

MINUTES



DPAC

DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: November 24, 2022
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Zoom
Executives in Attendance: Shannon Rose, Chair
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair
Winsome Rauch, Secretary
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer
Heidi Vinois, Special Education Representative
Amy MacKenzie, Director
Kara Dickson, Director

Special Guests: Superintendent Dr. Kevin Godden, Trustee Korky Neufeld
Attendance: See Zoom Attendance attached

1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

3 Updates from Superintendent Kevin Godden and Trustee Korky Neufeld

Superintendent Godden gave key updates

- Update on school experience – Situation more normal and there is lots of optimism and opportunity.
- Afghan refugees - Abbotsford is a refuge for over 150 Afghan refugees who landed in our city a month ago. After a month of helping them get assessments and settled, the first group of kids are at our schools.
- Affordability fund – Provides increased opportunities for learning. There is concern since this is one-time funding; the district is thinking about how we can build a more sustainable model. We have almost tripled the number of kids that are being fed through schools.
- Shortages in teaching staff - For the first time since he has started in the district, we started the year with some teaching staff positions open due to Covid retirements and collective agreement language challenges; the 2016 agreement caused the province to hire 3500 more teachers. Our local program graduates 60 teachers every year and post-secondary seats are not matching the retirement rates. Replacement rate pre-covid was high 90s, covid 60%, post-covid 60-70%. Non-enrolling teachers and principals have recently had to

cover classes. In managing this complex problem, we are looking at multiple strategies around recruitment and retention. There are similar shortages with other positions like EAs and bus drivers.

- Child/youth mental health and well-being – We continue to focus on student mental health initiatives student and adult wellness. One of the best gifts that we can give a child is a well-regulated teacher.
- Monitoring the attendance rates - Attendance rate was 92-94% pre-covid, during covid we saw 80-75%, and it hasn't gone back to 90% since, apart from the first week of school. Attendance rates hovers in the 80s. We need to investigate this with the families. IT has enabled some students to get all their work done online.

4 Question Period

Questions were asked and answered about

- Reaching out to non-profit organizations to help meet basic needs of refugee children: Abbotsford is equipped with high number churches and charities that help. What we lack is leadership and coordination in the community for a district-wide strategy.
- Supports offered within the schools for everyone involved in care, not just teachers: We have a robust family assistance program that can help families on an individual level, and we work closely with the union to de-stigmatize the services for those who need those interventions.
- Gifts from schools to recognize teacher sponsors: Schools can give a gift to teacher sponsors. Connect with the principal as we want to make sure that coaches are equitably recognized. Individual schools do their own thing and there is an annual recognition celebration for all the coaches at the district level.
- Qualifications needed for our substitute teachers: Other districts have created TOC positions that do not require a teaching certificate. The option is being investigated; there will be restrictions. In a nearby school district where they were hiring TOCs without teaching degrees, the union has grieved it. In remote areas, the union understood the necessity of it.
- Status of students that left SD34 during Covid: Most students that we could not find have returned this year and enrollment is up.
- Renewing meetings between the Board and DPAC Chair and Vice-Chair.
- School liaison assignments: Trustees rotate through seven groups of schools (includes a secondary, middle, rural, inner-city) in a 4-year term. They are often invited to their liaison school for special events. An individual trustee, without the board, carries no authority. Trustees on their own would listen, encourage, and bring information back to the board.

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- Noon-hour supervisor guidelines: The position is not restricted to parents in the school
- Convocations at the Event Centre and whether the large schools were subsidizing the cost for the smaller schools since the schools are paying a rental fee on a per graduate rate.

5 Quorum

The quorum of five voting members was met.

6 Approval of the Minutes from October 27, 2022

Secretary Winsome Rauch read the minutes of October 27, 2022, meeting.

It was MOVED by Clara C (McMillan Elementary) and SECONDED by Vice-Chair Michelle Bastien THAT the minutes of the October 27, 2022 General Meeting be approved. CARRIED

7 Old Business

- 7.1 BCCPAC memberships – everyone who received a code from DPAC is renewed
- 7.2 Shared Zoom licenses (email requests to sd34zoom1@gmail.com)
- 7.3 Movie licenses update - each school buys their own. The host of a movie night needs a movie license. If the PAC hosts a movie night, the PAC needs to hold the movie license; if the school hosts the movie night, the school needs the movie license. The PAC can assist at movie night events hosted by the school.
- 7.4 Noon Hour Supervisors NHS update – a committee comprised of NHS, DPAC, and school personnel is needed to establish standards for this job to increase the quality of noon-hour supervision. The committee would work with the district to establish professional standards for administrators to implement. HR is working on a job description for the position. Expand the support for NHS by providing training; areas of training could include crisis intervention, safety, and reporting incidents.
- 7.5 BCCPAC DPAC Summit – Secretary Winsome Rauch delivered a summary of the speakers and major topics raised at the BCCPAC DPAC Summit held in Richmond on November 18-19, 2022.
- 7.6 Vacant DPAC Position for Inclusion Representative - Clara Chahwan from McMillan Elementary was appointed.

8 New Business

- 8.1 District Planning Team – This team consists of senior management, the board of education trustees and three members of DPAC. Chair Shannon Rose and Vice-Chair Michelle Bastien will take two of the seats and they would like to offer the third seat to another member of the DPAC community who is not an executive. The District Planning Team gets together

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several times a school year; this year the meetings will be held Dec 5, March 6, April 24 from 4-5:30 pm. If you are interested, send DPAC an email.

- 8.2 Record retention requirements – BC Gaming requires that records of gaming grant receipts and distributions be retained for 5 years. Registered charities need to retain their records for 7 years. Any society operating under BC Societies act needs to retain records for 10 years. Other than these requirements, there are no further requirements for keeping records.
- 8.3 SD34 Events (Members of the public are welcome to attend)
 - 8.3.1 Public Board Meeting – December 13th at 7 pm, also livestreamed on YouTube
 - 8.3.2 Public Board Meeting – January 17th at 7 pm, also livestreamed on YouTube
 - 8.3.3 Annual Joint Partnership Meeting – February 27th 6:30-8 PM for DPAC executives, principals, senior administrators, Board of Education trustees, and every PAC chair.

9 Open Floor

- 9.1 Vaping – concerns were raised about students vaping in the bathrooms. A request was made to have a speaker from the Health Unit educate the students in the schools.
- 9.2 Gift wrapping at the mall - 2-3 hour shifts are available for students to earn volunteer hours.

10 Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held January 26, 2022 at 7 PM through Zoom.

11 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM

Zoom Attendance Report

Name (Original Name)
Shannon Rose
Korky.Neufeld
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair (SD34 DPAC Zoom #1)
Kevin Godden# Abbotsford
Clara C (Mcmillan Elementary) (iPhone)
Kara Dickson-DPAC Director/Rep @ IKT
parampreet kaur grewal
Amy MacKenzie - Dr. T. A. Swift Elementary & DPAC Director (Ken)
Winsome Rauch DPAC Secretary (Mike Rauch)
jas ats dpac (Iphone)
Elyse S
Corinne Chalmers
Tiffany Wickham
Heidi Vinois - ASIA Sumas
Josephine Leonard - Chief Dan George Middle and WJ Mouat Seconda (Josephine Leonard)
Tracey Lamoureux

