

MINUTES



Date: September 24, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: School Board Office
Executives in Attendance: Chair Winsome Rauch
Treasurer Pinkey Bhatti
Attendance: See Attendance list attached
Special Guests: Superintendent Nathan Ngieng
Deputy Superintendent Pete Nuij

1 Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions, Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Winsome Rauch. Meeting was formally opened with quorum confirmed.

2 School Startup – Superintendent Nathan Ngieng

Superintendent Nathan Ngieng outlined preparations for the 2026–2027 School Year Startup

- The district has approximately 20,000 students and 3,500 employees. Enrollment remains relatively stable, with a gradual decline projected over the coming years.
- Approximately 500 teaching positions and 200 support staff positions were filled for the new school year.
- The Back to School program distributed 850 laptops to families in need, and IT prepared 4,500 computers.
- Childcare expansion at three elementary schools will add 72 spaces, with openings expected around November and April.
- Summer projects included the Abby Middle classroom expansion and various facility upgrades.
- Transportation serves over 2,500 registered riders across 38 bus routes.

3 School Startup Q&A

Questions were asked and answered about the following

3.1 Childcare Expansion

The district considers available space, projected enrollment, community need and provincial funding when deciding where to add childcare. Future classroom needs can limit expansion. The district acknowledged that demand exceeds supply.

3.2 Facilities Maintenance

The district has a rotating maintenance schedule. Parents should raise concerns with their principal, who can work with the facilities department. PACs cannot independently hire contractors for school building work because of district contracts.

3.3 Special Education and Staffing

Funding: MCFD at-home funding for children under five is separate from school district supplemental funding for students with diverse needs.

Staffing: Parents raised concerns about students receiving reduced school days because of insufficient support. Hiring continues throughout the year, but shortages, particularly among educational assistants and bus drivers, often increase between November and March.

3.4 Food Security

The Superintendent confirmed that food insecurity is increasing in Abbotsford. The Feeding Futures program distributed more backpacks this year and supports school meal programs through partnerships and local initiatives.

Parents highlighted gaps in lunch access, particularly at smaller schools with limited facilities and resources. Abbotsford does not currently have a universal hot lunch program, and the district lacks the capacity to replicate Surrey's model. PACs interested in supporting food programs were encouraged to speak with their principal and explore Feeding Futures options.

3.5 Emergency Preparedness

Parents noted inconsistencies in emergency kit requirements and costs between schools. The Superintendent acknowledged that implementation of Safe Schools guidance may vary and committed to reviewing district-wide expectations. There is no dedicated provincial funding for emergency supplies.

3.6 Deputy Superintendent Introduction

Deputy Superintendent Nuij introduced himself, noting his primary focus on elementary schools and approximately one year with the district. A further presentation was planned for the October DPAC meeting.

4 Approval of May 2026 AGM Minutes

The minutes were approved as posted.

5 Chair Report

Chair Winsome Rauch disclosed a conflict of interest regarding the upcoming All Candidates Meeting, stating she is related to one of the school trustee candidates and has removed herself entirely from planning and question selection for that event to ensure fairness and transparency.

The DPAC Executive reported on the following activities:

- Planning and promoting upcoming Parent Learning Events, including a session with Hannah Beach scheduled for April 7.
- Contacting potential speakers for upcoming DPAC general meetings.
- Representing DPAC at the Sport Abbotsford Sports Mingler on June 26.
- Holding three Executive meetings on July 13, July 15, and August 6.
- Updating the DPAC website and social media and preparing the August newsletter.
- Coordinating with the District to share DPAC information on the Abbyschools website and district calendar.
- Responding to parent inquiries about constitution and bylaw changes, executive training, and appeals.
- Making repeated attempts to contact BCCPAC regarding membership renewal and payment procedures.

The Chair thanked Eruke Oromogieva for coordinating PAC Zoom bookings.

6 Proposed Budget 2026/2027

Proposed DPAC Budget for 2026-2027 was presented. It was available online on the abbotsforddpac.ca website

MOTION That that we adopt the budget as presented. MOVED: ATS, SECONDED, CARRIED

MOTION to authorize the treasurer to spend within its limits. MOVED: Rick Hansen; SECONDED; CARRIED

7 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Pinkey Bhatti presented reports and spoke on the closing bank balances and outstanding cheques as of September 23, 2026.

Abbotsford DPAC
Statement of Revenue & Expenses and Cash
Balance
as of Sept 23, 2026

	General	Gaming	
Opening Balance (Sept 1, 2026)	8,890.76	763.62	9,654.38
Revenue			
Expenses			
Ending Cash Balance	8,890.76	763.62	9,654.38
Outstanding Cheques			
Total Outstanding Cheques	98.22	-	98.22
Ending Cash Less Outstanding Cheques	8,792.54	763.62	9,556.16

The reports were received and filed.

8 Executive Positions and Elections

Chair Winsome Rauch conducted nominations and elections for vacant DPAC executive positions. Treasurer: Keri Buxton volunteered and was acclaimed.

- 8.1 Special Education Liaison: Adaora Ijeoma expressed interest but requested more information before proceeding. The position remains vacant.
- 8.2 Indigenous Education Liaison: No nominations were received; the position remains vacant.
- 8.3 Directors: Jackson Ameh, Esme Wielenga, and Kamna Aulakh volunteered and were acclaimed, with no additional volunteers coming forward.

