

MINUTES



DPAC
DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: October 28, 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 Coghil, Director
Sharon Smit, Director

Special Guests: Assistant Superintendent Carla Danielsson, Trustee Stan Petersen

Additional Attendees: 15+

1. Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

2. Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

3. Update on Learning in the Elementary Schools

Assistant Superintendent Carla Danielsson presented “First Peoples Principles of Learning”, which comprised of holistic principles for the whole child. The presentation included information about the 2020/2021 MDI Grade 5 survey, collecting information on key competencies and providing results in the manner of a Well-Being Index (Social, Emotional, and Physical Health) and an Assets Index (Adult Relationships, After School Activities, Peer Relationships, Nutrition and Sleep). Elementary school children this year will be surveyed this year, including questions about safety, belonging, and connection to caring adults. The presentation concluded with Assistant Superintendent Danielsson inviting parents to share some of their own answers to the questions. The presentation will be available on the DPAC Facebook page.

4. Question Period

Time was provided to ask questions of Assistant Superintendent Danielsson, Trustee Petersen, and the DPAC executive. Questions were asked and answered about a well-being survey for higher grades, the elimination of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Certificate Program, classroom reductions at Barrowtown Elementary, district access to the IB Program, international students in Abbotsford schools that are already full, and Covid notifications. The questions and responses are provided in the appended “October 28, 2021 Minutes Addendum”.

5. Approval of Minutes from September 2021

Secretary Winsome Rauch read the minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting.

It was MOVED by Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Tanya Coghill that the minutes of the September 23, 2021 general meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

6. Treasurer report

6.1 Past Treasurer Shannon Rose provided Closing G/L Account balances as of October 28, 2021

General = \$7949.96

Gaming = \$2,500.00

7. Old Business

7.1 BCCPAC Memberships

Shannon Rose reported that all applications were submitted on October 15 and a cheque was mailed to BCCPAC. Please allow BCCPAC time until mid-November to process the applications. PACs will receive their codes directly from BCCPAC via email once they are available. Once processed and notified, please complete membership. No payment will be required.

7.2 Elementary Education Night

Shannon Rose explained that Elementary Education Night (PAC 101 and Treasurer 101) were originally going to be presented at a regular meeting. However, given the Senior Management and Trustee DPAC Schedule recently provided by the Superintendent's office, it seems better to select a separate date. This meeting normally takes the full two hours and a November date will be announced soon.

7.3 SurveyMonkey for Guest Speakers

Shannon Rose reported that we have had several people from the community express interest in presenting to DPAC. When DPAC can foresee time in the agenda, these speakers will be invited to join.

8. New Business

8.1 PAC Representative Form

A [PAC Representative questionnaire](#) was emailed from DPAC on October 25, 2021. Winsome Rauch reported that the new form replaces the sign-in sheets that we used at our in-person meetings pre-Covid. It is a means for us to keep an accurate record of members and update our contact lists. All members are asked to complete it. The link to the form can also be requested from dpac.sd34@gmail.com

9. Question Period

9.1 Electronic Transfers and SchoolCash Online

A question was asked about accepting electronic fund transfers and if setting to automatic deposit would resolve security concerns. The BCCPAC recommendation is that schools do not accept e-transfers. E-transfers eliminate the health risks associated with meeting in-person to exchange payments but whoever is accepting the email can still put it into any account they choose. Auto-deposit does reduce the risk but there is still the opportunity for fraud. Participants exchanged ideas about using the SchoolCash Online system to collect fees on behalf of PACs. To set an item up for purchase on SchoolCash, PAC instructions to a school's finance clerk or secretary would include: item description, set dollar amount, start and end dates.

9.2 Community DPAC Nights at Secondary Schools

A question was asked about doing a community DPAC night to foster a spirit of community and ease the transition into secondary school. The idea would be for secondary PACs to host the executives from feeder schools to build opportunities for connecting such as: inviting feeder school families to a high school football game, middle school plays, and elementary fun nights or ordering kids-sized clothing with secondary school logos.

A concern was raised about holding community nights on the same evening if families have students at a choice school and a catchment school. Suggestions were made to start only with PAC executives to minimize the overlap and that secondary PACs coordinate so that these events are not held at the same time.

9.3 Covid-safe Fundraising

A question was asked of the membership about which PAC fundraisers have been successful during the pandemic. Ideas included Purdy's chocolates, spring annuals, Panago coupons, Krispy Kreme donuts, Pam MacGregor decorated cookies, Neufeld Farm's improved online ordering system, and "No Uni for a Toonie" (non-uniform day at the traditional schools). A proposal was shared that when selling gift cards like those of Meridian/Ralph's Farm Market (offering 30%), a small commission could go back to the family.

9.4 School Celebrations

A question was asked of the membership about what schools are doing for celebrations such as Vaisakhi and Christmas: Is there a celebration committee at your school? In one school, teachers had formed a cultural committee and were just about to launch a PAC-sponsored multicultural week before the pandemic lock down. For that event, PAC had approved \$100 per culture to the parents and they had planned to use multi-purpose

room to speak or set up display. The aim was to be inclusive, create fun about multiculturalism, and celebrate diversity.

9.5 Noon hour supervision

A question was asked and discussed about noon hour supervision and the distinction between volunteers and paid staff.

10. Upcoming Meetings

10.1 Annual Joint Partnership Meeting: Monday, November 15 from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Online Microsoft Teams

The district will host PAC chairs and DPAC executives, along with district leadership. The purpose of this annual meeting is to bring together key members of the school community to discuss ways to improve collaboration and communication.

