

MINUTES



DPAC

DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: November 25, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Online Zoom video conference

Executives in Attendance: Shannon Rose, Chair
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer
Winsome Rauch, Secretary
Tanya Coghill, Director
Sharon Smit, Director

Special Guests: Assistant Superintendent Gino Bondi, Trustee Preet Rai, Rob Ohly, Ken Heschuk

Additional Attendees: 30+

1. Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

2. Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

3. Update on Learning in the Secondary Schools

Assistant Superintendent Gino Bondi provided an update on the vision implementation in secondary schools for “co-constructed inquiry-based learning experience that is equitable and SEL informed”. He reports that the district is in year 4 of the revised curriculum and there have been struggles for inquiry-based school plans to take hold and take shape. He discussed Friday Staff Learning Opportunities (SLO), extended deep-learning morning blocks, and soliciting student voices to improve the structures that support the vision.

4. Question Period with Assistant Superintendent Gino Bondi and Trustee Preet Rai

A question was asked and answered about whether the new curriculum could challenge kids appropriately within specific subject areas.

5. International Baccalaureate (IB) Presentation

5.1 IB Overview

Rob Ohly, Chair of the BC Association of IB World Schools, presented an overview of the IB Programme, the difference between Certificate and Diploma options, distinctions from the Advanced Placement (AP) Program, the success of IB graduates in university acceptance and performance, and growth of IB Programs in BC and internationally.

5.2 Benefits of IB from a student perspective

IB Diploma Graduate Ken Heschuk shared how IB developed his skills as a learner, prepared him for university, and strengthened community with other students. As programs for sports, music, art, and Integrated Studies Program (ISP) are offered, he stressed the importance of offering the IB Programme to support a different kind of learner.

5.3 Importance of IB Certificate

Abbotsford School District Parent Karen Corr discussed the significance of the IB Certificate option to the viability of the program including the implications on mental health, school culture, economics, and course selection. She requested trustees and district leaders to include families in the process as they consider any changes to the program.

5.4 District IB Update

Assistant Superintendent Gino Bondi clarified that the district is only trying to find ways to increase IB enrolment and it has no plans to cancel the IB certificate option. The Education Committee discussed IB two months ago and will be meeting again in January when Principal Phil Cookson will present options. There are no changes being contemplated outside enforcing those already established in our AP 336 5.4 International Baccalaureate Code 5.4.3 that says that students who enter at grade 11 must successfully complete a minimum of three IB courses per year.

6. Q&A with Gino – AP & IB Programs

Questions were asked and answered about International Baccalaureate Diploma, Pre-Diploma, Middle Years Program, Advanced Placement, and parent voice in the Education Committee. The questions and responses are provided in the appended “November 25, 2021 Minutes Addendum” for information on the DPAC Facebook page. Discussion ensued regarding the need for the district to follow through on supporting the social emotional learning for our kids and to provide clear and timely communication.

7. Approval of Minutes from October 2021

Secretary Winsome Rauch read the minutes of the October 28, 2021 meeting. It was MOVED by Vice Chair Michelle Bastien and SECONDED by Shannon Rose that the minutes of the October 28, 2021 General Meeting be approved as amended. CARRIED

8. Treasurer report

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances as of November 25, 2021
General = \$506.24 (after BCCPAC school membership dues)
Gaming = \$7443.72

9. Old Business

9.1 BCCPAC Memberships

Four schools paid for BCCPAC memberships before school started and will be reimbursed. 28 other schools should have received a code from BCCPAC to register. One must go to BCCPAC website [<https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/members/membership-renewal>] to finish registering the school and pay with DPAC Code received by email.

9.2 Elementary Education Night

PAC 101 was held on November 23, 2021 for 48 participants from 31 elementary schools.

9.3 PAC Representative Form

Secretary Winsome Rauch requested that members complete the PAC Representative Form to help us keep an accurate record of members and update our contact lists. The form can also be requested from dpac.sd34@gmail.com. Listing all PAC executives is helpful so that alternates can be contacted if individuals move on from their PACs, especially if members are not using PAC email accounts.

