



SD 73 District Parent Advisory Council

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

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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, Jessica J, Jessica K, Nadine W, George S, Sarah F, Emmy A, Chris P

## DPAC General Meeting

### Minutes

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2025

- 1. Welcome/Call to Order. Quorum present. (Attendees: via Zoom:** Shauna C (Beattie), Michelle C (DT Elem), Erin M (SKSS), Roxanne L (RLC), Julia (AEP/Norkam), Alysha H (DT Elem), **In person:** Bonnie McB. (DPAC Chair), Elwira (LGES), Jessica, Chris (VVSec), Nadine, Valerie

*Acknowledgement of the traditional territory \*\*Acknowledgement that we are gratefully conducting our meeting from the territory of the Secwepemc Nation, specifically the territory of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc People. We are privileged to learn and unlearn on this space.*

- 2. Indigenous Story Telling . Guest Speaker: Alexa Daniels – Grade 12 student – SKSS.** DPAC was privileged to welcome our Indigenous Story Teller, Alexa Daniels, who presented her grade 12 spoken words poem about intergenerational trauma. She brought to DPAC a powerful account of the continued problems associated with the legacy of residential schools. DPAC is grateful for the sharing, and honored to be awarded an opportunity to hear it.
- 3. Adoption of the agenda.** Note that we have a different format tonight: this is our opportunity to discuss the budget. There are no spaces for additions to the agenda tonight as we are going to focus on the budget.

This is the first time that the district has given the dpac an opportunity to be part of the process at this early stage. Usually we see the budget just before it's presented, but not

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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.



much more than that. We have an opportunity tonight to talk about what's important to us. This is what the bulk of this meeting will be. We want to give you an opportunity to talk about what it is like at your school, what you want to see for your children at your school, what is important to you—without the worry of how it could be funded and staffed. We want to present a picture of what it SHOULD like, not what it “has” to look like due to budgetary constraints. We need this information when we go into our final budget consultation meeting with the district before it’s presented from the board.

4. Minutes from previous meeting. Not presented. Please email any corrections to [sd73dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd73dpac@gmail.com). It was brought forward that there was an “Indigenous Director” identified on the last minutes, but this position does not actually exist, as we were asked to hold off on the creation of this position by IFVFE.
5. Reports: Not presented.
6. Old Business: Not presented. Valerie did bring forward some written pieces that she had prepared, but these pieces were tabled as the focus tonight is on the budget. These will be brought forward to the next executive or added to the minutes when they become available.

**7. New Business: BUDGET Presentation and discussion.**

Chris presented on what we have learned so far from the budget process, and where we have opportunity to be part of the decision making process.

- We have been to two meetings so far. We have been invited to view and provide input ahead of time.
- Included in the 1st meeting was Harold Call from Sooke, who used to be their Secretary-Treasurer. He has brought some recommendations forward from their district and DPAC. We are glad that he has been helping our district get through this process.
- The numbers we have seen ahead of time have been embargoed. We are not available to discuss specifics.
- We have asked the Superintendent, Trustees and KTTA to not attend the meeting tonight to be sure that we have unfiltered parent input.
- Reminder that there are 5 facets of the Strategic Plan.
- Approx 90% of the budget is taken up by human resource costs.
- We have been asked to help them with feedback as to parent priorities for spending for the remaining 10%. Other stakeholders have also been asked to provide feedback.
- We are concerned that process leaves very little space for priorities to be student-centered – the conversation is lead through a financial lens, not a student lens.
- We are being asked to look at this from a lens of what we can cut – we are being asked to look at priorities from a where can we squeeze and tighten. This is financial resource lens, not a student best-practice lens.

**Next Meeting: April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in person and via Zoom**



- This is a concern for parents and DPAC.
- DPAC wants to create a plan that is student-focused, not financial cut focused.
- We want to talk about what our schools should look like and could look like from a student perspective. And from there, we can decide what we can and can't financially do. However, we are being asked to present a plan to the board with plans from a financial squeeze lens.
- DPAC does not want to work "inside the posts" – we are not okay with being held to parameters that are good from a financial perspective rather than from a "what is best for children" perspective.
- DPAC has continued to push for less reserves than the 3% the district wants. They want us to be pragmatic, and we are not pragmatic.

#### Comments from attendees:

- Valerie read a prepared letter that she had sent to the board regarding the importance of special education support for indigenous students.
- Quick rundown of the budget process: DPAC was invited to help provide feedback on what matters most to our members. The Board and the School District have to set priorities for next year's budget. They have a very particular timeline and way of doing that. Back in January finance and planning committees are involved, and then there are consultation meetings. What they first asked us to do was rank what is important to us in terms of the curriculum. Last meeting they told us they were in a very bad financial position and given those constraints, what would we as parents recommend them cut. The board has asked us to go back to the parents and ask "given the financial constraints, what is important to parents". That's why we're here today. We're here to ask: What is absolutely crucial to you, given that the board is required to produce a balanced budget.
- DPAC has asked the district to have a multi-year budget process, rather than the current annual process.
- We don't even know how much money we're getting next year because the provincial budget isn't released until March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Province may change funding completely, but we don't know where and what.
- We worry about a diversion of some education funding. We don't know if one-time funding will be renewed or altogether discontinued.
- The budget isn't student focused in it's language.
- Can you create a student path to success through this budget? Because if not, we're not picturing the right priorities with this budget.
- DPAC continues to show up and not lower our bar.
- We are cognisant that we are the only group pushing solely for students – we are not thinking of benefits and wages, we aren't considering maintenance, we aren't considering anything but the students first.
- Note that we need to keep pushing back on the provincial government that they aren't funding the education system in a way that is best for individual students.

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- To this point, ministry meetings remain very high level. It's difficult for us to get meetings. We are working with other DPACs to make sure we have a voice.
- There are lots of people talking about this. We are not the only district in this situation, so we have allies in other DPACs.
- There is no accountability to change through any of the current mechanisms (provincially).
- Important to report CEAs and Indigenous Programs.
- Need to protect frontline support for students.
- Children and Youth who are connected to the Ministry of Children and Family are tracked now and their graduation rates are about 14%.
- We are having a problem with data tracking. There is a lag in the time that the ministry gets the data. We suspect that if the data was better, the numbers would be worse.
- The literacy and numeracy rate from the foundation skills assessment is higher than when they test children with disabilities in the classroom – many students with disabilities don't take the FSAs, so these are artificially high numbers. This is not meaningful data.
- We continue to tell the district that it is \*each\* child in our district that we must plan for, not all children. We need to pay attention to the exclusion stories. They are not anomalies.
- If the district continues to build a model in a box, which is what they are doing, we need to tell them what MUST be in the box. We are telling them that financial support for families is important. We are telling them that support in the classroom is important. We are telling them that we need to fund SAFE people, like IEWs, need to be funded.
- Children with designations continue to be excluded in our district. The bar is lowered for those children, rather than provide support for each child to be accommodated and supported where they are at.
- Concerned about the bus situation – students aren't getting to or from school on time with the school special buses (city buses), or they feel unsafe when onboard. Sometime school specials will drive straight pass students waiting at the bus stop.
- We need to work with the city to plan neighborhoods – why are we not picking the spot for a school in the middle of the new neighborhood during the planning stage.
- School site acquisition charges are designed for a district to have a portion of funds set aside so that we can meet fiduciary obligations set aside by the province for new school builds.
- Question re: Jordan's Principle- is this being explored. Answer: Yes. Our school district has examined how they could potentially use Jordan's Principle, but it is a process. They do apply, but we wouldn't hear about this because it is tied to a specific student. This is separate from the budget (supplemental), and the district wouldn't budget for these funds because you have to apply for it.
- DPAC has advocated for the district to hire a grant writer.

