika Davis*- Arden Elementary            |
| Chelsea McCannel- Keane - SD71 Trustee                   | Shawn Thir*- Lake Trail School            |
| Jennifer Viano - Highland Parent                         | Thea Cockerton - Food Service Coordinator |
| Catherine Crowe* - Ecole Robb Road                       | Jody Larsen - Aspen Elementary            |
| Jennifer Storey*- Miracle Beach (alt)                    | Mackenzie Leslie* - Courtenay Elementary  |

**12 of 21 voting reps (min. of 7 req'd for quorum)**  
*\*indicates DPAC Rep*

**1 Call to Order** *Called to Order at 6:34pm*

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

Introductions - quick round table

Approval of the Minutes from *March 2nd, 2026 Moved by: Catherine Seconded by: Graham Motion Carried.*

Approval of the Agenda for *April 13th, 2026 Moved by: Jenn Seconded by: Erika Motion Carried.*

**2 Correspondence** - BCCPAC - Community Gaming Grants are open:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling-fundraising/gaming-grants/cggapply>

- Quick little How-To available, the \$20 per student based on previous year's enrollment.

**3 Building and Sharing:** Open Discussion

- Megan - Bike Bus is finally running at Brooklyn after a year of planning, just happened this week with great feedback, a template was created and happy to share with any other schools interested. Spoke to the Comox Valley RCMP Detachment and they were open, supportive, and helpful towards this community initiative.
  - [Bike Bus](#) - is a group of students riding in a preplanned route, one parent leads, one parent rides at the side and one parent pulls the rear, allows for safety for students and grows school community
- Jody - teacher/staff connection was previously discussed at a DPAC meeting, we note Alex Sabell has been amazing at the school in working with students
- Catherine - ERR Playground Accessible Playground Project - a ton of work around building this, grants etc; Catherine extends the offer to be a resource for any other school community that will be diving into playground upgrades/replacement. Lots of work has been done, don't want to lose that information
- Megan - 2020/2021 Brooklyn and ERR was featured in a [school garden documentary](#). Watch party will be happening on Earth Day. Would be amazing if someone from the District connect with Media and connect this excitement with the fact that school gardens need volunteer help as do so many events and extras that happen around school.

- Erika - always looking for new faces at PAC's/volunteers to help, trying hard to get a robust fresh group of parents connected and engaged so it isn't the same 4 people.

Suggestions for how to bring in more volunteers:

- Ask the Staff to help with promoting PAC involvement
- Email connection and old school paper handout to get the word out to parents.
- Send staff something to cut & paste into their parent communications
- Google spreadsheet - send out to parents so they can see the blanks and fill in.
- Free signup app - user friendly. E.g. the Sign Up Genius app.

#### 4 Reports - Attached

##### Executive Report

- Thrilled to announce that the Treasurer position has been filled by Hayley Dato, a long time DPAC rep from Vanier. Thank you to Hayley for stepping up to help at the Executive level, we are so appreciative of your commitment to DPAC
- We have submitted 2 Resolutions for the BCCPAC AGM
  - Proposed Resolution: [Priority Boarding on BC Ferries for Student-facing Staff](#)
    - Unfortunately the BCCPAC Resolution committee has rejected this proposal, with the following rationale:  
*"BC Ferries being a privately owned company that operates under contract with the Provincial Government. It also does not affect the province as a whole and would be better regional advocacy item in conjunction with your local CUPE and Teacher Union"*
  - Proposed Resolution: [Establish Provincial Aggression and Complexity in Schools Action Team](#)
    - This was accepted by the BCCPAC Resolution committee
  - Proxy Vote form can be found [HERE](#)

Monthly Report		
Feb 28 to Mar 31		
	General	Gaming
<b>Income</b>		
	0.00	0.00
Opening Balance Feb 28	6783.66	5716.64
<b>Total Income</b>	6783.66	5716.64
<b>Expense</b>		
BCCPAC Membership	0.00	0.00
BCCPAC AGM/Conference Costs	507.00	0.00
Speaker Series	0.00	2226.75
Stationary	0.00	0.00
Incidentals/Gifts	0.00	0.00
Website & Admin Fees	0.00	0.00
Bank Fees	0.00	3.00
Per Diem For BCCPAC \$25/day	0.00	0.00
	0.00	
<b>Total Expense</b>	507.00	2229.75
Balance	6276.66	3486.89

##### Subcommittees:

A) **Anti Racism Committee** - Carly Wintschel (submitted)

*Our committee met on Friday, April 10th at the school board office, joined by Simmy Pahl, the district's Racial Equity Lead. We had a rich and collaborative discussion focused on the different levels and layers of support available for teachers, parents, and students.*

### **Key Highlights:**

- **Support for Teachers:**

*Simmy's role primarily focuses on supporting educators. She has been developing resource kits to help teachers approach anti-racism education in the classroom and is also available to work alongside teachers directly in their classrooms.*

- **"Calling In" vs. "Calling Out":**

*We explored these two approaches to responding to racist incidents. Each has potential benefits and risks depending on the context.*

- *Calling in emphasizes private, reflective conversations that support learning and growth.*
- *Calling out involves publicly naming and challenging harmful behaviour.*

*Simmy has created a helpful handout with examples of both approaches—please feel free to reach out to me if you would like a copy.*

- **Upcoming Staff Engagement:**

*Simmy has been invited to attend the May 5th staff meeting at Brooklyn to share more about her role and the supports she offers to teachers.*

