

# MINUTES



**DPAC**  
DISTRICT PARENT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Date:** January 23, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Online on Zoom

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

**Attendance:** See Zoom Attendance list attached.

**Special Guests:** Assistant Superintendent Bruce Cunnings  
Trustee Jared White

## 1 Call to Order

Vice Chair Michelle Bastien called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. A quorum was met.

## 2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

## 3 Special Guests: Assistant Superintendent Bruce Cunnings, Trustee Jared White

Assistant Superintendent Bruce Cunnings presented on student success in literacy and numeracy. Grade 4 results show numeracy trending at or above the provincial average, while literacy shows overall improvement but a decline among Indigenous students.

The Early Development Instrument (EDI) shows 40% of kindergarten students are vulnerable in one or more of the five areas of physical health, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills. This is showing in growing complexity in schools.

Key initiatives include a literacy framework, University of Florida Literacy Institute (UFLI), and administrator training, promoting creativity, comprehension, and communication. Numeracy efforts focus on teacher residency programs and learning progressions. The Indigenous Working Group prioritizes cultural identity, equity, and advocacy to support student success. He shared a video entitled "Elementary Literacy in the Abbotsford School District".

The Elementary Schools Strategic Plan Progress Report presentation materials and the video were also shared in the January 21 public school board meeting.

## 4 Q&A with Assistant Superintendent Bruce Cunnings, Trustee Jared White

### 4.1 Indigenous students in K-12 schools

Questions were asked and answered about Indigenous students and Indigenous ways of learning in K-12 schools. Approximately 9.4% of K-12 students in the district are

Indigenous, who are performing below their peers for literacy and numeracy. Indigenous students are in regular classes but receive support from Indigenous support workers. In British Columbia, all graduates must take a course with an Indigenous focus, and teachers incorporate First Peoples Principles of Learning, such as patience and time in learning. Efforts to ensure Indigenous students are seen include cultural practices like sitting in circles and land acknowledgments. There was some discussion about whether these practices are effectively helping to improve outcomes for Indigenous students or their peers.

#### 4.2 Teacher support for literacy and numeracy tools

Support for classroom teachers using literacy and numeracy tools was discussed. Four district helping teachers assist in implementing the current system. These teachers are invited to schools by staff and may spend a week at one school. The reply also addressed the adequacy of support across the student population, with clarification that the focus of the helping teachers is primarily on elementary and middle schools.

### 5 Approval of the Minutes from November 28, 2024

Secretary Winsome Rauch presented the minutes of the November 28, 2024, meeting.

It was MOVED by Vice Chair Michelle Bastien and SECONDED by Becky Williams (Chief Dan George) THAT the minutes of the November 28, 2024 Meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED

### 6 Treasurer report

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances

#### 6.1 Abbotsford DPAC General Account Summary January 23, 2025

Opening Balance as of November 27, 2024	\$ 5496.06
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Add:

Less:

<b>Closing Balance as January 23, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 5496.06</b>
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#### 6.2 Abbotsford DPAC Gaming Account Summary January 23, 2025

Opening Balance as of November 27, 2024	\$ 5153.79
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Add:

Less:

<b>Closing Balance as of January 23, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 5153.79</b>
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## 7 New Business

### 7.1 BC Gaming Grant: New System

Community Gaming Grants (CGG) is transitioning to a new online system requiring a [Business BCeID](#) for PAC/DPAC applications. This allows multiple users access and collaboration, unlike the individual-tied Basic BCeID. Register for an [online presentation](#) happening on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 from 2-3:30 pm to learn about the new process.

### 7.2 Parent Night Series

Youth Substance Abuse with APD – February 24, 7 pm at Mouat secondary in the LLC

### 7.3 Shared Learning

Keynote Speaker – Holly Clark – February 13, 6-8 pm at the Abbotsford Arts Centre. The topic will focus on AI and its impact on the future of education, tailored for a parent audience.

### 7.4 SD34

Board Meeting – February 11, 6 pm.

### 7.5 BCCPAC AGM and Conference, Prince George

Conference – May 23

AGM – May 24-25

## 8 Question Period

### 8.1 BCCPAC AGM Location

Concerns were raised about hosting the BCCPAC AGM in Prince George when 44% of the student population resides in the Fraser Valley and surrounding areas. The process for Proxy form submissions is not clear for Abbotsford and BCCPAC has been contacted for clarification.

### 8.2 Book Review Concern

A parent flagged an explicit book to the Superintendent's Office and asked for DPAC's assistance. DPAC confirmed they would support concerned parents and participate in the review committee for the book.

### 8.3 French Immersion Issues

In Abbotsford, elementary French Immersion students face the risk of being displaced to other schools due to catchment priorities (AP-336). Unlike other districts, there are no guarantees for families who choose French Immersion. This has raised significant concerns among parents, many of whom are hesitant to voice their opinions. The PAC

seeks clarity on what the district can do to ensure that once a child is admitted to a French Immersion school, they can continue their education there.

#### 8.4 International Baccalaureate Programme

A question was raised about how the IB Programme is being communicated to students across the district for 2025/26 and at what grade levels this begins. Parents hope for equitable access to the grade 9 and 10 enrichment opportunities to help students in Diploma, particularly for non-catchment families.

#### 8.5 PAC Contact Information Update

DPAC plans to create a Google survey/poll to update and verify PAC contact details.

### **9 Next Meeting**

The next DPAC meeting will be held February 27, 2025 at 7pm on Zoom

### **10 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

## Zoom Attendance

Name (original name)
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair (Shannon Rose)
Jolene's iPhone 7
pinkey
Winsome Rauch DPAC Secretary (SD34 DPAC Zoom #1)
Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Bateman
Bruce Cunnings Abbotsford SD
Amanda - École Centennial Park (Dr. Degenhardt)
Amy - IKT Rep
Jolene (Jolene's iPhone 7)
Becky Williams# Chief Dan George - Vice Chair (Becky Williams, CNE)
Pinkey - South Pop (pinkey)
Rehan Siddqui- Abby Sr Rep
Amanda Dundass (Terry Fox)
Pierre Barns
Stacey Parson (Abby Senior) (Stacey Parson)
Alycia Lessard
Elva Lottenbach (Bradner) (Elva)
jas badesha dpac ats (SD34 DPAC Zoom #1)
Terry fox pac - Britney
Jared White
TERRY FOX PAC-Deanna