

**District Parent Advisory Council Meeting SD#22
Minutes for October 30th, 2024**

Attendees:

Nicky Dunlop, DPAC President | *Lavington*
Sonya Richman, DPAC Vice President | *CBSS*
Jen Kossowan, DPAC Secretary | *vLearn & VSS*
Yania Greenaway, DPAC Member at Large | *Fulton / AIAO*
Sandy Thon, DPAC Rep & BCCPAC Liaison | *Alexis Park*
Erica Luttmending, Member-at-Large | *Silver Star*
Tara Smith, Member-at-Large | *Hillview*

Natalie Ellard, DPAC Rep | *Bearisto*
Rebecca Berry, DPAC Rep | *Kidston*
Crystal Sage, PAC President | *Lavington*
Kassandra Anderson, DPAC Rep | *Mission Hill*
Amanda Rekdale, DPAC Rep | *BX*
Helene Lachman, PAC member | *Alexis Park*
Carolyn O'Connor DPAC Rep | *WL Seaton*
Brittany Webber, DPAC Rep | *Coldstream*

Karla Mitchell, Superintendent
Katherine Oviatt, Assistant Superintendent
Dave LaFontaine, District Principal Indigenous Education
Debbie Cullum, Vernon Principal / Vice Principal Association Rep

PART A

Meeting called to order by Nicky Dunlop at 6:39 p.m.

Introductions were given by all attendees.

Land acknowledgement was given by Nicky Dunlop.

Karla Mitchell introduced herself and gave an overview on what she's been up to over the last couple of months within her new role as Superintendent. Community, collaboration, relationships are all very important to her. Her main goal is to operationalize the big picture direction of the board.

Katherine Oviatt welcomed our new superintendent and commended her on all of the processes she's already put into play. She also thanked Nicky for all of her hard work over the last year. Katherine let us know that things will be slightly different this year as the Superintendent's Report has changed. That will be available to the public and she'll no longer give a synopsis.

Katherine discussed Academic Review Meetings which are held at every school to discuss students at risk. The Leadership team meets with the school team (admin, SBRT, teachers, ISW's, etc.) to share concerns and to come up with strategies and supports. These will be taking place beginning at the end of November. Appropriate Halloween costumes were discussed. FSAs for grade 4 and 7 students are coming up. Various facilities updates are happening

around the district currently - accessibility upgrades, individual washrooms, and kitchen renos, as well as an upcoming child care centre at JWI. OKIB Youth Forum happened recently and students came together for a day of sharing and learning. This was facilitated by the OKIB Youth Leadership Council. Students heard from guest speakers and were able to share the day with one another. The district continues to meet their goal of having an OKIB flag at every school and flag raising ceremonies are happening as the flags go up.

A question was asked about at risk youth meetings and whether or not the people at the table consult Compass. Carolyn O'Connor will send information about this resource to Katherine Oviatt.

Another question was asked about whether or not parents and caregivers are informed about what is discussed in these meetings and Katherine answered that while the meetings are for the school members, parents and caregivers are always informed about their learners. A concern was specifically brought up about learners with diverse needs at Alexis Park going without adequate help and Katherine acknowledged the issue and reassured DPAC that the board is aware of the concern and is actively working towards solutions in collaboration with the school administrators.

Karla mentioned that something the board is working on is looking at the website pathways - like is it clear where you need to go if you're upset about something, who you need to talk to, etc. and is looking at how the user experience can be improved.

Sandy Thon mentioned that the purpose of PACs in their inception is not fundraising, but actually the purpose is actually advocacy and educating parents and caregivers.

Dave LaFontaine, District Principal of Indigenous Education, gave a report summarizing what's happening in the Indigenous Education Department. The department is trying to have regular meetings to involve and collaborate with families. The first one is on November 25th, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. at the school board office. The meetings will take shape as feedback is received from parents and caregivers. If DPAC and PACs can help spread the word it would be appreciated. An Enhancement Agreement located on the website - it's in year two and driven through community. The district recently had their district implementation day where SD22 staff learned from Indigenous community members and overall it went over very well.

Dave reiterated the department's main goals:

- 1) Deepening the knowledge and understanding of Indigenous and Syilx Peoples
- 2) Improving opportunities and supports for Indigenous student engagement and achievement
- 3) Supporting the sense of wellness, safety, belonging, pride and identity for Indigenous students
- 4) Welcoming and valuing Indigenous voices in the district for strong relationships with Indigenous students, families, and communities

These 4 main goals are the guiding principles. More info can be found here: <https://www.sd22.bc.ca/documents/8e6e63b8-ed12-493d-acc9-78441e5eecac/SD22%20Indigenous%20Education%20Enhancement%20Agreement%202023-2028.pdf>

Debbie Cullum gave a report on behalf of the Principals and Vice Principals Association. Principals and vice principals have been busy with FSAs, sports, IEPs, and preparing for the superintendent's reports. Please take the time to read them. She thanked parents and caregivers for coming out to conferences, participating in goal setting, and being part of the

creation of IEPs. She also thanked PACs for all they do at schools. Principals appreciate this and are happy to work with PACs to support student success as much as possible.

