

MINUTES



DPAC
DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: September 26, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: School Board Office (2790 Tims Street)

Executives in Attendance: Shannon Rose, Chair
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer
Winsome Rauch, Secretary

Attendance: Nina Lehtonen (Margaret Stenersen), Becky Williams, Pinkey Bhatti, Gurpinder Kaur (South Poplar), Jas Basdesha (ATS), Rehan Siddiqui (Abbotsford Sr), Josephine Leonard (WJ Mouat), Stacey Parson, Eruke Omorogieva (ASIA), Amanda Degenhardt (Centennial Park)

Special Guests: Superintendent Sean Nosek, Trustee Shirley Wilson

1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. A quorum was met.

2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community
Introductions

3 Special Guests – Superintendent Sean Nosek and Trustee Shirley Wilson

Superintendent Sean Nosek expressed his appreciation to parents as he entered his second year in the role, noting the strong connection he has developed with the community. He highlighted his efforts to refine a multi-year strategic plan and his focus on being accessible by visiting the district's 46 sites. One of his main challenges is translating the board's strategic plan and Ministry of Education expectations into meaningful outcomes for students. He acknowledged labor shortages in the education sector, particularly in remote regions, and emphasized the need to make the district an attractive workplace.

Superintendent Nosek reassured parents that literacy and numeracy remain priorities, addressing concerns about the expanding mandate. The district serves over 20,000 students who speak 85 different languages. He also highlighted the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, like real-time translation, and noted the successful rollout of a personal device policy. He spoke of the district's collaboration with Indigenous communities and the recent success of a school supplies drive.

Trustee Shirley Wilson shared that the school district is operating at 104% capacity, with a significant focus on ensuring the right staff are in place at the start of the school year. The district employs about 3,000 staff, 65% of whom are teaching staff. She highlighted the role of unlicensed

teachers on call (UTOCs), who have university degrees but lack a teaching credential, helping keep classrooms staffed. Trustee Wilson emphasized family and community engagement as part of the strategic plan, encouraging participation through PAC and DPAC.

4 Q&A with Superintendent Sean Nosek and Trustee Shirley Wilson

Questions were asked and answered about

4.1 Incentives for Keeping French Teachers in Immersion

Efforts are being made to support French immersion programs, including providing growth opportunities for administrators and teachers. Although higher salaries can't be offered only to French teachers, strategies for retention are being explored. Parents remain concerned about potential reductions in the program, and recruitment of French teachers is ongoing.

4.2 Reporting Absences, Particularly for High-Risk Students

High schools take attendance by period/block (four times a day). Absences in the morning are flagged urgently, though notifications may be delayed. Special processes are in place for urgent reporting of absences for high-risk students.

4.3 Availability of School Board Meetings on YouTube

Board meetings continue to be streamed on YouTube, and community engagement through this platform is appreciated.

4.4 Standardizing School Fees for Volleyball and Basketball

While a cost-recovery model is recommended, fees vary across the district due to factors like games, tournaments, uniforms, and equipment. PACs should document large discrepancies for Superintendent Nosek to review.

4.5 Cost of Buses and Transportation

Abbotsford spends more on bussing than other districts, but funding is a challenge as it comes from classroom budgets; there are no provincial funds for transportation. Bus driver shortages and community transit issues are ongoing. A consultation on transportation will be announced in 2024/2025.

4.6 After-School Care

The district works with community partners for after-school care, though there is a shortage of early childhood educators. Expanding care options is a challenge.

4.7 Bus Drivers' Treatment

There are concerns about disrespectful behavior towards bus drivers. There is a need for procedures to protect drivers, starting with conversations to riders and parents and escalating if necessary.

4.8 School Schedule Change

An elementary school bell schedule change was communicated with very short notice, raising concerns. Parents want better communication and planning around such changes.

4.9 Equal Opportunity for French Immersion (Bussing)

Efforts are made to encourage children to attend their catchment school. If a family chooses French immersion, or other choice program, they are responsible for transportation.

4.10 Negotiated Charter Bus Contracting for Events

There was discussion about whether the district should negotiate a rate with one or two charter bus companies. There was a past incident involving a fatal charter bus accident, which led the district to minimize the use of charter buses over the years. Charter services are held accountable through competitive practices rather than committing to just one.

4.11 Teaching Styles

A concern was raised about a teacher using group work to teach rather than direct instruction, leading to uneven learning experiences. The reply emphasized that teaching styles vary, and students should discuss concerns with their teachers. There might be a need for more structured teaching in higher grades.

5 Approval of the Minutes from May 23, 2024

Secretary Winsome Rauch presented the minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting.