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- Districts don't get autism funding. Once a child is in school, there is a different set of money. Autism funding isn't that. There is special funding for children who have a designation for children to get extra supports.
- This is a \$200 million budget – at this point we are talking very broadly. Reminder that 90% of the budget is wages and benefits. We only have 10% of that budget that we can work on. Then there is facilities: buses and gas and electricity and maintenance and HVAC systems and water for the fields and garbage pickup, etc. There is very little money that we actually have control over.
- DPAC has continued to say: Why hasn't this district advocated harder for change at the Provincial level – what are these trustees doing for better provincial funding overall.
- The Board Priorities have been put out for the next 5 years – they told us about their budget pressures (90% of the budget goes to things we can't change). They are asking for our feedback on the remaining tiny little piece of money in the 5 priorities they've set.
- DPAC is asking us to go back to our schools to have conversations about what our priorities are within their 5 board priorities to tell the Board what are the vitally important bits that they absolutely can't cut.
- Give this feedback to DPAC so we can bring it forward to our next meeting with the district.
- We have also strongly advocated to them that they need to look outside the box – we need to support our students and our staff. We want happy, fulfilled, innovative top of the line teachers in our district too. We know that if we only let them do old stuff with old things we are going to lose them. We want space in the budget for innovation and growth and collaboration and learning for everybody.
- How do we reach children that we've been losing – we need space for innovation.
- Mitigation strategies – changes to fee structures, new fees etc: We have told the district they can't keep passing costs off to parents, and we can't ask teachers to write the grants – they just don't have time.
- We need to fund education whatever way we can, and we have asked the district to be very thoughtful in the way they do that, in the way they word things, and that they consider not limiting ourselves to (inadequate) provincial funding alone – we need to be creative.
- The DPAC exec has discussed the \$5000 grant for DPAC, and the movie license (\$12000). We have double checked with everyone and PACs feel the movie license is helpful so we will advocate for that continuing. DPAC will give up the \$5000 grant this year – we realize that \$5000 in \$200Million is a drop in the bucket, but it is a thing we can do to help.
- March 10<sup>th</sup> is the day we meet with the district next – please send feedback by then.
- We will still have time to write with the board after that with our feedback before it is final and presented to the province.
- We have been clear, in writing, that we have the expectation of having more fulsome and reciprocal conversations with them rather than them telling us what they're doing.

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- We are hopeful that the Board isn't considering raises or increased expenses for themselves.
- Do we have too many on our Board? Surrey, a bigger district has fewer trustees.
- Input from PACs can be sent to [sd73dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd73dpac@gmail.com)
- PACs can have discussions and advocate for your school community directly too. You don't have to go through DPAC. Things that are very centric to your school community can be expressed or shared directly with trustees too. DPAC can help carry those messages too.
- Ask parents: If you were going to pick 3 things you need to know will be here next year, what would they be?
- It's been a very disheartening time. PACs are struggling. School has no money, parents have no money. To hear that the district has less money, is so disheartening. We are fundraising for buses and field trips and school equipment. It's so hard to have nothing. PACs are trying hard to do more for the school, but it's exhausting. Who do we need to lobby – it's not fair for the lower income schools. There are inequities from school to school. We can't keep going back to parents and asking them to put more out of their pockets.
- It would be nice to have some leadership from trustees saying here's how we can lobby to the province to do more for our individual students.
- DPAC knows there are other districts in the same boat too. We need to advocate as a DPAC community with our partners too.
- Each minister gets a mandate letter for their new job – the ministry of education's priorities were totally out of touch. It was clear in that letter that education and investment in education are not on the radar in the Premier's office. We need to advocate around this – we need to talk about kids.
- We need a CEA in every primary classroom – this was an election promise and it hasn't happened. The province needs to bring this. We can do advocacy around this.
- We are trying to get a meeting with our MLA and education critic.
- Consideration for a "day of caring for education" where we tag the minister.
- Have and Have-Not schools – the 18 full time coordinators being repurposed mean that district wide events are going to be affected, such as the music festival adjudication in Kamloops.
- Sponsorship district policy: Can this be relooked at. How can private funds be used to help PACs get over the hump to use the money already in the bank.
- Why don't we have a district foundation the way other districts do?
- We are prepared to meet with the Board and CUPE to advocate to the province along side them, but to this point, we have not been asked to work with them – we are not included.
- We are prepared to be a voice with and without them.

