

## **DPAC Meeting Minutes** **October 15, 2025**

### **Attending Members**

Jessica Jantz, Co-chair (Edgehill)  
Kirstie McLeod, Secretary (James Thompson)  
Ben Drosdovech (Kelly Creek)  
Emily Janes (Edgehill)  
Laura Wilson (Henderson)  
Jen McLean (Westview)

### **Attending Stakeholders**

Jaclyn Miller, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Paul McKenzie, Superintendent  
Brandi Hugin, Family Peer Support Worker  
Emily Johnston,

### **Regrets**

Kate Boyd, Co-Chair (Henderson & Brooks)  
Siona Rounis, Outgoing Treasurer  
Angela Stevens, (Henderson)

*Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm*

## **Integrated Child & Youth Team Presentation**

The integrated child and youth team (ICYT) was formed to improve access to mental health resources. It started with the Pathway to Hope and currently has 20 programs in BC. The program in qathet started in 2023, and has almost a full team now. The vision is to have wraparound support at no cost to families. There is currently no wait list.

The various team members are employed by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), the school district (SD47), the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD), and the Tla'amin nation.

The program is accessed by referral from any of the following:

- Any medical professional, including Mental Health Services or Central Intake at the hospital
- School Support team or councillor, liaison worker
- Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH)
- Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD).
- Social Worker
- Anyone at the Tla'amin nation

The target clients are those with mild to moderate health challenges in the 0-19 age range, although those who access the program before age 18 can continue care until age 24. The team is by its nature tightly integrated with other community services including local Youth & Family resources.

Families and individuals can self refer for family or youth peer support. There are no criteria, just expressed interest

A family or individual covered by the program should consider the system to to have the following 'levels' of care:

Level 1: Youth & Family for families looking for some support with emerging mental health challenges.

Level 2: The Integrated Team, for more wraparound support when mental health challenges become moderately serious or mild issues prove persistent.

Level 3: CYMH, when the mental health challenge is more severe or worsening

Note: If there is a mental health **emergency**, the family should go to the closest **emergency department**

Action item: representatives please bring this information back to your PAC meetings – the team is happy to come to PAC meeting and make a presentation. Direct contact information was provided, but the logical contact person is usually [Tawnie Gaudreau](#), the director of student support services.

## Treasurer's Report

Siona, the outgoing Treasurer, was not able to attend the meeting, and has not yet passed the materials to the incoming co-Treasurers.

## Elections

Annual DPAC Elections were administered by Paul McKenzie

### Chair

**Jessica Jantz** was nominated by Kirstie, seconded by Ben

**Kate Boyd** was nominated by Jen, seconded by Ben

Both have agreed to serve, but as co-chairs.

***Both Jessica and Kate were elected as co-chairs by acclamation***

### Vice Chair

**Emily Janes** was nominated by Jessica, seconded by Ben, and agreed to serve

***There being no other nomination, Emily was elected by acclamation***

### Treasurer

**Ben Drosdovech** was nominated by Emily, seconded by Kirstie, and agreed to serve on the understanding that other obligations may limit his time in the spring. Angela was also discussed as a co-treasurer, but as she was absent, Ben was the only candidate put forward. Laura may also be willing to be backup.

***There being no other nomination, Ben was elected by acclamation***

### Secretary

Kirstie McLeod was nominated by Jessica, seconded by Emily, and agreed to serve

***There being no other nomination, Kirstie was elected by acclamation***

## Superintendent's Report

It's been a busy but successful start to the year. Everyone has been wonderful in getting things prepped over the summer, especially operations and transportation. Jared Formosa, director of operations and head of the Department of Facilities & Transportation, has been very busy coordinating the renovations at Edgehill on top of all the usual maintenance.

We had 85 elementary and 35 secondary students participate in summer learning.

This summer, the senior team was doing strategic planning, and getting ready for the school year. Generative AI was a major discussion. The focus was on using it as a tool, not an engine, and centering human connectivity. Contacts have been made with several Lower Mainland districts with a view to collaboration on this subject.

There was also a Community Expo, hosted by The Peak, and SD47 had a booth there. It would be great to have PAC or DPAC members at that booth as well, next year.

Once the school year began, staff have done a wonderful job of welcoming students to school, especially kindergarten teachers getting the first-timers settled, and support staff.

Allison Burt has been offered a new part-time job as Director of Instruction at the provincial level, to complement her portfolio of work in SD47.

The September PD day was very successful, with a keynote speaker from the truth and reconciliation team that also participated in some breakout groups. A very powerful experience, building on last year's understanding.

September enrollment was slightly up, very close to projection but a few more than expected, which gives a bit of extra relative to the planned resources. Elementary enrollment was down 6, secondary up 30. PIE held steady, International students up 16. Those unexpected resources mean that the district will be able to post a few more EA slots to ease pressure points.

