

MINUTES



DPAC

DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: September 25, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Abbotsford School Board Office

Executives in Attendance:

Winsome Rauch	President
Amy MacKenzie	Vice President
Kara Dickson (via Zoom)	Vice President
Michelle Bastien	Treasurer
Stacey Parson	Director
Pinkey Bhatti (via Zoom)	Director

Voting Members in Attendance:

ASIA Sumas - Abbotsford School of Integrated Arts (ASIA) Mountain	Lisa Hoemeeon
Abbotsford Senior Secondary	Stacey Parson
Abbotsford Traditional School	Jas Badesha
Aberdeen Elementary	Alycia Lessard
Alexander Elementary	Amber Rodocker
Auguston Traditional Elementary	Chu (Fiona) Qi Zhu
Bradner Elementary	Melissa Crump
Chief Dan George Middle	Becky Willams
Dr. Thomas A. Swift Elementary	Amy MacKenzie
École Centennial Park Elementary	Amanda Degenhardt
École Clearbrook Elementary	Farider Reid
Eugene Reimer Middle	Parampreet Grewal
King Traditional Elementary	Chealsea Holm
Prince Charles Elementary	Michelle Bastien
Sandy Hill Elementary	Chealsea Muirhead
South Poplar Elementary	Rani Prakesh
Terry Fox Elementary	Amanda Dundass
W.J.Mouat Secondary	Josephine Leonard
Yale Secondary	Michelle Bastien

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Eruke Oromogieva (ASIA Sumas)

Special Guests: Superintendent Nathan Ngieng, Trustee Shirley Wilson

1 Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Winsome Rauch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Quorum was met.



2 Superintendent's Report – School Startup

Superintendent Ngieng shared highlights from the School Startup and Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) reports presented at the September 23, 2025 Public Board Meeting. He noted that district enrolment is stable at about 20,000 students. Teacher shortages continue, and recruitment remains a priority.

A back-to-school event at Abbotsford Senior Secondary provided 750 backpacks with supplies to students.

The district replaced more than 2,000 computers through its technology renewal plan. Facility projects include expansions at Auguston Traditional and Margaret Stenersen Elementary Schools, 230 new daycare spaces, and an eight-room modular addition at Abbotsford Middle School, scheduled to open in October.

Transportation remains challenging, with about 2,500 riders on 42 routes. Families have been asked for patience as adjustments continue.

Facilities staff completed more than 13,500 work orders over the summer, including cleaning, playground installations, and gym floor resurfacing.

3 School Startup Q&A

Discussion included questions about technology, transportation, and future enrolment. The district noted that some Chromebooks are reaching end-of-life and will be phased out, with limited replacement devices available. Internet filtering is in place, though students sometimes find workarounds. Transportation challenges continue with high demand and costs; a user-pay model was discussed. Refunds were issued for missed service, and field trip scheduling is affected by bus availability. Questions about capacity at feeder schools were addressed through reference to the district's Long-Range Facilities Plan, which monitors growth and includes public consultation. A question was also asked on the planned francophone school in Abbotsford.

4 Superintendent's Report – Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL)

Superintendent Ngieng provided highlights from the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning report, which aligns with the district's Strategic Plan and focuses on student success in literacy, numeracy, and overall well-being. The FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment) provides valuable data, with about Abbotsford achieving 90% student participation. Provincial trends show a general decline in literacy and numeracy, which is also reflected locally.

Student engagement and sense of belonging remain strong, with most students reporting they feel safe and welcomed at school, above the provincial average, though with room for continued improvement, particularly for Indigenous learners. The district continues to focus on supporting Indigenous students, children and youth in care, and students with disabilities and diverse needs to ensure all learners are successful. Superintendent Ngieng also noted the district's strong partnerships with community clinicians, Foundry, and Child and Youth Mental Health to support student well-being.

5 Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Q&A

A question was asked about student support. Superintendent Ngieng noted there are four district clinicians, in addition to school counsellors who help build staff capacity. Clinicians are separate from school psychologists.

Discussion also regarding Martens Street supportive housing and safe consumption project.

6 Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 22 General and AGM minutes were approved as distributed.

7 President Report

Three Executive meetings were held over the summer to plan the DPAC's direction, website, upcoming events, and meeting agendas. President Winsome Rauch and Vice President Amy MacKenzie attended a Lower Mainland DPAC networking event, where participants shared ideas on meeting structures, trustee participation, and collaboration practices.

At the BCCPAC Extraordinary General Meeting, held online, DPAC submitted votes on behalf of DPAC and 20 Abbotsford PACs; Abbotsford had almost 20% of the EGM voting cards. Voting preferences were collected in advance through a member survey.

DPAC also sent letters in July and August regarding concerns about the Martens Street Supportive Housing Project and the lack of community consultation. The issue relates to a broader BCCPAC resolution on the placement of safe consumption sites near schools.

Work also happened over the summer on a new DPAC website, which supports several related projects to enhance communication and accessibility.

8 Treasurer Report

Treasurer Michelle Bastien presented reports and spoke on the closing bank balances as of August 31, 2025.