It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Vice Chair Michelle Bastien THAT the minutes of the May 23, 2024 Annual General Meeting be approved as amended. CARRIED

6 Treasurer report

6.1 Current Account Balances

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances as of September 26, 2024

- 6.1.1 General = Opening \$3662.62 as of May 23, 2024 + \$5000 from school district on May 31, less \$266.66 for BCCPAC expenses; closing \$8396.06
- 6.1.2 Gaming = Opening \$4490.37 as of May 23, 2024 + \$117.60 from BCCPAC reimbursing for fees; less \$1050 to School district for presentations; less \$117.60 to Emily Kasper for BCCPAC AGM; less \$786.58 to Shannon Rose BCCPAC conference fees and accommodations; ending balance \$2653.79. We have been notified of our gaming grant of \$2500

6.2 Presentation and approval of 2024/25 budget

**Abbotsford DPAC
 Proposed Budget
 June 30, 2025**

	<u>GENERAL</u>	<u>GAMING</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
REVENUE			
Funding from Abbotsford School District	5,000.00		5,000.00
Unused 2023/24 fuding from SD	3,662.62		
2024/25 Gaming Grant		2,500.00	2,500.00
Unused 2022/23 Gaming Grant		153.78	
Unused 2023/24 Gaming Grant		2,500.00	2,500.00
	8,662.62	5,153.78	10,000.00
EXPENSES			
BCCPAC membership dues - DPAC		200.00	200.00
BCCPAC membership dues - schools (\$100 x 46)	4,600.00		4,600.00
DPAC Summit - hotel room (2 nights x 1 room)		600.00	600.00
DPAC Summit - meals (2 executive x 2 days @ \$50/day)	200.00		200.00
Conference and AGM fee for 2 executive		600.00	600.00
Hotel fee for conference & AGM (3 nights x 1 rooms)		900.00	900.00
Meals for conference & AGM (2 excutive x 3 days @ \$50/day)	300.00		300.00
Zoom license - DPAC		250.00	250.00
Zoom license - PACs	250.00		250.00
Guest speakers for Parent Night Series		2,000.00	2,000.00
Snacks and drinks for Parent Night Series (8 events x \$25)	200.00		200.00
Snacks for DPAC meetings (2 meetings x \$20)	40.00		40.00
DPAC website		500.00	500.00
	5,590.00	5,050.00	10,640.00
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	3,072.62	103.78	(640.00)

It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Vice Chair Michelle Bastien THAT the budget be approved as presented CARRIED

7 New Business

7.1 BC Gaming Account Summary Report

Due 90 days after year-end (September 28 for June 30 year-ends).

7.2 BCCPAC Memberships

Please email your request to have your PAC membership paid to DPAC tonight if you have not submitted it yet.

- 7.2.1 Option 1: If you chose this option, please send in your executive list if you have not submitted the entire PAC list. Email the executive list to info@bccpac.bc.ca.
- 7.2.2 Option 2: If you chose this option, DPAC will send a cheque on behalf of all, and you can register yourself later when you receive the code.
- 7.2.3 Discussion: There are several vacant executive positions at BCCPAC, prompting a discussion on whether to withhold membership fees. With an upcoming by-election, concerns were raised about the potential loss of voting rights if fees for 2024/25 are not paid. Memberships are valid until August 31, 2024. Abbotsford DPAC has already paid their fees. Since PACs have until December 31, 2024, to submit payments, some districts are withholding fees. However, it was agreed that if participation in the by-elections requires payment, fees will be submitted.

7.3 Elementary Education Night – “PAC 101”

October 28, 7:30–9:00 pm at Prince Charles Elementary. This event will address general questions about the operations of a PAC. It is currently in the planning stages.

7.4 Parent Night Series

Parent night series will feature participants from Abby PD, Fraser Health, mental health clinicians, Michelle Gehring (LSS), and Superintendent Nosek on AI. While the topics are confirmed, the dates and venues for these sessions are still being finalized. Each session will be about 90 minutes long.

7.5 Stetis Imexstowx ("Walk Beside Us") Gatherings

- 7.5.1 The first event will take place on Saturday, September 28, from 10:00 pm to 3:00 pm at Mill Lake Park, where Abbotsford Children’s Theatre will be reading stories. This community gathering, titled "Go Play Outside," invites everyone to join in the activities.
- 7.5.2 The second event is scheduled for Monday, September 30, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Civic Plaza at City Hall.

7.6 Board Meeting - The next School Board meeting will be held October 22, 7:00 pm at the School Board office. Everyone can watch it live on YouTube

8 Open Floor

There was a discussion about student fees and the various costs they cover, including items like lockers, planners, and leadership activities, which vary from school to school.

9 Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held October 24, 2024 at 7pm on Zoom.

10 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM