



SD 73 District Parent Advisory Council

Web: <https://dpac.sd73.bc.ca>

Email: sd73dpac@gmail.com

Facebook: [Kamloops-Thompson](#)

[SD73 PAC Discussions](#)

Executive Committee

Bonnie M: Chair, **Mel D** Vice Chair, **Willa P.:** Secretary, **Erin M** Treasurer, **Members at Large:** Elwira R, Melisa D, Jessica J, Jessica K, Nadine W, George S, Sarah F, Emmy A, Chris P,

DPAC General Meeting

Minutes

April 15th 2025

- 1. Welcome/Call to Order. Quorum present.** Attending via Zoom: Alysha H (DT Elem), Michelle C (DT Elem), Emmy (KSA), Caroline (Bert Ed), Stephanie, Jenna Y, Sarah M., Jelena (Westmount), Erin (SKSS). Attending in person: Mel (Chairing meeting), Chris P (VVSC), Valerie, Elwira, Manu (McGowan), Angela (George Hilliard)

*Acknowledgement of the traditional territory **Acknowledgement that we are on the territory of the Secwepemc Nation, specifically the territory of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc People, on whose territory we are grateful to live, learn and unlearn.*

- 2. Indigenous Story Telling.** None prepared for tonight.
- 3. Adoption of the agenda.** Letter from Valerie added to New Business (research and indigenous youth)
- 4. Minutes from previous meeting.** Unavailable.
- 5. Reports:**
 - a. Chair's Report** (Bonnie not present tonight).
 - b. Treasurer's Report:**

Our gaming grant application has been submitted.

All statutory and fiduciary obligations have been met in full, and on time.

Should we wish to send someone to BCCPAC conference, please note the early bird rate expires April 22nd.

What exactly is DPAC?

- DPAC stands for District Parent Advisory Council. We are the official parent voice for school District 73 (Kamloops/Thompson).
- Each PAC is encouraged to elect 2 DPAC reps to attend our monthly meetings.
- We elect an executive to conduct business between meetings, but our direction is determined by our members, just like at PACs.

What is the role of DPAC?

- Our mandate, according to the *School Act*, is to advise the Board of Education on any matter relating to education in the school district. We funnel parent input to decision-makers in our district.
- We facilitate communication — we send a lot of information out to the PACs on upcoming events and programs that might interest them.
- We provide training and education for parents, as well as opportunities for exchanging ideas. We host speakers as well as workshops and networking events.
- We function as a resource for individual parents and PACs as they do their work at the school level.



Treasurer's Report DPAC Exec Meeting

April 3, 2025

Updates:

1. We have officially said "No Thank You" to the \$5000 in professional development funds from the district.
2. As a result, we have amended our annual budget (see below)
3. We have had no request for foodsafe funds this year. We are therefore on track to not spend that money.
4. We also have \$500 set aside for external speakers and currently have no plans to use this money.
5. We also have \$1000 set aside for BCCPAC travel/expenses

Reminder, DPAC must use their gaming grant funds within 12 months (not the 24 months that PACs have)

We therefore need to make concrete plans to use the \$1000 + \$500 + \$180 = \$1680 so we can spend it before September.

March Financial Report is also below for your review.

Gaming Grant application period opened April 1st and our application will be submitted this week.

Projected Revenue and Expenses for year ending June 30, 2025				
	General	Gaming	SD73	Total
Balance Forward Sept 2024:	\$6,569.06	\$58.39		\$6,627.45
Revenue:				
Transfer in from Bursary (approx)	\$50.00			\$50.00
Anticipated BCCPAC Reimbursements (600 AGM)	\$600.00			
Community Gaming Grant		\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00
SD73 Professional Learning Funds			\$0.00	\$0.00
Total:	\$650.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$3,150.00
Budgeted Expenses:				
Monthly Plan Fee (TD Bank \$1.95 x 12mos)	\$23.40	\$23.40		\$46.80
BCCPAC Membership		\$200.00		\$200.00
Zoom Plan for Meetings		\$265.00		\$265.00
Website Hosting Fee		\$190.00		\$190.00
Advertising (Banner)		\$191.52		\$191.52
External Speakers/Parent Sessions		\$500.00		\$500.00
Food Safe Courses (2 at \$90 each)		\$180.00	\$0.00	\$180.00
DPAC Workshop Honorariums (music/babysitting)	\$400.00			\$400.00
BCCPAC AGM (2 people)	\$600.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
PAC 101 Start-up Workshop (catering and expenses)	\$2,151.10		\$0.00	\$2,151.10
PAC Year End Wrap-up	\$280.00		\$0.00	\$280.00
Thank-you gifts	\$50.00			\$50.00
Total:	\$3,504.50	\$2,549.92	\$0.00	\$6,054.42
Projected Balance at June 30, 2025:	\$3,714.56	\$8.47	\$0.00	\$3,723.03

Next Meeting: May 20th at 6:30 PM in person and via Zoom



SD73 DPAC FINANCIAL REPORT - March 2025					
GAMING	Chequing Acct (5374)	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
		July Opening Balance			\$390.98
	Jul 31, 2024	July Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$389.03
	Aug 31, 2024	Cheq#88: Erin Mitchell (Zoom Annual Fee)	\$240.69		\$148.34
	Aug 31, 2024	Cheq#89: Foodsafe Education - Jennifer Crosman - Barriere Sec	\$88.00		\$60.34
	Aug 31, 2024	August Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$58.39
		Gaming Grant		\$2,500.00	\$2,558.39
	Sept 30, 2024	September Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,556.44
	Oct 3, 2024	Cheq# 90: Chris Ponté (DPAC Banner from Visuals Signs and Printing)	\$191.52		\$2,364.92
	Oct 31, 2024	October Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,362.97
	Nov 30, 2024	November Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,361.02
	Dec 31, 2024	December Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,359.07
	Jan 31, 2025	January Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,357.12
	Feb 28, 2025	February Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,355.17
	Mar 31, 2025	March Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,353.22
Current Available Balance:					\$2,353.22
GENERAL	Chequing Acct (5366)	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
		July Opening Balance			\$4,287.80
	May 22, 2024	Cheq#14: Melissa - BCCPAC Travel Subsidy Reimbursement - Cleared in July	\$300.00		\$3,987.80
	Jul 5, 2024	BCCPAC Travel Reimbursement AGM 2024		\$800.00	\$4,587.80
	Jul 31, 2024	July Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$4,585.85
	Aug 31, 2024	August Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$4,583.90
	Sept 7, 2024	SD73 Professional Learning Funds, Reimbursement for BCCPAC AGM 2024		\$1,985.16	\$6,569.06
	Sept 30, 2024	September Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$6,567.11
	Oct 31, 2024	October Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$6,565.16
	Nov 30, 2024	November Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$6,563.21
	Nov 14, 2024	Cheq #18 Valerie Newbreast - Reimbursement-kids craft supplies DPAC Nite	\$65.28		\$6,497.93
	Nov 14, 2024	Cheq #19 Elwira Rosiak - Reimbursement-Table Candy/Water DPAC Nite	\$54.22		\$6,443.71
	Nov 14, 2024	Cheq #20 - Voided Cheque - ERROR in filling out cheque	\$0.00		\$6,443.71
	Nov 14, 2024	Cheq # 21 - SKSS - Childminding at DPAC Nite	\$200.00		\$6,243.71
	Nov 14, 2024	Cheq #22 - Brook Secondary School - Music at DPAC Night	\$200.00		\$6,043.71
	Nov 14, 2024	Cheq #23 - Melisa Dussault - Mileage Chase PAC to DPAC Night (@0.72/km)	\$84.00		\$5,959.71
	Nov 14, 2024	Cheq #24 - Penny Armstrong - Mileage Logan Lake PAC to DPAC Night@0.72/km	\$93.80		\$5,865.91
	Nov 14, 2024	Cheq #25-Stephanie Lebeau - Mileage Logan Lake PAC to DPAC night @0.72/km	\$93.80		\$5,772.11
	[not yet used]	Cheq #26 - Still in checkbook, not yet used.	\$0.00		\$5,772.11
	Dec 21, 2024	Cheq #27 - Lived Experience Community Life and Peer Skills Program Society	\$1,780.00		\$4,012.11
	Dec 31, 2024	December Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$4,010.16
	Jan 31, 2025	January Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$4,008.21
	Feb 28, 2025	February Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$4,006.26
	Mar 31, 2025	March Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$4,004.31
	Current Available Balance:				
BURSARY	Investor Acct (0446)	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
		July Opening Balance			\$551.96
	July 31, 2024	July Interest		\$1.20	\$553.16
	Aug 31, 2024	August Interest		\$1.20	\$554.36
	Sept 30, 2024	September Interest		\$1.18	\$555.52
	Oct 3, 2024	Cheq#005: SD73 Continuing Education - VOIDED for wrong addressee (\$500)	\$0.00		\$555.52
	Oct 31, 2024	October Interest		\$1.20	\$556.72
	Nov 29, 2024	Cheq #006 - TREC (Bursary), Replaces Cheq 005 that was voided.	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$56.72
	Nov 30, 2024	November Interest		\$1.17	\$57.89
	Dec 31, 2024	Paper Statement Fee - December	\$3.00		\$54.89
	Dec 31, 2024	Service Charge for Cheque	\$5.00		\$49.89
	Dec 31, 2024	December Interest		\$0.52	\$50.41
	Jan 31, 2025	January Interest (estimated)		\$0.52	\$50.93
	Feb 28, 2025	February Interest		\$0.52	\$51.45
	March 31, 2025	March Interest		\$0.52	\$51.97
Current Available Balance (Estimated):					\$51.97

**Blue Italics indicate a pending transaction, or a transaction that has been completed but not yet verified by a bank statement.
Monthly Financial Report completed by Erin Mitchell March 30, 2025*

6. Old Business:

a. BCCPAC AGM and Conference

Erin will be attending the AGM by Zoom. Please consider giving her your proxy vote if your school is a member not planning on attending.

Next Meeting: May 20th at 6:30 PM in person and via Zoom



Notice of Annual General Meeting

May 24 & 25, 2025

University of Northern British Columbia, 3333 University Way, Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9

And online on Lumi - access provided for registered attendees

Notice is hereby given that the [Annual General Meeting](#) (AGM) of The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) will be held at the University of Northern British Columbia beginning on Saturday May 24th at 8:00am and ending Sunday, May 25th at 12:00pm.

All BCCPAC member PACs and DPACs, [voting and non-voting](#), are encouraged to have a delegate attend to participate in the business of the AGM:

- Receive from the Board a report of its activities during the previous year including the presentation and approval of financial statements
- Debate and vote on [special and ordinary resolutions](#)
- Adopt a budget for the coming year
- [Election](#) of the Board of Directors
- Establish the membership fee

The first iteration of the [AGM Booklet](#) contains 13 special resolutions to be presented for discussion. Subsequent iterations of the booklet will be published with ordinary resolutions, board candidate information and other information pertinent to the AGM.

Early Bird Pricing Available Until April 22

Register early for the best pricing. Payment must be **received** by April 22 for early-bird rates.

Category	In-Person Early Bird (to April 22)	Virtual Early Bird (to April 22)	In-Person (after April 22)	Virtual (after April 22)
Member - Conference & AGM	\$349	\$199	\$399	\$250
Member - Conference Only	\$279	\$175	\$349	\$199
Member - AGM Only	\$169	\$75	\$169	\$75
Non-Member - Conference Only	\$474	\$225	\$474	\$225
Parent Power Social (hosted by SD57 DPAC)	\$0	N/A	\$0	N/A

7. New Business:

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- a. Welcome to Manu S as a Member at Large at DPAC Exec. She is appointed to fill the Vacancy and will stand as a Member at Large until the next AGM.
 - b. Summit and SSES PAC school zones– shout out to the great work at these PACs! Their school zones have been expanded around their schools for better safety for their students. Great work, PACs!
 - c. District Budget.
- Our DPAC was involved in the draft budget process to provide feedback from a parent perspective.
 - This is the first time – usually we are only given a presentation directly before the board meeting.
 - DPAC remains highly critical of the budget as proposed. We will attempt to answer your questions as we go along.
 - Reminder that this is the recommended district budget that will be presented by staff to the board. There is still time to provide feedback on the budget, and we encourage parents to do so.
 - This is the 25/26 district budget. It has almost nothing to do with the \$2million shortfall from last year. This is almost entirely due to a shortfall caused by increased costs and a loss of one-time funding. The deficit last year was covered by reserve funds, which the staff do want to replete, but again, DPAC recommends a far more conservative approach to rebuilding their reserve funds.
 - Since 2022 the district has had an increase in 156 students with complex needs without a significant increase in funding, so there is a shortfall there. Our DPAC has been very involved in inclusion (exclusion?) issues.
 - Projected cost increases: there is no increase in funding coming from the province, but there are significant increase in costs. Existing money is being used to cover these costs. The district is mandated to provide a budget that is balanced.
 - If they do not provide a balanced budget, they can be fired.
 - The cost increases are coming from relief costs/salaries/vehicle replacements/benefit costs – this money has to come from somewhere and there is no extra money coming from the province.
 - To cover these costs, there will be a loss of FTEs.
 - FTE stands for “full time equivalent”, which is a full time position.
 - Some of these positions were funded by COVID special funding (extra cleaning positions, etc) that are no longer funded
 - DPAC remains student-focused. How will students be impacted. Can we still meet the needs of students with all of these cuts? If we cannot answer these questions, they shouldn’t make these cuts.
 - It’s not DPAC’s job to figure out where they can cut, but we can hold them accountable that students should not be impacted.
 - Parents shared their individual input on the budget, including through the lens of the Indigenous Youth Reconciliation Barometer 2024 and IYR’s 7 Guiding Principles for

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Youth Engagement and the need to eliminate stakeholder barriers preventing Indigenous Work.

- Discussion on meeting students' needs and meeting children's basic needs.
- What is DPAC BC Coalition and what is their structure? Follow them on medium <https://medium.com/@bcdpac> as this coalition of DPAC Execs continue their previous advocacy work that was halted at the BCCPAC level. This group has hosted a virtual provincial town hall open to all parents of students in public schools. Chris Ponti remains an integral member of the coalition, with a focus on capital funding.
- Question re: how are Indigenous voices included in the budget consultation? DPACs advocacy is student-centered and that includes advocating for Indigenous students. We appreciate input from the Indigenous parents outside of the Shuswap Nation and how their families experience the education system in the district.
- Formally, the Kamloops Thompson School District invited the following groups to consult on the budget: DPAC, CUPE, KTTA, KTPVPA, District Student Advisory Council, Indigenous Education Council. Other groups and individuals were invited to give input via the SD73 website.
- Comment from around the room: What is the action plan to support students – what are the number of students impacted by the budget and concrete numbers of how they are affected by this budget and possible cuts to support staff.
- DPAC was unable to speak at the Board meeting regarding the budget because they missed the deadline by one day
- Comment that students are already impacted by shortfalls on a day to day basis, and it's sad and frustrating because we know that students will be impacted more by these cuts.
- Note: We don't, as a district, keep track of who leaves the school and moves to homeschooling because they feel the system has failed their child.
- Perhaps we need to hold the district accountable to their own policies of providing services to students in schools.
- Comment that the shortage of teachers that already existed will get worse with these budget cuts. The environment of doing more with less is stressful for everyone who remains.
- Some of the positions that will be cut will not be teachers, but these are still trusted adults in the school, and may affect children all the same.
- Parents are already being asked to volunteer in the school to support staff and students (ex. Lunch providers, etc). We worry this will be exacerbated by budget cuts.
- This can also be a safety issue at school – with staff and volunteers doing double duty – if you're on safety patrol on playground but also has to work at hot lunch, but also is trying to get some prep done, the kids can be at risk.
- Question: Is there a way to advocate louder to stop the cuts to 77 support staff? What policies, legal and ethical recourses are there?
- DPAC emails and comments are going to the board in a letter. We will continue to represent your voices.

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- Note re: admin dismissals rather than support staff cuts: If the folks at the top are let go, there is still a severance due to them. It sounds like the budget is looking at not filling vacant positions rather than severing positions at the top admin levels.
- Can any boutique programs be cut to save more established programs?
- Note: Boutique programs sometimes come with boutique funding, but a lot of times that funding is temporary.
- Provincial Funding: What can DPAC do to move advocacy for more provincial funding forward?
- DPAC wrote a letter to the Ministry and Premier, but the response we received back was “thanks, but we’ve already invested lots” type funding. It was not particularly useful.
- Comment that the Budget Presentation is still available at the SD73 website. Between the 2-4min mark is that Dr. Nixon noted that it was “impossible” to make a budget that met all the stakeholder needs. That’s not a good thing.
- One of the priorities that parents expressed is not to cut supports for kids mental health. This was also an election promise by this government.
- Comment and agreement that currently, schools are not even meeting the basics.
- SD73 DPAC is a member of the coalition of DPACs as well.
- Surrey DPAC did have success in the past when there was attempt to cut TAs- they worked with the MLA to go to Parliament and spoke there. In the end they were successful in bringing in new supports. Question: Is our MLA helpful?
- Note: There is a meeting on Apr 25 at 10am with our MLA.
- Comment that we need to show solidarity that this budget is harmful to students in SD73.
- Multiple districts are facing this problem.
- Transparency re: designation and funding – what is being protected and what is being sacrificed in terms of student supports.
- Question: Should we create an advocacy end-point before budget deadline? Demonstration? Rally? Letter writing? Yes! We need to work together to amplify our voices. Comment that we should attack this on multiple front – physical rally, letter writing, telling stories.
- Comment that there is some exhaustion by parent advocates – they are always telling stories and it is so draining. It is a lot to ask parents who have raised their voices so many times to raise them again. It was recommended that parents who previously gave detailed accounts of their children’s experiences in our schools print out these letters and emails with private information redacted. TO DO: Let’s chat with the Chair and see what we can arrange quickly.
- Maybe we can create a letter from our emerging coalition.
- Pressure may create an indent, but mobilization will have to happen quickly.
- Strike while the fire’s hot: this is in the news now, people are paying attention now.
- Why aren’t the trustees more vocal right now about the lack of provincial funding to meet the needs of our students?

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- Please email the DPAC email. We will collate and send on as parent feedback on this budget.
- Important to make sure the language is plain and transparent to keep it at a grassroots level. Keep the focus on the student and the student's needs. Our response is student-centered.
- Also a reminder that there are parents with expertise. We need to keep our message clear, but not dumbed-down. Parents are smart. We carry multiple responsibilities and look through multiple lenses as advocates.

8. Committee Reports – Tabled. Focus has been on the budget.

There was a question as to how we could replicate the success of the two schools that had traffic pattern changes with the city. Could those schools please contact our transportation committee to share info so others can benefit. Thank you again for your great work.

There was a comment that the Provincial Facilities committee will have a document out soon that they are quite excited about. One of their Chairs was successful in obtaining a meeting in Victoria!

- 9. Other Correspondence:** KTTA and CUPE have not been interested in partnering with us in messaging re: the budget to this point. Note, in other districts these groups all come together. In our district, these groups do not currently work together, but hopefully there are some potential collaborations to come – our door is always open and we hope to include them if they want to partner with us.
- Meeting with MLA on Apr 25 at 10am.
 - Parent feedback: Thank you from all of us. Keep the feedback coming.
 - Comment that it is important for Indigenous feedback. Reminder from <redacted> elem that “Indigenous speak for themselves” and a question as to whether they have been invited to provide feedback directly.

10. Adjournment.

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Addendum – Letter from Valerie to Dr. Nixon

April 2025

Superintendent Rhonda Nixon:

The Centre for Indigenous Policy and Research completed an Indigenous project in collaboration and reciprocal relationship with youth from Coast to Coast to Coast. Indigenous Youth Research 2024. Reflecting youth perspectives centred around 7 principles of Reciprocity, Resurgence, Innovation, Solidarity, Advocacy, Accountability and Reclamation advancing youths visions to meaningful reclamation. A survey of 50 questions was asked providing critical youth insights and perspectives through the lenses of Personal/Community Empowerment, Culture, Language, and Wellness, Education and meaningful work, Reconciliation and Solidarity.

The research filled gaps around Indigenous advocacy priorities, needs and barriers. 72% of the Youth indicated practicing their culture was important. Language learning, cultural teachings and the presence of Elder accessibility were also important. Youth identified culture and land based experiences as a source of strength, a sense of pride and belonging in shaping values, beliefs and Indigenous worldview versus Pan Indigenous. Systemic racism and mental health were indicated as barriers. 80% of the Indigenous youth identified “not knowing where to start/who to go to” as a top barrier facing youth in wanting to connect to their language and culture. Youth cited language learning applications and social media as helpful tools in learning language.

A dedicated space is provided for Indigenous content at sd#73 District Parent Advisory Council to address the value of Inclusion, Equity, Identity, Language, Belonging and Diversity. School district information sharing is important for parents and guardians. Topics included:

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- Necessary updates to sd#73 Anti Racism Policy. District Cultural Exchanges
 - Board communique. Safe Spaces, changing Aboriginal Education to Indigenous Education First Nations Education Jurisdiction - Squamish Nation, Canim Lake Band, Ditidaht F.N. Calgary School District Indigenous Holistic Lifelong Learning Framework & Worldview Indigenous Identity, Storytelling, Winter Solstice, Indigenous Talking Circle
 - Indigenous Family Voices for Education analysis
 - Indigenous Peoples and Diverse populations. Anishinaabe, Kwakwaka'wakw, Cree, Métis, Navajo, Blackfoot/Blackfeet, Inuit
 - Technology, YouTube, Diverse Indigenous Languages, and Elders
-

BCCPAC - Provincial Parent Advocacy Group - Indigenous Director, sd#73 DPAC initiative
BC statistics and BCAFC say up to 80% of diverse Indigenous peoples live in urban settings or off reserve. Increased strategic preventative measures are necessary in school districts' budgetary planning in meeting the needs of Child Youth In Care (CYIC), Indigenous youth beginning to age out, Indigenous women/girls against colonialism, hierarchical and patriarchal structures. Unfortunately, today school district systemic and stakeholder barriers continue to exist preventing full implementation of diverse Indigenous work.

Sincerely,

Tsanaat - Valerie Newbreast - Parent/Guardian

cc: Confederation of Parent Advisory Council (BCCPAC)
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), Leslie Varley, Executive Director Kamloops
Aboriginal Friendship Centres (KAFC), Cal Albright, Executive Director
Trustee Kang, Trustee Hickson
DPAC sd#73 & Westsyde Elementary

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