

# MINUTES



**DPAC**  
DISTRICT PARENT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Date:** November 28, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Online on Zoom

**Executives in Attendance:** Shannon Rose, Chair  
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair  
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer  
Winsome Rauch, Secretary

**Attendance:** See Zoom Attendance list attached.

**Special Guests:** Director of Instruction, Learning Support Services Michelle Gehring, Trustee Mike Rauch

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## 1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. A quorum was met.

## 2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

## 3 Special Guests – Director of Instruction, Learning Support Services Michelle Gehring, Trustee Mike Rauch

Michelle Gehring, Director of Instruction for LSS, covered four aspects of student support.

### 3.1 Funding vs. Support Models

3.1.1 Funding model operates on a medical model, with supplemental funds provided to the district, not individual schools. This funding supports services across the district but doesn't directly equate to specific resources like full-time Educational Assistants (EAs).

3.1.2 The support model is needs-based:

- Priority Level 1: Health and safety (e.g., toileting, mobility).
- Priority Level 2: Sensory, communication, and social skills.
- Priority Level 3: Instructional support.

Support strategies, such as Individual Education Plans (IEPs), are tailored to meet individual needs.

### 3.2 Meaningful Consultation

Meaningful consultation involves open dialogue, shared decision-making, and incorporating parental input. A new guide will be released soon.

### 3.3 Support and Advocates

Families may involve external professionals or advocates (e.g., SLP, behavior consultants, DPAC). Private agencies can observe and offer recommendations but cannot provide direct services during school hours. Advocates are welcome at meetings with advance notice. See AP: 343 Working with Outside Agencies for more specific guidelines.

### 3.4 Communication Pathway

Concerns should follow this escalation pathway: teacher, to case manager, to principal, to LSS department. The goal is to address needs efficiently and collaboratively.

## 4 Q&A with Director of Instruction Michelle Gehring and Trustee Mike Rauch

### 4.1 Board Commitment

Trustee Rauch emphasized the Board of Education's commitment to supporting vulnerable students and advocating for increased government funding through the BCSTA.

### 4.2 Support and Funding Clarity

In response to questions about creating materials to explain funding and support, Michelle Gehrig noted the idea for future consideration. She encouraged families to use the district website's Learning Support Services section and discussed equipping teachers to deliver consistent, clear information. She is open to delivering more presentations or conversations to clarify resources for students.

### 4.3 Addressing EA Absences

Michelle Gehring discussed EA absences, noting improved staffing this year and contingency plans for high-needs students. While rare, parents may be asked to assist. She encouraged parents to report situations of unmet needs, so she could follow up.

## 5 Approval of the Minutes from October 24, 2024

Secretary Winsome Rauch presented the minutes of the October 24, 2024, meeting.

It was MOVED by Winsome Rauch (DPAC Secretary) and SECONDED by Michelle Bastien (DPAC Vice-President) THAT the minutes of the October 24, 2024 Meeting be approved as amended.  
CARRIED

## 6 Treasurer report

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances

### 6.1 Abbotsford DPAC General Account Summary November 27, 2024

Opening Balance October 24, 2024	\$ 8396.06
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Add:		
Less:		
November 14	Cheque #122	\$ 2900.00
	BCCPAC fees for 29 schools	
<b>Closing Balance November 27, 2024</b>		<b>\$ 5496.06</b>

6.2 Abbotsford DPAC Gaming Account Summary November 27, 2024

Opening Balance October 24, 2024		\$ 5153.79
Add:		
Less:		
<b>Closing Balance November 27, 2024</b>		<b>\$ 5153.79</b>

**7 Old Business**

7.1 DPAC has paid \$2,900 for BCCPAC memberships covering 29 schools, with four additional memberships paid since then. The following schools still need to complete their membership renewals: Blue Jay, Bradner, Centennial, Clearbrook, Jackson, King, Mathxwi, Dave Kandal, Maclure, and Ten Broeck.

Being a BCCPAC member can offer value, especially with the upcoming byelection. Key dates:

- December 2: Nominations close for five available executive positions.
- December 9: Candidates announced.
- December 31: PACs must be in good standing to vote.
- January 5: Voting period ends.