A question was posed about the two half days that recently happened for student conferences... In the speaker's experience, only one day was available for conferences despite there not being enough spots for all parents to meet with teachers. Debbie informed DPAC that this should not be the case and both of those days should be available for parents and caregivers to meet with teachers. She communicated that she would bring this up among the principals and vice principals and urged families to reach out to teachers and admin with any concerns.

A suggestion was made to up communication to grade 8 families - especially about parent teacher conferences - what they are, how to schedule them, how to contact teachers if the spots are full or don't work for families, etc. Families are feeling a disconnect as their learners get older and enter high school.

Kamloops school district is putting on a parent / caregiver workshop about IEPs and has opened it up to DPAC if we'd like to take advantage of that.

PART B

Agenda approved. Motion to approve made by Sonja. Seconded by Jen. All in favour.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from May 2024 made by Erica. Seconded by Sonya. All in favour.

Conversation had around sharing meeting minutes with our school communities and having DPAC members names in the minutes (re: privacy). DPAC will look into this further.

Nicky gave a president's report. Nicky thanked everyone for their patience with getting the year started and stated that she felt like the year was off to a great start with our new Superintendent, Karla Mitchell. Karla has offered us the opportunity to meet with herself, the VTA, and CUPE regularly, which is very much appreciated. DPAC, along with its partners, have been offered a regular seat in the gallery at board meetings, which we are very grateful for. One of our biggest tasks at the beginning of the year is updating all of our contact info, both within DPAC and for all of the PACs in the district. This process is in progress. The 'SD22 PAC Executives' Facebook page has been well used and we encourage new PAC members to join and be part of the conversation. Nicky thanked Nicole, our treasurer, for the immense amount of time she spent on our gaming application and sorting us out.

Nicole made a motion to have update our signing authority on membership 3653680 at Prospera Credit Union's Vernon Branch to include: Nicky Dunlop, Sonya Richman, Nicole Swan, Erica Luttmerding, and Yania Greenaway. Seconded by Crystal. All in favour.

Racism committee will meet on November 21st at a currently unknown time. Tara has stepped into this role once again and will attend on our behalf.

Assessment & Communicating Student Learning Committee - Nicole will touch base with Luke Friesen on our behalf to see if this committee is still up and running.

We have been invited to have a seat on the Calendar Committee. This committee sits together and creates the school calendar for 3 years at a time. We would like to have 2 seats on the

committee if possible. Katherine Oviatt will make this recommendation on our behalf. Yania will take the lead on this with Jen to sit in if two seats are made available to us. This meeting will take place on November 12th 10:15 to 11:45 at the board office in Foxes.

Nicky made a recommendation to redistribute the minutes from the Strategic Planning Meeting that happened in May.

Land to Table folks want to come to a DPAC meeting to present. Possibly for hot lunches? In relation to Feeding Futures. Carolyn shared that she's seen the presentation and it's very worth while.

Nicole Swan spoke about babysitting at PAC meetings. Her PAC is wondering if there's anything official from DPAC that the babysitter must have the babysitting course... Katherine Oviatt chimed in and shared that this should not be called "childcare", rather "babysitting" as the term "childcare" implies certification, etc. DPAC doesn't not have a bylaw on this particular situation. The district does not currently have a policy either at this time. Best practice would be to have an adult in charge plus the teen helpers.

Sandy sent out an email from the BCCPAC that details all of the DPAC things at the moment. Nicky will resend the information. DPAC has not yet set a budget and therefore cannot agree to paying BCCPAC fees for all SD22 PACs at this time. This is currently up to individual PACs. DPAC can discuss this further at upcoming meetings and can even decide to reimburse fees later in the year if they so choose.

PAC meeting structure regarding having admin-free time at PAC meetings for the purpose of advocacy was discussed again. PAC meetings are not places to speak about specific teachers or students - those issues go straight into a dispute resolution pathway, but it's important to have safe spaces for parents and caregivers. According to the School Act, superintendents **must** be allowed to attend PAC meetings, but it **does not** mandate that administrators be present. The goal is always to be collaborative with administrators.

Upcoming DPAC meetings - 4th Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

November 28th via zoom?

January 23rd via zoom?

Motion to Adjourn made by Carolyn. Seconded by Crystal.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

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