10. New Business

10.1 BCCPAC DPAC

Shannon Rose gave a summary of talks given at the virtual BCCPAC DPAC Summit held on November 19-20, 2021. A recording of the Friday presentation and the slides are available [<https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/resources/16-dpac-pac/1071-2021-dpac-summit-resources> and a summary here <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/resources/16-dpac-pac/936-dec2020-article>]. BCCPAC also has a member-only forum <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/forum> to ask questions and get answers. Upcoming events are the BCCPAC Parent Education conference on April 29, 2022 and the Annual General Meeting on April 30 – May 1, 2022 in Richmond.

11. Open Floor and Question Period

There were no questions asked during the question period.

12. Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held on January 27, 2022 at 7pm (Zoom)

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

MINUTES



DPAC

DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 25, 2021 Addendum

Question Period with Assistant Superintendent Bondi, Trustee Rai, and DPAC executives

Similar questions with similar responses have been consolidated.

A question was asked about:	Response
Ensuring the IB Programme at Abbotsford Senior is available to all students in the district for the long term?	It is a district program for grade 11 and 12 and only offered at Abbotsford Senior Secondary. There is no change in that. Interested student would transfer at grade 11 into Abbotsford Senior.
Confirming the timeline to eliminate the certificate is not applicable anymore?	There is no timeline to take away anything in 2024/25. These were numbers that were put out in the first education committee as a talking point but not meant to be put out to the public that this is what we are doing. It's part of a process and when that process is worked through at the school level and the professionals and the teachers have had their say and work together through it, then we bring it to parents and co-construct it with them. All we want to do is maintain the integrity of our Administrative Procedure in terms of who's taking how many courses.
Whether Abbotsford is allowing out-of-catchment students to join the Pre-diploma Program in Grade 9 and 10?	No. Pre-diploma is not a district program.
Whether the AP program can earn university credit as well?	If they get a four or five on the AP exam. Our numbers in Abbotsford in the last 5 years show about 25-30% rate in terms of students achieving a 4.
Plans to offer the IB program at other secondary schools in Abbotsford. Are any kids put on the waitlist every year?	No plans to offer IB at other secondary schools at the moment. If you apply to the IB program for grade 11 and succeed through the application and interview process with the staff, you are in the program.
The application process for non-catchment kids to get into the IB program in grade 11?	The application process is on the website or call directly to Abby Senior and speak with the department head.
Analogous programs to pre-diploma are available at other schools that would prepare students for the IB diploma?	We think anything can prepare you for the IB Programme.
A limit to the number of IB students the school can take?	No limit.

A question was asked about:	Response
Why the pre-diploma program not a district program?	Pre-Diploma is not recognized by IB. At the school level, we are looking at whether we extend IB MYP to grade 9 and 10 to make the program more robust.
A way to offer the Pre-Diploma to students that are not in Abby Senior's catchment? There is a big difference in IB Diploma preparation for students not going through Abby Middle MYP?	We don't think so because it's not a recognized program, it's just an in-house program that they are running.
Whether getting in at grade 9 would help the social emotional experience for non-catchment students? No other secondary program makes you transfer schools halfway through?	You can join soccer and softball at grade 10, 11, and 12. The distinction is that there is no other program because there is no other academic district program other than IB. French immersion is a district academic program but that's scaffolded, you can't enter at grade 10.
Bringing a parent (or two) onto the Education Committee?	The Education Committee is the work of trustees with staff. It's not in our policy to bring in parents to that work. That's committee work. The voice for the parents is at the board meetings where that education work is presented.
Whether parents should be aware of the discussions regarding IB? Should this be more transparent? Parents are the taxpayers and we should know what is happening?	Okay
Whether the district can issue a statement in writing that it has no plans to cancel to certificate so the parents can rest easy?	No, the process is still ongoing. The next Education Committee where Principal Cookson and the school will be presenting to the trustees will be in January. Certificate kids who are taking one or two courses is stretching the timetable and enrolments.
Even catchments kids not being able to take just one class?	Under the Administrative Procedure, they must complete a minimum of 3 IB courses a year.