DPAC will continue to cover BCCPAC membership fees.

7.2 Elementary Education Night – “PAC 101”

Monday October 28, 7:30–9:00 pm at Prince Charles Elementary was well attended. The slides will be updated for secondary schools. Email [dpac.sd34@gmail.com](mailto:dpac.sd34@gmail.com) if you would like a copy.

7.3 Report on Parent Night Series

- 7.3.1 Anxiety – Email [dpac.sd34@gmail.com](mailto:dpac.sd34@gmail.com) if you would like a copy of the slides.
- 7.3.2 Learning Supports –Michelle Gehring provided an informative 2-hour presentation. She is open to presenting again this year.

## 8 New Business

### 8.1 Parent Night Series

- 8.1.1 PACEs with Fraser Health – will be rescheduled for the spring
- 8.1.2 Youth Substance Abuse with APD – February 24, 7 pm at Mouat. More information to come in the new year.

### 8.2 Shared Learning Day

Recently announced for February 13, 2025 is Artificial Intelligence DPAC presentation with Keynote Speaker – Holly Clark. Superintendent Sean Nosek and Director of Instruction for Curriculum Tracy Kris will also speak.

### 8.3 SD34

Board Meetings are held at the School Board office. They can also be viewed on YouTube.

- 8.3.1 Board Meeting – December 10, 7 pm
- 8.3.2 Board Meeting – January 21, 7 pm

## 9 Open Floor

- 9.1 Many parents are unfamiliar with how AI could integrate into the school district or its potential applications. At a recent district planning meeting, some students shared that they are using AI as a math tutor, an example of how it can support learning.
- 9.2 Operation Red Nose Fundraiser: A PAC is exploring using Operation Red Nose as part of a pub night fundraiser in collaboration with the counseling department, aiming to raise money for scholarships. The plan involves two volunteers per ride—one to drive the client's car and another to follow. Questions remain about liability and insurance, including verifying the validity of the client's insurance. DPAC will inquire about details.
- 9.3 BCCPAC Volunteer Opportunity: BCCPAC is looking for volunteers interested in joining the Board. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals who value having a voice at the provincial level and contributing to advocacy efforts.
- 9.4 BCCPAC Summit: Saturday, November 30. The one-day virtual summit includes interactive sessions and presentations:
  - Starting a DPAC Advocacy Program
  - Updates from the Ministry of Education and Child Care
  - Shaping the Future of BCCPAC Together: Exploring Goals and Strategy
  - The Art of Collective Decision-Making: Navigating PAC/DPAC Governance

9.5 Abbotsford Bingo AGM: Saturday November 30 at 10 am for the PACs that are members.  
For more information, see <https://abbotsfordbingo.ca/>

**10 Next Meeting**

The next DPAC meeting will be held January 23, 2025 at 7pm on Zoom with Bruce Cunnings and Trustee Rupi Kanda-Rajwan. Vice-Chair Michelle Bastien will chair the meeting.

**11 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM

## Zoom Attendance

Name (original name)
Shannon Rose
Laurie
Mike Rauch - Board of Education (Mike Rauch)
jolene Giesbrecht Irene kelleher (Zoom user)
Tracey Lamoureux DPAC/Bateman (tracey)
Nina Lehtonen
Jolene Featherstone Godson (Jolene's iPhone 7)
Winsome Rauch# DPAC Secretary (Winsome Rauch)
Pinkey - South Pop Elem (pinkey)
Ted Strocel
Michelle
Tanya Smith - Godson (Tanya)
Chief Dan George# Becky Williams (Becky Williams, CNE)
Rehan Siddiqui -DPAC Rep# Abby Senior (DPAC Rep Abby Senior - Rehan Siddiqui)
Stephanie-DPAC Rick Hanson
Mandy Darvill
jas b ats (SD34 DPAC Zoom #1)
Amanda École Centennial Park Elementary (Dr. Degenhardt)
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair/ Yale (Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair)
Gurpinder King Traditional Elementary (iPhone)
Amanda (terry fox)