

MINUTES



DPAC
DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: February 27, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Online on Zoom

Executives in Attendance: Shannon Rose, Chair
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer
Winsome Rauch, Secretary
Heidi Smit Vinois, Special Education Representative

Attendance: See Zoom Attendance list attached.

Special Guests: Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk
Trustee Stan Petersen

1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. A quorum was met.

2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

3 Special Guests: Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk, Trustee Stan Petersen

Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk provided a preliminary budget overview. For 2024-2025, the budget is largely as expected, though substitute employee costs remain a concern. The accumulated surplus (AP-524) includes internally restricted funds for planned operations, future requirements (such as technology), and an unrestricted surplus for unforeseen needs, which the district aims to keep between \$2.4M to \$7.3M.

The 2025-2026 preliminary budget faces estimated budget pressures at \$3.85M: \$800K increase in substitute employee costs, \$1.5M in teacher salary increases, \$750K in inflationary pressures, and a \$500K technology refresh plan.

Substitute employee costs have surged 88.1% year-over-year, reaching \$136M provincially, with sick days increasing from 8-9 to around 12.

The 2025-2026 budget development plan includes stakeholder engagement opportunities, consultations, and public meetings. Key dates: March 13, 2025 (operating grant announcement) and June 30, 2025 (budget submission to the Ministry of Education). Parents are encouraged to participate in the budget consultation launching on March 13, 2025.

4 Q&A with Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk and Trustee Stan Petersen

4.1 Substitute Employees

A question was raised about how substitutes are accounted for. The response clarified that Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) include employees such as teachers, educational assistants (EAs), and custodians. Anyone filling in for an FTE is considered a substitute.

4.2 Salary Savings from Teacher Retirements

A question was asked about potential savings when senior teachers retire and are replaced by lower-paid new teachers. The response noted that there is a salary differential, but year-to-year savings vary. The province funds schools based on the average educator salary across the province. If a district's salary is the lowest, it receives no additional funding. Some years, the district receives \$1M less than actual costs, while in other years, funding may be more favorable.

4.3 Gym Rentals for Revenue

A question was asked about renting out school gyms during the summer to generate revenue. The response confirmed that while gyms are used for rentals when possible, summer maintenance work limits availability. Costs should be recovered, and user fees may increase over time. Similar to transportation, costs are high, where even if fees were multiplied by 4-5 times, they would still only begin to cover expenses.

4.4 Childcare Facility Rentals

The district offers some of the lowest childcare facility rates in the Lower Mainland to childcare providers. The expectation is that these savings should ultimately benefit parents.

4.5 School Bus Service and Potential Fees

A comment was made about the excellent bus service but suggested that all families should pay for it. The response explained that in 2016, the province introduced a grant to eliminate bus fees for students in their catchment area. Previously, all students paid for transportation, and reinstating fees is being considered. The district also provides transportation for specialized programs and academies, which adds to costs. The district has been without a transportation manager for eight months (position recently filled) and is considering a transportation review.

4.6 Permanent Teachers Filling Substitute Roles

A question was asked about hiring permanent teachers for substitute roles. The response confirmed that the district already employs full-time contract Teachers on Call (TOCs) who receive pay whether they are deployed or not.

4.7 Integrated Studies Program (ISP)

A question was asked about the Integrated Studies Program at Abbotsford Senior Secondary, which provides critical support for high-needs students. The parents would like to understand why the district is cutting its EA funding and no longer recognizing it as a district program. The response highlighted financial constraints, emphasizing that the district must operate within its budget and cannot run deficits. Tough decisions are required, with a focus on prioritizing essential programs while considering reductions in other areas. Families affected by these changes are encouraged to participate in the budget consultation to ensure their input is considered in the decision-making process.

5 Approval of the Minutes from January 23, 2025

Secretary Winsome Rauch presented the minutes of the January 23, 2025 meeting.

It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Becky Williams (Chief Dan George) THAT the minutes of the January 23, 2025 Meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED

6 Treasurer report

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances

6.1 Abbotsford DPAC General Account Summary February 27, 2025

Opening Balance as of January 23, 2025	\$ 5496.06
Add:	
Less:	
Closing Balance as February 27, 2025	\$ 5496.06

6.2 Abbotsford DPAC Gaming Account Summary February 27, 2025

Opening Balance as of January 23, 2025	\$ 5153.79
Add:	
Less:	
Closing Balance as of February 27, 2025	\$ 5153.79

7 Old Business

7.1 Parent Night Series – Youth Substance Abuse with APD

Sgt. Ryan Gray and Cst Shane Dueck presented on youth substance abuse, including a 2019 video entitled “SLOPE – Film for youth on the dangers of Fentanyl”. They shared resources like Cyrus Centre, Foundry, Abby PD, and victim services, with a full list available upon request to DPAC.

7.2 Shared Learning Keynote – Holly Clark

The speaker discussed AI and how to use it effectively in the schools.

8 New Business

8.1 Reporting Rules for Digital Platform Operators

There is an impact of new CRA rules for schools. These changes affect some schools and stem from the 2023 federal budget for implementation in 2024. By January 31, 2025, all online digital platform operators must comply with CRA regulations to address unreported income. This primarily targets platforms like Square, Uber, DoorDash, and Uber Eats, as well as local businesses using Square for payments.

Digital Platform Operators will report to the CRA the earnings of anyone using an online or digital platform to collect payments. While some exemptions exist, PACs are not exempt. The only exemption applies to those with fewer than 30 transactions and earnings under \$2,800.

Since PACs lack business numbers, reported income must be tied to an individual. The recommendation is to avoid using Square. However, platforms like Munchalunch act as third-party collectors and are exempt.

8.2 Parent Night Series

DPAC is planning a session on Trauma-informed Parenting at Clayburn Middle. Information will be sent out when the dates are finalized.

8.3 SD34

8.3.1 Board Meeting – March 11, 6 pm

The Public Budget Info Night will be held on March 13 at 6 PM and May 8 at 6 PM. An email with the meeting link has been sent to PAC Chairs, and everyone is welcome to attend online. If the PAC Chair is unavailable, an alternate may attend.

The same presentation will be given at both sessions, so attending one is sufficient. The budget survey for feedback will be released on March 13.

8.4 Board Meeting – April 15, 6 pm

8.5 BCCPAC AGM and Conference, Prince George

8.5.1 Conference – May 23

8.5.2 AGM – May 24-25

Please note that Abbotsford PACs are limited to \$500 as a Gaming expense as we are in the Fraser Valley; the balance can be paid from your General Account. The event will be held online. If you are not attending, you should assign your proxy to Abbotsford DPAC if

you are not voting on behalf of yourself or your school. DPAC can vote on your behalf. Proxy forms are expected to be available in April.

Also, a reminder for secondary school students at BCCPAC member schools: Scholarship applications close on March 31.

The deadline to submit Resolutions is also March 31.

9 Question Period

A reminder to apply early for your Business BCeID, required to apply for your gaming grant, to allow time to receive a verification code by mail.

A question asked for clarification on what is at risk when Secretary Treasurer Ray Velustuk mentioned programs and services. The answer provided was that smaller, more local programs are probably at greater risk, while most mainstream students and families may not notice the cuts.

10 Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held April 24, 2025 at 7pm on Zoom with special guest Deputy Superintendent Nathan Ngieng.

11 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 PM

Zoom Attendance

Name (original name)
Shannon Rose - DPAC Chair
SD34 Stan Petersen
Pinkey - DPAC Rep - South Pop
Winsome Rauch DPAC Secretary
Sandy Sanghera# Ross Elementary (Aman Sanghera)
Joti Neger (South Pop) (Jody)
Ray Velestuk
Rani Prakash (South Pop and ATS) (Rani Prakash)
Josephine Leonard WJMouat (Josephine Leonard)
Amanda Dundass terry fox
Jolene Godson Elem
Stacey Parson Abby Senior
Stephanie-DPAC Rick Hanson
Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Bateman
Gagan Gill
Jas dpac ATS
Gurpinder kaur King Traditional
Amanda-Centennial Park (Dr. Degenhardt)
Heidi Vinois
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair
Marlee Bassani
Becky Williams Chief Dan George Vice Chair - Rep
Rehan Siddqui- Abby Sr Rep