



#### 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 and put on workshops and networking events.
- We function as a resource for individual parents and PACs as they do their work at the school level.

#### 2025/26 Executive Committee

Bonnie M (Chair), Mel D (Vice Chair), Erin M (Acting Secretary), Erin M (Treasurer/Zoom Coordinator),  
**Members at Large:** Elwira R, Jessica J, Jessica K, Nadine W, Manu S, Crystal P, Rachel A

## DPAC General Meeting - Draft Minutes

Tuesday April 21, 2026 6:30pm

Zoom log in: [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)

Meeting ID: 849 6862 0676

Passcode: 456446

1. **Welcome/Call to Order. Quorum Achieved.** Attendees on line included: Vavenby, Lloyd George, RLC, Summit, Juniper, David Thompson, SKSS, Sahali, Bert Edwards, Dallas, Rayleigh, PAC Way
2. **Land Acknowledgement.** *We would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dăkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, Syilx, and T̓silhqot'in Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.*
3. **Introduction of Guests**
  - a. Trustee Grieve – Board of Education. Trustee Grieve introduced herself and talked about the importance of a good working relationship with parents. **On behalf of DPAC, thank you to Chair Grieve from Chair McBride.**
  - b. Superintendent Mike St. John – SD 73. Presentation: “Authentic Interaction” is attached to the end of these minutes. Highlights included the importance of centering education on each learner, areas of growth to promote student success, and being intentional and caring in support to students. Reminder that families are first teachers and children’s best resource. Superintendent plans to create a “Parents as Partners” conference. **On behalf of DPAC, thank you to Superintendent St. John from Chair McBride.**
4. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** Accepted with addition from Dallas PAC (under New Business). (Manu/Jessica).
5. **Reports:**
  - a. Chair’s Report: Attached. The Chair shared the story of a Grade 3 student from David Thompson Elementary who has had a positive and meaningful experience within an SD73 program. The student created a PowerPoint presentation demonstrating resilience and thoughtful self-reflection on her experience with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Although she was unable to attend, she provided permission for her story to be shared as an example of inclusion in practice. The report also highlighted



ongoing budget work, including the district's budget submission, as well as continued efforts related to inclusivity and advocacy.

b. Treasurer's Report

- i. See **Addendum A** for report. Reminder we need foodsafe receipts – please submit asap for reimbursement as our fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. **Annual Gaming Grant Application**. Gaming Grant application period is open. Please reach out to Erin if you are having difficulty. DPAC's application is in. Reminder that Snine is not eligible for Gaming funds next year because you must be a PAC for 12 months. Reminder that gaming license rules have changed for licensed gaming events. *Reach out to Erin with questions.*

*Motion to adopt treasurer's report (Jessica/Jessica).  
Accepted as submitted.*

c. Committee Reports

- i. Bylaw and Constitution (Elwira/Erin): Notice of Bylaw Amendment Discussion was given Feb 21 via Facebook.

*Please note that we require at least 75% of the voting members present to affirm these changes in order for them to pass. If approved, these amendments will take effect immediately upon adoption.*

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**Proposed Amendment 1 – Section VII Quorum**

**Current wording:**

*A quorum shall be four (4) voting members present, which shall include no less than two (2) Executive members.*

**Proposed wording:**

*A quorum shall be four (4) voting PAC representatives present.*

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**Motion 1 – Quorum**

That Section VII A of the Constitution and Bylaws be amended to replace the current quorum clause with the following:

“A quorum shall be four (4) voting PAC representatives present.”

**All in Favour. Motion passed.**

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**Proposed Amendment 2 – Executive Position Restriction**



**Current wording:**

*No person may hold more than one elective Executive Position at any one time, with the exception of the Secretary-Treasurer.*

**Proposed wording:**

*No person may hold more than two Executive positions at the same time. The positions of Chair and Treasurer shall not be held by the same individual.*

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**Motion 2 – Executive Position Restriction**

That the clause stating “No person may hold more than one elective Executive Position at any one time, with the exception of the Secretary-Treasurer” be deleted and replaced with the following:

“No person may hold more than two Executive positions at the same time. The positions of Chair and Treasurer shall not be held by the same individual.”

**All in Favour. Motion passed.**

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**Proposed Amendment 3 – Section XVI Amendment Notice Period**

**Current wording:**

*Written notice of a meeting at which a resolution will be considered to amend the bylaws shall be given to all members in writing at least two months before the meeting.*

**Proposed wording:**

*Written notice of a meeting at which a resolution will be considered to amend the constitution or bylaws shall be given to all members in writing at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.*

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**Motion 3 – Amendment Notice Period**

That Section XVI Clause 2 be amended to replace the current notice requirement with the following:

“Written notice of a meeting at which a resolution will be considered to amend the constitution or bylaws shall be given to all members in writing at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.”

**All in Favour. Motion passed.**

- ii. Committee Reports - Active Transportation/Safer Streets (Elwira) – No report.
- iii. Committee Reports - Feeding Futures (Elwira) – No report.
- iv. Committee Reports - Advocacy (Bonnie/Elwira) – No report.
- v. Committee Reports - Rural Committee (Mel/Rachel) – No report.



- vi. Committee Reports - DPAC Coalition (Bonnie) – Correspondence received from Minister Beare (See attached)
- vii. Committee Reports - Capital Funding/School Site Acquisition (Bonnie) – No report.

## 6. Old Business

- a. PAC 101 – If you haven't received resources from PAC 101, we may not have been able to read your email address! Please reach out to [sd73dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd73dpac@gmail.com)
- b. Foodsafe – Please reach out to [sd73dpactreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:sd73dpactreasurer@gmail.com) if your PAC needs reimbursement for a 2025/26 Foodsafe tuition
- c. Public Budget Consultation 2026/27  
**Date:** Monday, April 20, 2026  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 PM
- d. Trec, 4 Directions Street School and @Kool students --eligible for PAC? We are working on it with the Secretary/Treasurer of the District (issues include how students are counted), then we would have 100% of our schools with an active PAC in our school district.

## 7. New Business

- a. Meeting Request with MLA re: update on DPACs work and challenges. Meeting is coming up in June and we are awaiting a date confirmation from MLA Milobar's office.
- b. Meeting Request with BC Conservative Party- importance of inclusive education in learning plans. This meeting is on hold due to Leadership Race/Cabinet Shuffle.
- c. Dallas PAC: Dallas parents expressed ongoing frustration with the lack of progress toward a new school playground. They noted that despite years of advocacy, discussions at multiple levels, and fundraising efforts, their school continues to be removed from the playground priority list. This has been discouraging for both parents and students, particularly given that parts of the current playground have been deemed unsafe and blocked off. Parents also raised concerns about delays in implementation, citing examples such as purchased equipment (e.g., swings) remaining in storage due to a lack of staff for installation. While families are willing to contribute time and effort, they feel unclear about the process, the district's overall plan, and how best to engage or advocate effectively. Board Chair Grieve acknowledged the parents' concerns and frustration and committed to providing a formal response. Superintendent St. John also recognized the issues raised, particularly regarding the backlog, and committed to reviewing the matter and reporting back with a formal response.
- d. District Resource Room at the Elementary Level (David Thompson Elem PAC) – A question was raised about whether additional resource rooms or dedicated FTE positions will be provided to support elementary students with diverse learning needs. Superintendent St. John responded that traditional elementary resource rooms may not be the most effective approach for fostering inclusive programming, noting that such rooms were in place until a few years ago. The district is currently piloting more flexible, inclusive programming models at Beattie and A.E. Perry. It was acknowledged that there are broader challenges in effectively implementing inclusive education. Further



questions were raised, including how success will be measured, what metrics will be used, and how and when decisions are made. There was also a question about incorporating parent input at the highest levels, with a recommendation at the committee level to ensure meaningful parent engagement. Participants expressed a desire for a clear path forward, emphasizing advocacy and collaboration to support the best interests of all students.

## 8. Correspondance Received

- Letter received from Minister Beare (DPAC Coalition) – see attached
- Invitation to parents from Youth Mental Health Canada to attend National Virtual Conference on school attendance challenges (May 29/30) – see attached
- inGIRLS club – free, fully inclusive social club for girls with autism and neuro-developmental differences

Free to participate  
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Girls of all ages & abilities  
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Monthly events

FORUM LUMAS

**GIRLS CLUB**  
inclusive is fun

**About us**  
GIRLS CLUB is a social club for girls with autism or any neuro/developmental differences. We have multiple chapters across the province, servicing thousands of families. GIRLS CLUB is a club that fosters friendships, fun, community, and connections.

**What we do**  
We host regular events: theme parties, arts/crafts, field trips, and so much more. Activities that foster fun and an opportunity to meet and make friends. We have a balance of indoor events and outdoor activities, some structure, and some freeform.

**Our Mission**  
We host regular events: theme parties, arts/crafts, field trips, and so much more. Activities that foster fun and an opportunity to meet and make friends. We have a balance of

**Our Vision**  
A world where differences are not a barrier to friendship, connection, happiness, and self-worth. A world where girls with neurodevelopmental differences feel celebrated, included, and connected – where they make and enjoy friends.

inGIRLSCLUB.com | info@inGIRLSCLUB.com | inCLUSIVE is fun

- 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Amazing Race to Inclusion



SD 73 District Parent Advisory Council

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

Email: [sd73dpac@gmail.com](mailto:sd73dpac@gmail.com)

Facebook: [Kamloops-Thompson](#)

[SD73 PAC Discussions](#)

**AN AMAZING RACE TO INCLUSION** 6th Annual  
K A M L O O P S B C

**May 29, 2026**  
Sandman Centre, Riverside Park  
9:00am until Noon

A fast-paced adventure where you take on real disability-related challenges and see the city in a whole new way.

Regular rate: \$150 per team of 4  
Early-bird deal: 15% off tickets until March 31  
For more information and to register, go to [eventbrite.ca](https://eventbrite.ca)

Special thanks to our great sponsors:

**Presented by:**  
The Speak Up Self-Advocacy Awareness Society  
New Horizons Professional Support Services

**Supported by:**  
Kamloops Society for Community Inclusion  
HME  
Primerica



9. Other Business
10. Adjournment



11. Addendum A: Treasurer's report



SD73 DPAC FINANCIAL REPORT - April 2026				
Chequing Acct (5374)	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
	<b>June 30 2025 Opening Balance</b>			<b>\$694.42</b>
July 4, 2025	Zoom Plan for DPAC-Reimburse Erin Mitchell (paid by Credit Card) - Cheq 102	\$240.69		\$453.73
July 16, 2025	Foodsafe Reimbursement - RLC pac parent Sharon Newman - Cheq 103	\$69.00		\$384.73
July 31, 2025	July Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$382.78
August 20, 2025	Foodsafe Reimbursement - RLC Pac Parent Diane Koehn cheq 104	\$69.00		\$313.78
August 20, 2025	BCCPAC EGM Registration (Erin Mitchell - Proxy holder for 4 votes) -chq105	\$75.00		\$238.78
Aug 31, 2025	August Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$236.83
Sept 10, 2025	Foodsafe Reimbursement - Aberdeen PAC parent Trina Burkatsky -Chq106	\$69.00		\$167.83
Sept 26, 2025	Annual Community Gaming Grant for DPAC		\$2,500.00	\$2,667.83
Sept 30, 2025	September Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,665.88
Oct 31, 2025	October Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,663.93
November 30, 2025	November Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,661.98
December 31, 2025	December Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,660.03
January 31, 2026	January Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,658.08
February 28, 2026	February Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$2,656.13
March 2, 2026	Candy for Pac 101 tables - Cheq 109 Jessica Jorimann	\$47.62		\$2,608.51
March 2, 2026	Foodsafe Reimbursement - Pinantan PAC - Crystal Phare - Chq 108	\$69.00		\$2,539.51
March 2, 2026	PAC 101 Catering - Safeway Reimbursement - Erin Mitchell - Cheq 107	\$911.86		\$1,627.65
March 8, 2026	Foodsafe Reimbursement - Marion Schilling - Keri Nash - Cheq 110	\$69.00		\$1,558.65
March 31, 2026	March Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$1,556.70
<b>Current Available Balance:</b>				<b>\$1,556.70</b>
<b>2025/26 Budgeted Expenses Still To Come:</b>				
	Monthly Plan Fee (\$1.95 x 5 mos:) Apr - Aug	\$9.75		
	Zoom Plan for DPAC Meetings	\$265.00		
	Website Hosting Fee	\$190.00		
	Foodsafe Course (3 received, 7 more available)	\$483.00		
	PAC 101	\$40.52		
	Misc Supplies/Expenses for Advocacy projects	\$250.00		
	<b>Total expected to be left over at end of fiscal year</b>	<b>\$318.43</b>		

Chequing Acct (5366)	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
	<b>July 2025 Opening Balance</b>			<b>\$3,455.57</b>
July 31, 2025	July Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,453.62
August 31, 2025	August Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,451.67
Sept 30, 2025	September Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,449.72
Oct 31, 2025	October Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,447.77
November 30, 2025	November Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,445.82
December 31, 2025	December Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,443.87
January 30, 2026	January Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,441.92
February 28, 2026	February Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,439.97
March 2, 2026	PAC 101 - Honorarium for David Thompson Guitar Students' pgm - Chq 28	\$400.00		\$3,039.97
March 31, 2026	March Bank Fees	\$1.95		\$3,038.02
<b>Current Available Balance:</b>				<b>\$3,038.02</b>
<b>25/26 Budgeted Expenses that are still to come:</b>				
	Monthly Plan Fee (1.95 x 5mos) Apr - Aug	\$9.75		
	PAC 101 catering/expenses/misc	\$1,000.00		
	Mileage for out of town participants at meetings (0.60/km)	\$300.00		
	Misc supplies/expenses for Advocacy projects	\$250.00		
	<b>Total expected to be left over at end of fiscal year</b>	<b>\$1,478.27</b>		



**Addendum: Letter from Minister**

 <p>March 26, 2026</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Ref: 315448</p> <p><a href="mailto:surreydpacpresident@gmail.com">surreydpacpresident@gmail.com</a></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Anne Whitmore, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 36 (Surrey)</td> <td>Tom Davis, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 62 (Sooke)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bonnie McBride, Chair Parent Advisory Council School District No. 73</td> <td>Athena Andritz, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 60 (Peace River North)</td> </tr> </table> <p>(Kamloops/Thompson) Email:</p> <p>Dear Anne Whitmore, Tom Davis, Bonnie McBride, and Athena Andritz:</p> <p>Thank you for your letter of February 3, 2026, regarding the motion passed by the Board of Education for School District No. 39 (Vancouver).</p> <p>I appreciate the important role that Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs) have within the public education system and acknowledge the hard work and dedication that members provide to the schools and school districts in British Columbia.</p> <p>Under the <i>School Act</i>, a board of education must, upon receipt of a request, establish a PAC for a school and a DPAC for the school district. A PAC may advise the board and the principal of the school respecting any matter relating to the school. As you may know, under the <i>School Act</i>, boards of education have broad authority to make local policy for their respective school districts, including authority to establish procedures respecting the provision of advice by DPACs to the board. The Ministry of Education and Child Care does not have a role in the establishment or implementation of local board policies or procedures.</p> <p>I note that the Motion from the Vancouver School Board has been submitted to the 2026 BC School Trustees Association AGM, where I am sure there will be an opportunity for dialogue. While changes to the legislative framework for PACs and DPACs are not being contemplated at this time, should changes be considered in the future, the Ministry of Education and Child Care will work in close consultation with our education partners, including the BC Coalition of Parent Advisory Councils.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">.../2</p>	Anne Whitmore, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 36 (Surrey)	Tom Davis, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 62 (Sooke)	Bonnie McBride, Chair Parent Advisory Council School District No. 73	Athena Andritz, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 60 (Peace River North)	<p style="text-align: center;"><small>Ministry of Education and Child Care Office of the Minister Mailing Address, PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9E2 Parliament Buildings Victoria - 2 -</small></p> <p>Thank you again for your work in supporting students in BC and for taking the time to write.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>  <p>Lisa Beare Minister</p> <p>cc: Trevor Davies, Chief Executive Officer, BC School Trustees Association</p>
Anne Whitmore, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 36 (Surrey)	Tom Davis, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 62 (Sooke)				
Bonnie McBride, Chair Parent Advisory Council School District No. 73	Athena Andritz, President Parent Advisory Council School District No. 60 (Peace River North)				

**Addendum: Invitation from Youth Mental Health Canada**

**Waves of Change in School Attendance Challenges  
 May 29, 2026 - May 30, 2026**

*This conference is virtual, and all sessions are in Eastern Time (ET). The conference will be recorded. The recordings will be available to conference registrants for one week after the conference.*

Inviting all passionate education and mental health professionals, advocates for school attendance and mental health challenges, and believers in the life-changing power of education!

YMHC (Youth Mental Health Canada) would like to extend a warm invitation to our second annual national virtual conference on school attendance challenges. The conference will feature national and international speakers and panel discussions, and the development of multi-tiered school-wide strategies for supporting students.

**Registration Options**

- **Community Access Rate: \$375** to support broader participation from schools, communities, and helping professionals.
- **Supporter Rate: \$425**
- **Group Rate: \$349 per person** (minimum 5 attendees)

**Pre-conference Workshop:** Registrants receive exclusive access to a pre-conference workshop on school-wide strategies to support students with school attendance challenges.

**Special Post-Conference Gifts:**

All conference attendees will receive post-conference gifts of a **photocopiable Handbook** with over 350 pages of practical resources and a **photocopiable student workbook**, "My Experience of School: Upstream Chronic Absenteeism Prevention." Total value of included resources: **\$400**. For more information about the conference, see our [FAQ](#).

<https://site.phedloop.com/event/YMHC2026/home>



## Addendum: Chair's Report

SD73 District Parent Advisory Council  
Chair's Report  
April 2026

### Welcome and Reflection

**Introduction of our special guest – Orianna!** April is Autism Awareness Month. Orianna is a fantastic self-advocate for her learning style at her school.

**Highlight the Beattie Elementary PAC Investment in their sensory room**



### CHAIR FOCUS GOALS 2025 -2026

#### **Goal 1**

*Strengthen our local commitment to family inclusion through accessibility awareness and accountability. As our communities and neighbourhoods grow, and our world shrinks and expands, the realities, experiences, and needs of our families become more diverse. The economic challenges we hear about so often from our District also impact our families. How are we making sure our PAC activities and our school investments are equitably available to all students and caregivers? Are we taking into account the needs of all students and families? Are we representing them or are we including them in representation? We need to lead by example.*

#### **Goal 2**

*Create a vision for student-focused planning and reporting that families can access and understand when it comes to how we meet the needs of each child in our community. Have the decisions made at every level in our education system been considered in the context of how they*

*value each learner. Ensure that the needs of students with disabilities have been considered, that vulnerable learners are invested in as they identify their need, not as they can be accommodated after the obligations to all are met.*

### Supporting PAC's

- Answered questions and supported [PAC's](#) in their governance issues as they arose
- Continued to work towards obtaining District support for the Safer Streets program and \$20,000 grant to be available to a school community in Kamloops.
- Provided support and guidance to individual caregivers navigating procedures as they relate to school inclusion and planning for students.
- Worked with TREC parent to try to establish a PAC at their school.
- Supported parents in the [Squam](#) catchment area that are working to establish a communication network for their families.

### District Advocacy

- Attend Partner Engagement meetings with SD73, KTTA, CUPE, BCPVPA leadership in March
- Virtually attended Board meetings and reviewed all board packages and correspondence
- Reviewed and responded to proposed 25/26 amended budget.
- Met with District and DPAC Exec to provide input on parent priorities for the 26/27 budget
- Spoke with media to highlight the needs of families and students in our District through the budget process
- Arranged June meeting with local [MLA's](#) to discuss parent concerns about investments in this District by the Provincial Government.

### Provincial Advocacy

- Attended meetings with DPAC leaders and partners to advance critical education issues with the province. Highlighted budget concerns are the changes to autism services as they relate to school designations, a lack of investment in early screening, core funding levels.
- Responded to SOGI announcements made by political candidates on behalf of district parent advisory councils and provincial technical committees. Corresponded with two Conservative leadership teams regarding misinformation in statements. Follow up meetings will be scheduled.
- Responded to [BCSTA AGM](#) motion to examine parental involvement with school board's as directed by the BC Schol Act.

### Communication

Continued PAC engagement through the [facebook](#) group. Worked on the PAC 101 night with DPAC team to bring together parents from across the district.

Arranged a presentation by Dyslexia BC for our community.

### Governance and Strategic Planning

None to report



Addendum: Superintendent's Slides

**Our Education Story: Core Purpose**

- In service to public education
- System leadership/complex systems
- Team over Title
- Unwavering people-first approach
- Resonance and alignment-core values
- Build relationships and accountability toward shared purpose

**"Making a difference by working together."**  
 Value Statement - Local Education Agreements with S. D. 73

**Good Teaching Matters**

- The quality of an education system cannot exceed the quality of its teachers
- The only way to improve outcomes is to improve instruction
- High performance requires every child to succeed

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Take care of each other.