10.2 Secondary PAC: Tuesday, November 16 at 7 PM

Location: Robert Bateman Secondary Learning Commons

PAC executives from all nine secondary schools are welcome to this even hosted by Bateman. Assistant Superintendent Gino Bondi will talk about courses that will be changing next year, including an indigenous course. Bateman will discuss their Gender Equity Message, which focuses on how girls are making their way through the educational system and advocates for their equality.

10.3 DPAC Summit: November 19-20

Location: Online Zoom

DPAC executives are invited to join the BCCPAC Leadership summit to learn and discuss emergent issues.

10.4 Secondary PAC District Pro-D: Friday, November 26

Location: Abbotsford Centre

Secondary School PAC executives are invited to this District Pro-D event. Shannon Rose will contact the Superintendent's office to find out if middle and elementary PACs could also attend.

10.5 PAC 101: TBD

Location: Online Zoom

A workshop hosted by DPAC for PAC Chairs and Treasurers to learn about roles and responsibilities, financial controls, and practices

10.6 International Baccalaureate (IB) Information Evening: TBD

Location: Online Zoom

DPAC will host an event for all parents in the district to learn about the district International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme at Abbotsford Senior Secondary and discuss the district's decision to eliminate the IB Certificate.

11. Announcements

11.1 New Irene Kelleher PAC mentorship opportunity

Mrs. Shelley Portas, the new principal of Irene Kelleher Elementary (Eagle Mountain), approached Director Tanya Coghill to mentor a new PAC. They will not receive gaming funds until they have been running for 12 consecutive months. The new PAC executives will need help organizing and with fundraising. If you have PAC experience and are willing to help, please contact Tanya Coghill at Batemanpac@gmail.com or DPAC at dpac.sd34@gmail.com.

12. Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held on November 25, 2021 at 7pm (Zoom)

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

MINUTES



DPAC
DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 28, 2021 Addendum

Question Period with Assistant Superintendent Danielsson, Trustee Petersen, and DPAC executives

Similar questions with similar responses have been consolidated.

A question was asked about:	Response
Whether the Gr 1-5 well-being survey will be done in the higher grades of middle and secondary schools?	Higher grades are concerned about student voice. Uncertain if it will be the same survey but they are asking the same questions at the middle school and secondary school. The aim is safe and inclusive spaces.
Whether DPAC can find a speaker to help educate parents about the District International Baccalaureate Programme at Abby Senior and the implications of the new announcement to eliminate the IB Certificate?	A speaker could likely be found. This topic will be discussed at the next board meeting. Talk to the Superintendent.
Introducing IB into other high schools?	It could be introduced but it depends on numbers of interested families. It tends to be inclusive for a certain kind of student. It probably could not spread much further than it has. Everyone is encouraged to explore it.
How eliminating the IB Certificate program helps students?	<p>When the District perspective is considered, not everyone is happy but it's a decision that the Board will wrestle with. It's a long-standing attractive program in the district because it develops the whole child, multiplies the perspective and appreciative understanding, and develops a student's responsibility, voice, and agency in their learning.</p> <p>However, the BC curriculum has changed over time. IB is part of the model for our revised curriculum. Harvard University is wanting to partner with Abbotsford because of our enabling curriculum.</p>
What children will do if they require enrichment in some subjects, but not others, if only the Diploma option was offered.	We must look at number of kids involved and classroom sizes. We recognize that this will have a negative impact on some kids.
Whether a student will be able to go to Abby Senior for IB if you are not in catchment?	We simply cannot take kids into schools that are full.
With no standardized exams, does the Board understand the	The Board has always been very supportive of the IB program. We look at all our choice schools. We value them all but in the

A question was asked about:	Response
value of the IB program when it comes to university admissions?	big picture of a District, our decision can have some impact on them.
Expanding schools when Barrowtown has been reduced this year to two classes of three grades each? What considerations are being made to use this space efficiently?	Barrowtown is unique. We continue to support the school but it's not in a neighbourhood where there are lots of families. The Board believes students attending neighbourhood schools is what's best.
Whether the IB programs should be offered like choice school programs so that all the children in our district can have equal opportunities, not just those who live in catchment.	When Abbotsford was under enrolled, other kids could attend, but now we just don't have the seats. Yes, if we had the space. The Board will have questions to discuss with senior staff.
Whether the Board would consider reducing the number of international students to make room for Abbotsford kids?	There are no international students at schools that are full. In some schools, we have eliminated the capacity for schools to go over. We're prioritizing families and international connections and they are placed where there is space
Whether AP is the same as the IB program? Can we have the DPAC IB Presentation talk about AP as well?	IB is internationally recognized. The AP program is also for those looking for challenge but is different from IB. Yes, we can find a speaker to discuss differences between IB and AP.
Why Abby Senior has lots of International students and is turning Abbotsford kids away?	There are advantages to the district to have international students. We have capped the number at schools that are full.
What would need to happen for schools to share Covid news and not wait for Fraser health?	<p>We follow a process that may not be timely and perfect but we think it's important to follow the advice of health authorities. There is a shortage of contact tracers. Our schools are generally open and generally safe. The last Covid exposure at our school had a notice go out within 48 hours.</p> <p>If parents communicate, it can speed things up. In one instance the parent called the principal, asking the principal to notify the class. The principal checked with Fraser Health and was given permission to notify the class. It is not a privacy issue if the family notifies the school. Schools can't share information that is not theirs legally to share. When it's health information, it needs to come from the health authority.</p>

A question was asked about:	Response
Watching the livestream of board meetings?	With the virtual format, parents can access the meetings through the Abbotsford District website. Recordings can be watched or listened to at any convenient time.