9 New Business

9.1 All Candidates Meeting – October 1, 7 PM at Abby Arts

DPAC Vice-Chair Dickson, viewing online, provided an update on the upcoming All-Candidates Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2026, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Abby Arts Centre. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

- Fourteen of 20 candidates had confirmed attendance.
- More than 60 questions had been submitted. The committee will narrow these to five or six questions, combining similar submissions.
- Student volunteers from Abbotsford Senior Secondary's Leadership program will assist at the doors.
- A volunteer with recording equipment is needed to record the event for later upload to YouTube.
- RSVPs are requested due to venue capacity, although the event has not previously reached capacity.

9.2 BCCPAC Memberships – Renewal process will be available in time for the BCCPAC Summit

10 DPAC Announcements and Upcoming Events

- 10.1 [PAC Executives Registration](#) – DPAC is updating its records for PAC executives and representatives for 2026-2027 school year. Please complete by November 1
- 10.2 School PAC Websites – List your executive and post your C&B. Contact your school administration if this is not posted yet on your school website.
- 10.3 [BC Gaming Account Summary Report](#) – due 90 days after year end (Sep 28 for Jun 30 year ends)

11 Announcements and Upcoming Events from Others

- 11.1 [School Trustee Election](#) voting days October 7, 10, 11, and 17
- 11.2 [Public Board Meeting](#) ; 6 PM School Board Office and online
- October 6, 2026
 - November 3, 2026 *Inaugural Meeting
 - November 10, 2026
- 11.3 [EducationPlannerBC Live Learning Sessions](#). Visit our Live Learning Sessions page to register – and for information and resources to promote.
- Programs & applications
- October 21, November 4, or November 17, from 6:30-7:30 PM PT
 - Explore post-secondary programs and skills training opportunities. Plus, learn how to create an account and apply to study in B.C. Open to anyone, anywhere.
- Parents & supporters
- October 7, October 27, or November 25, from 6:30-7:30 PM PT
 - Discover post-secondary opportunities and career paths in B.C., and resources to support your student in planning for their future.

12 Open Floor

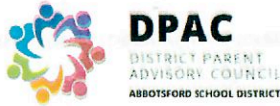
- 12.1 Point-of-Sale Machines: Chair Winsome Rauch reported that Past Treasurer Michelle Bastien wanted to share that point-of-sale machines are available for school events through the school district. Schools must arrange access, and service fees apply. Wi-Fi is required.
- 12.2 Music Licensing and PAC Donations: A parent asked whether music licenses are required for school dances and whether PACs can use QR codes to collect donations. The discussion distinguished movie screenings from dances regarding licensing requirements. QR code donation options could be explored with school administration, noting that School Cash Online donations can be directed to PAC accounts separately from district funds.
- 12.3 School Dances: Parents shared examples of school dances and events, including glow parties and homecoming events. Discussion highlighted uncertainty about district expectations and whether staff supervision is required.
- 12.4 Career and University Fairs: A parent raised concerns about limited communication to families regarding career and university fairs, including opportunities available outside the local area. Keri Buxton, who works in a mechanical engineering firm, shared that she and a colleague had visited schools to introduce students to mechanical engineering careers, including HVAC and green energy. She offered to provide her work contact information to schools interested in career presentations.

13 Next Meeting

In person Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 7 pm at the School Board Office. Special guest will be Deputy Superintendent Pete Nuij.

14 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM



Attendance List for

You will be added to the newsletter list

School	Name (First Last)	PAC Position	DPAC Rep (Y/N)
ATS	Rani Prakash	DPAC	Y
Swift	Keri Buxton	Chair	N
Mt Lehman	Nora Apeld.	DPAC	Y
Clearbrook	Bong Wijnandts	DPAC	Y
W.J. Mount	Josephine Leonard	DPAC Rep	Y
~~Reimer~~ + Cordie Howe	Hannah Both	~~for~~ ARJAA	
ROSS	Sandhu Preet	DPAC	Y
King Tral	Charles Hahn	DPAC	Y
South Popleur	Kamma S Aulath	DPAC Rep	Y
Matsqui Ele	Esmé Wielenga	Treas + DPAC	Y
Terry Fox Ele	JACKSON AMEH	DPAC	Y
Terry Fox	Amande Dundess	DPAC	N



DPAC
 DISTRICT PARENT
 ADVISORY COUNCIL
 ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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School	Name (First Last)	PAC Position	DPAC Rep (Y/N)
Robert Bateman	Conna Rodhan	chair	Y
Eugene Reimer/ Rick Hansen	Parampreet Grewal	DPAC Rep.	Y
Alexander elementary	Teresa Moyer	DPAC Rep	Y
Irene Kelleher	Johna Giesbrecht	DPAC Rep	Y
South Poplar	NAV - AULAKI	DPAC	Y
Augusta Elementary	ADARA ISGOMA	DPAC Rep	Y
Prince Charles Yale	Heera Lyntal	DPAC Rep	Y
Abbotsford Sr	Winsome Rawch	DPAC Rep	Y