- **Professional Learning Opportunities:**

*As part of her work, Simmy brought in Mandart Chan on March 18th and 19th to facilitate anti-racism workshops for teachers. I had the privilege of attending this workshop which provided valuable opportunities for self-reflection on bias and insight into teachers' current and past classroom experiences.*

- *Joined in and it was interesting as a parent lens instead of the previous teacher.*

### **Committee Focus and Next Steps:**

*Our committee continues to focus on understanding district processes in order to better advocate for and support the development of respectful, inclusive, and safe school communities.*

*Our next (and final) meeting for this school year will be:*

**Friday, May 22nd, 9:15–11:00 AM at the school board office.**

*New members are always welcome to join.*

B) **Sexual Health Committee** - Brooke Finlayson - No Report at this time

C) **Speaker Series Committee** - Megan Cowling (submitted)

- The White Hatter presented virtually [Raising AI-Ready Youth: Safety, Privacy, Ethics, and Success Plans](#) on March 18th. We were pleased to hear the presentation had 197 views, with additional resources and connections made around next steps for more resources to approach AI in the context of schools and youth.
- Please get in touch with additional content suggestions, requests and interests.
- Question: with the upcoming [This Is A Gardening Show](#) documentary release, do PACs/parents have an interest in School Garden presentations for volunteer groups? Suggestion: connect with Royston School for their excellent program.

D) **Emergency Preparedness Committee** - Shawn Thir - (submitted)

- Met on March 3 to discuss next steps.
- Discussion focused on raising emergency preparedness awareness.
- Some ideas included reaching to the Quake Cottage (an earthquake simulator) and advocating for changing the way evacuation drills are conducted, such as having a student hide in the school and having staff do a sweep, or randomly blocking halls or exits to force staff to find alternate exit routes.
  - Pros: Adds an element of realism (and maybe excitement for the kids who get to hide)
  - Cons: Buy-in from staff as it makes a bit more work for everyone.

Question: how are the wildfire and flooding preparation work coming? The islands and Miracle Beach.  
Question: is the school district connecting with FireSmart?

## 5 **Superintendent Report** - Dr. Jeremy Morrow - Verbal Update

- Emergency procedures piece in the context of the catastrophe at Tumbler Ridge. We have suspended lockdown drills, will provide written notice ahead of the drills in Spring and lots of time to prepare.
- Concern around the safety, recognizing the response can contribute to parent unease and speculation.
- Will work with Exec to get the parent lens.
- Associate Superintendent Jay Dixon attending the May meeting re: communication, Erase, and school safety communication.
- Aspen build is open to students and are excited for that expansion.
- Trying to work through spaces and fluctuating enrollment.
- Long range facilities - expansion at Military base and the housing and families that it will bring into the District, making sure that it isn't a concentrated location but spread out over the District impacting not just a couple schools.
- Budget cost pressure of 2-3 million dollars, the government doesn't fund inflationary pressures. Specifically cost pressure in the Staff Benefits cost, with a 1 million dollar cost pressure from benefit providers alone.
- More needs than funds but looking at how we can meet these needs as we're pulled thinner and thinner year after year (e.g. Inclusive education designations grow.)
- Admin move announcements - instead of waiting, we are going with what we know now. Attached to staffing and a teaching component.
- Gratitude for journeying together.

## 6 **Trustees Report:** Chelsea McCannel-Keene - Verbal Report

- Briefly gratitude lifting and sharing voices in this work.
- Attended the BC Trustee Association AGM - Three of our Trustees and Secretary/Treasurer attended
  - Bell Let's Talk Clara Hughes 1 in 5 people struggling, focus on connecting the 4 to the 1.
  - Minister Beare shared information
  - BCSTA AGM policy review framework just came out, in addition to Secretary Treasurer will help
  - School safety and emergency management: some fragile to discuss
    - Communication strategies: promotion prevention and response
    - Difference between the procedure steps: lockdown, hold & secure,
  - 33 motions before the assembly, lots of good work and strong advocacy, database and action taken
- Shared partner group advocacy
- Healthy Schools BC website now linked by Healthlink BC: part of ongoing work added new dates and times for the students on establishing safe caring school April 29 and April 30th
- Family sessions are held once a month (See QR Codes at the end of the document)
- Long Range Facilities Plan - closed Partner group meeting happening this week with Studio Hub
- Shoutout as the District Beetlejuice production was amazing

## 7 **New Business**

- Code of Conduct for DPAC Executive. Motion to Pass
  - *Motion: "to pass the Code of Conduct for DPAC Executives" as presented. Motioned by: Jenn Seconded by: Graham. Motion CARRIED*
- BCCPAC AGM - Budget increase
  - *Motion, "to increase the budget for the BCCPAC AGM to \$900", Motioned by: Jennifer, Seconded by: Jen S. Motion CARRIED*

**8 Upcoming Events**

- Arden Kids Maker Market - email [ardenpacexec@gmail.com](mailto:ardenpacexec@gmail.com), if you have a child who wants to participate. April 18th Saturday 10am-3pm
- Miracle Beach Plant fundraiser
- Arden Penny Carnival - May 21st, 4pm start

**9 Next Meeting:** Monday, May 4th 6:30pm

**10 Adjourn** - Motion to Adjourn 7:57pm - *Moved by: Jennifer, Motion Carried.*

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

QR Codes for Erase Parent Sessions:

SESSIONS FOR STUDENTS:



ESTABLISHING SAFE CARING AND RESPECTFUL DIGITAL COMMUNITIES:

