

Abbotsford District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 22, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Meeting Type: General Monthly Meeting

Attendance

Executives Present:

- Winsome Rauch, President
- Amy MacKenzie, Vice President
- Kara Dickson, Vice President
- Michelle Bastien, Treasurer
- Stacey Parson, Director
- Pinkey Bhatti, Director
- Eruke Omorogieva, Indigenous Representative

Special Guests:

- Michael Pearson, District Vice Principal – Career Programs
- Stan Petersen, Board Chair
- Nathan Ngieng, Superintendent

Attendance: See Zoom Attendance List attached.

1. Call to Order

President Winsome Rauch called the meeting to order at **7:00 PM**. Quorum was confirmed.

2. Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of the local Indigenous communities, including the **Stó:lō, Sumas First Nation, and Mathxwi First Nation**. Expectations for respectful dialogue were reviewed.

3. Trades & Career Programs Presentation

Michael Pearson – Career Programs Overview

Michael Pearson provided an overview of district career and trades programs, noting approximately 20 program options available to students, with applications generally beginning in Grade 10. He highlighted dual credit opportunities, application requirements, and the importance of meeting prerequisites. Updates included new partnerships and recent changes to programs such as the Abbotsford Police Academy. Pearson explained application processes, priority for district students, and varying program demand. Trades programs were noted as providing strong pathways to both post-secondary education and employment.

Questions & Discussion

Questions addressed program access for French Immersion students, private-to-public school transfers, cybersecurity intake timelines, and promotion of under-subscribed programs. Pearson encouraged families to follow up with school facilitators and attend orientations when applicable.

4. Board Governance & Student Success

Stan Petersen – Board Chair

Stan Petersen outlined the Board's governance role, including policy development, budget oversight, hiring of the superintendent, and strategic planning. He highlighted the district's strong trades programming and shared concerns regarding literacy and numeracy outcomes at the elementary level. Petersen confirmed that parents are welcome to submit written and verbal questions at board meetings and emphasized the importance of parent and community involvement.

5. District Conflict Resolution Process

Nathan Ngieng – Superintendent

Superintendent Nathan Ngieng reviewed the district's conflict resolution process, emphasizing respectful communication and addressing concerns at the school level first. He outlined escalation steps involving assistant superintendents and the deputy superintendent and referenced Policy 14 for rare appeals to the Board. He reaffirmed the district's commitment to transparency, positive relationships, and student success. Superintendent Ngieng agreed to improve clarity on district roles and responsibilities on the district website.

6. President's Report

DPAC members participated in district and provincial engagement opportunities, including the District Planning Team Meeting and the BCCPAC Advocacy Workshop. Outreach to PACs continued, with support provided for BCCPAC membership renewals—resulting in 40 of 46 Abbotsford schools holding active memberships by the end of December. DPAC also delivered PAC training through PAC 101 and responded to ongoing PAC inquiries related to grants, volunteers, safety, and school concerns.

Advocacy efforts included communication with BC Ministers regarding the proposed safe consumption site near ATS. DPAC representatives attended district-led parent engagement events focused on mental health and community supports.

Upcoming 2026 Parent Learning Events, publicizing and taking registrations:

- February 23 – Heather MacNamara on Bullying
- April 8 – Terry Small: Studying Smarter, Not Harder
- May 11 – Dr. Shahana Book Club—Director Pinkey Bhatti handling the distribution of those books to parents who have registered.

7. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Michelle Bastien presented reports and spoke on the closing bank balances as of December 31, 2025.

November

- General total: 5810.83
- Gaming total: 4287.65

December

- General total: 5810.83
- Gaming total: 3912.65

The financial report was received without questions.

8. Constitution & Bylaws Committee Update

The committee presented a final draft of proposed updates, which will be posted to the DPAC website for PAC review. PACs were asked to bring any proposed amendments to the next meeting. PACs were reminded to post clean copies of their constitutions and bylaws on school websites for accessibility.

9. PAC & District Updates

Discussion included upcoming parent learning events, online safety sessions, and concerns raised by PACs regarding school communication practices and staffing consistency. Parents were encouraged to submit questions in advance for the February meeting, which will include a superintendent presentation. Updates on kindergarten registration and program lotteries were also noted.

10. Next Meeting

February 26, 2026 – 7:00 PM on Zoom
Guest presentation by the Superintendent.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **8:50**.

Zoom Attendance List January 22, 2026

Name (original name)
Aberdeen Elementary (Alycia) Voting
Amanda Dundass Terry Fox
Amber Rodocker- Voting Alexander Elem
Amy MacKenzie - DPAC VP & Rep Dr. T.A. Swift (Zoom user)
Angela Manetti Abby Middle (Angela's iPad)
Barry Wijnandts Clearbrook DPAC
Becky Williams - Chief Dan George - DPAC Rep
candace&river
Centennial Park -Amanda Degenhardt DPAC Rep (Dr. Amanda Degenhardt)
Chandra Holm - King Traditional (DPAC Rep) (Chandra Holms - King Traditional)
Chelsea Muirhead- Rep Sandy Hill (Chelsea Muirhead)
Ehis Omorogieva
Eruke Omorogieva-DPAC Indegenous Rep (Eruke Omorogieva)
jas (SD34 DPAC Zoom #1)
jolene Giesbrecht IKT rep (Zoom user)
Josephine Leonard DPAC Rep W.J. Mouat (Josephine Leonard WJMouat)
Melissa Crump - DPAC secretary Bradner Ellementary (Melissa)
Michael.Pearson
Michelle Bastien - Prince Charles Elementary & Yale Secondary (Michelle Bastien)
Nathan Ngieng
Pinkey Bhatti - DPAC Director - South Pop dpac rep (Pinkey Bhatti)
Rani Prakash-ATS (voting) South Pop PAC President (Rani Prakash)
Revalyn Wallace Yale and PC (Revalyn Wallace)
shamidul
Stacey Parson Abbotsford Senior Secondary/DPAC Director (Stacey Parson)
Stan.Petersen SD 34
Tracey Lamoureux - Bateman (Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Bateman)
Winsome Rauch - DPAC President (DPAC Abbotsford School District)