**8. Financial Reports – DPAC (attached). Other reports tabled.**

**Next Meeting: April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in person and via Zoom**



**DPAC Exec Meeting  
March 6, 2025**

**Projected Revenue and Expenses for year ending June 30, 2025**

	General	Gaming	SD73	Total
<b>Balance Forward Sept 2024:</b>	\$6,569.06	\$58.39		<b>\$6,627.45</b>
<b>Revenue:</b>				
Transfer in from Bursary (approx)	\$50.00			\$50.00
Anticipated BCCPAC Reimbursements (600 AGM)	\$600.00			\$600.00
Community Gaming Grant		\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00
SD73 Professional Learning Funds			\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,150.00</b>
<b>Budgeted Expenses:</b>				
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
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,504.50</b>	<b>\$2,549.92</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$6,054.42</b>
<b>Projected Balance at June 30, 2025:</b>	<b>\$3,714.56</b>	<b>\$8.47</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,723.03</b>

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**SD73 DPAC FINANCIAL REPORT - February 2025**

	<b>Chequing Acct (5374)</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Debit</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Balance</b>	
<b>GAMING</b>		<b>July Opening Balance</b>			<b>\$390.98</b>	
	Jul 31, 2024	July Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$389.03	
	Aug 31, 2024	Chq#88: Erin Mitchell (Zoom Annual Fee)	\$240.69		\$148.34	
	Aug 31, 2024	Chq#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	Chq# 90: Chris Ponti (DPAC Banner from Visuals Signs and Printing)	\$191.52		\$2,364.92	
	Oct 31, 2024	October Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,554.49	
	Nov 30, 2024	November Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,362.97	
	Dec 31, 2024	December Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,552.54	
	Jan 31, 2025	January Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,361.02	
	Feb 28, 2025	February Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,550.59	
		<b>Current Available Balance:</b>				<b>\$2,550.59</b>
<b>GENERAL</b>		<b>July Opening Balance</b>			<b>\$4,287.80</b>	
	May 22, 2024	Chq#14: Melisa - BCCPAC Travel Subsidy Reimbursement - Cleared in July	\$300.00		\$3,987.80	
	Jul 5, 2024	BCCPAC Travel Reimbursement AGM 2024		\$600.00	\$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	Chq #18 Valerie Newbreast - Reimbursement-kids craft supplies DPAC Nite	\$65.28		\$6,497.93	
	Nov 14, 2024	Chq #19 Elwira Rosiak - Rembursement-Table Candy/Water DPAC Nite	\$54.22		\$6,443.71	
	Nov 14, 2024	Chq #20 - Voided Cheque - ERROR in filling out cheque	\$0.00		\$6,443.71	
	Nov 14, 2024	Chq # 21 - SKSS - Childminding at DPAC Nite	\$200.00		\$6,243.71	
	Nov 14, 2024	Chq #22 - Brock Secondary School - Music at DPAC Night	\$200.00		\$6,043.71	
	Nov 14, 2024	Chq #23 - Melisa Dussault - Mileage Chase PAC to DPAC Night (@0.72/km)	\$84.00		\$5,959.71	
	Nov 14, 2024	Chq #24 - Penny Armstrong - Mileage Logan Lake PAC to DPAC Night@0.72/km	\$93.80		\$5,865.91	
	Nov 14, 2024	Chq #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	\$1,760.00		\$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	
		<b>Current Available Balance:</b>				<b>\$4,006.26</b>
	<b>BURSARY</b>		<b>July Opening Balance</b>			<b>\$551.96</b>
		July 31, 2024	July Interest		\$1.20	\$553.16
		Aug 31, 2024	August Interest		\$1.20	\$554.36
		Sept 30, 2024	September Interest		\$1.16	\$555.52
Oct 3, 2024		Chq#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		Chq #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	
February 2025		Transfer out to General		\$0.00	\$50.93	
		<b>Current Available Balance (Estimated):</b>				<b>\$50.93</b>

**9. Other Correspondence: None presented.**

**10. Adjournment**

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