Gaming Account: \$2438.11

General Account: \$9576.46

The reports were received and filed.

9 2025-2026 Budget

Treasurer Michelle Bastien read the proposed DPAC Budget for 2025-2025. Available online on the abbotsforddpac.ca website [Proposed Budget 2025/2026](#)

MOTION That that we adopt the budget as presented and authorize the treasurer to spend within its limits. MOVED: Aberdeen; SECONDED; CARRIED

10 Executive Positions

10.1 Appointment – Special Education Representative

On May 27, 2025, the DPAC executive voted to appoint Heidi Smit Vinois to the role of Special Education Representative for 2025-2026.

MOTION: That the membership ratify the executive's decision to appoint Heidi Smit Vinois as Special Education Representative.

MOVED: Centennial Park Elementary; SECONDED, CARRIED

10.2 Appointment – Indigenous Representative

On September 15, 2025, the DPAC executive voted to appoint Eruke Omorogieva to the role of Indigenous Representative for 2025-2026. Eruke Omorogieva introduced herself.

MOTION: That the membership ratify the executive's decision to appoint Eruke Omorogieva as Indigenous Representative.

MOVED: South Poplar, SECONDED, CARRIED

10.3 Nominations and Election – Secretary

Melissa Crump of Bradner Elementary was nominated and accepted.

After no further nominations, Melissa Crump was declared Secretary for the 2025/26 school year by acclamation and introduced herself.

10.4 Nominations and Election – Inclusion Representative

Lisa Hemeon of ASIA Sumas was nominated and accepted.

After no further nominations, Lisa Hemeon was declared Inclusion Representative for the 2025/26 school year by acclamation and introduced herself.

11 New Business

11.1 BCCPAC Memberships: [BCCPAC Memberships](#)

Members were reminded that PACs can join BCCPAC at no cost to them due to sponsorship of school district through DPAC, giving them a vote on provincial issues, access to resources, and connection with parents across BC. PACs wishing DPAC to cover the membership fee should sign up by November 15. The membership link will also be shared on DPAC social media.

11.2 Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee

Following the May 2025 motion, a committee consisting of the 2025–2026 Executive and up to three additional members will review proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws, consult members, and report at a future general meeting before the 2026 AGM. Members interested in joining the committee should indicate their interest to

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dpac.sd34@gmail.com by October 16, 2025. A suggestion was made that selection of the additional members be by random draw.

12 Announcements

12.1 New DPAC Website: abbotsforddpac.ca

The updated website, abbotsforddpac.ca, includes information on events, resources for parents and PACs, and members-only PAC tools such as templates for agendas, meeting minutes, and financial management. It also features PAC Chat sessions on topics like confidentiality, safety, fiduciary duty, field trips, and elections, as well as a procedure for volunteer and nomination processes. A FAQ section is in development.

12.2 [PAC Executives Registration](#)

PACs are reminded to submit executive contact information via the online form and send AGM minutes to sparson2004@gmail.com

12.3 Recording posted for [All Candidates Meeting](#) – Thu Sep 18; 7 PM; Abby Arts Centre

12.4 [BC Gaming Account Summary Report](#) – due 90 days after year end (Sep 28 for Jun 30 year ends)

12.5 [Parent Learning Survey](#) will be released soon.

13 Upcoming Events

13.1 [PAC 101](#) – Wed Oct 1, 7 PM; Fraser Middle School

13.2 [School Trustee By-Election](#) voting days October 1, 4, and 11

13.3 Public Board Meeting – Oct 21, 6pm; School Board Office

14 Open Floor

14.1 PAC Meeting Zoom Links

Members can contact Michelle Bastien to obtain Zoom links for PAC meetings. Email: sd34zoom1@gmail.com

14.2 Inflatables at School Events

Questions were raised about liability for inflatables at PAC events following recent policy updates from Technical Safety BC. Schools are wondering whether they need to confirm with the district that the company providing inflatables carries appropriate liability insurance. PACs are also asking if schools are responsible for ensuring that required liability waivers are completed.

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14.3 PAC Executive Terms

Members asked about limits on how long executive members may hold positions. Terms vary by school and are defined in each PAC's bylaws; four years is a common maximum.

14.4 Digital Payments (Square)

Members discussed CRA reporting changes for digital platform operators effective January 2025. Platforms like Square will report earnings to the CRA, and PACs are not exempt. Because PACs do not have business numbers, reported income may be linked to individuals. It is recommended that PACs avoid using Square.

14.5 Holding Multiple Executive Roles

It is not recommended for one individual to hold multiple PAC executive positions, as Gaming Grants require two separate individuals for application and reporting. An exception is a PAC executive who also serves as the DPAC representative; this is common.

14.6 Debit Cards

PACs should not use debit cards, as all financial transactions require two authorized signers, which cannot be verified through debit card use.

15 Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn. MOVED: Eugene Reimer, SECONDED; CARRIED
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

16 Next Meeting

October 23, 2025, 7pm at School Board Office