1000 bus passes issued. The new registration process was less cumbersome, though there is still some work to do.

IT was busy with upgrades and refreshing of existing programs.

The Great BC Shakeout is happening tomorrow morning, and the whole district will be participating.

## Complaints, AP #152:

Following up from the meeting in June, Paul undertook to improve the procedure for parents who need to bring complaints to the attention of SD47 staff. Over the summer, staff worked on updating and making changes to AP 152, with a view to clarifying it and adding a flow chart addendum to make the procedure as clear as possible. Paul brought the updated AP to the board of trustees at their first meeting in September, and it was approved by the board.

The team also wanted to make sure that the information is available freeing at the schools, so they prepared 2 possible informational posters, which Paul brought to the meeting. He asked for, and received, DPAC feedback on which would be more effective, and will be going ahead with posters that incorporate the suggested changes, which mainly revolved around title and colour, as well as giving parents a specific starting point for finding the appropriate staff member to speak to.

A point was also raised about anonymity for parents in the complaints process. The only truly anonymous path for complaints is through the ERASE program, which is really only intended for bullying and sexual abuse complaints, but Paul expects his staff to adhere to professional standards of discretion, and has no reason to think this has been a problem in the past.

## FSA

The messaging around the FSA was brought up for discussion. Receiving competing information from teachers and administration is confusing for parents, and it feels like a relationship strain at the beginning of the year, creating unnecessary tension.

Paul observed that the testing itself is a provincial mandate, not a choice for the district. It is a useful metric that is valuable for district and school level decision making. The BC Teacher's Federation (BCTF) argues that it's used a ranking tool and feel that it takes too much classroom time both in preparation and writing time.

DPAC members expressed concern about skewing data if many parents opt out. Parents that opt out are contacted by principal to ensure they understand this, but Paul emphasised that the calls are supposed to be informative, not coercive.

Reports of parent conversations implied that although some teachers resent the time the tests take away from the classroom, others see value in the results. All teachers, however, feel the need to 'toe the line' of the BCTF. The administration finds the results tremendously valuable to direct resources and find trouble spots. For example, last year showed that when individual results were compared, we are seeing a lower result at the grade 7 level – kids seem to be struggling more in the second half of elementary school.

However, DPAC parents expressed worry that kids who read that BCTF letter feel that their teachers don't like the test, so they do not do their best work. In short, parents are wondering if kids are tanking the tests to preserve their relationship with the teacher?

The DPAC is considering a letter to the BCTF to ask teachers to rethink the letter.

***Action item: reps to ask PACs if they feel this is an issue, to inform the DPAC's decision to write, or not write, such a letter.***

Another point was raised – to avoid this teacher influence would it be helpful to have students write the FSA outside the influence of the teachers? Several DPAC members had stories about standardized testing in the past, done in gyms with unfamiliar staff members – generally intimidating and in not an ideal environment. At the moment, it's in-class and spread over several weeks to minimize disruption.

***Point to consider: should PACs get ahead of this next year by making a sort of 'heads up' about the FSA a part of every September PAC meeting.***

## School Supplies

School supplies are requested each year, but often don't get used. This is a financial burden, creates wastage, and kids tend to ask for non-standard items (e.g. coloured erasers, special pens) which then create division in the classroom. Also, the cross-district standard lists often do not account for differences in classroom needs and teaching styles.

Several solutions were discussed, like having parents contribute a dollar amount, either in September or at several points during the year, or pooling supplies in a central location/cupboard in the school so higher grades which use more of the standard supplies, can use the supplies that tend to just sit in backpacks at the lower grades.

In general, it was commented that we need to trust individual teachers more to know what they need, and find a solution that gives them the supplies they need without putting a huge strain on parental wallets. Paul observed that the teachers do get a set-up amount to spend on classrooms in August, so a mid-year or later school year top-up might make more sense anyway.

***Action item: Paul will meet with principals and brainstorm better methods of meeting this need.***

## BCCPAC EGM Meeting and Memberships

***Action item: all PAC reps should register their PAC with the BCCPAC, but don't pay as that amount is covered by SD47.***

As noted in the June meeting, there was an EGM scheduled for the third weekend of August, because the vast majority of proposals were not brought to a vote at the June AGM. Kirstie was out of town that weekend, and took a while to find a wireless connection that was secure enough for the voting system, but by the time she got set up, the system indicated that the meeting was over. It seems likely that Kirstie was not the only one who did not attend at start-of-meeting and the meeting may have been cancelled for lack of quorum, but this is speculative as no minutes or updates have been published on the BCCPAC website.

## School check-ins

*Kelly Creek: Ben Drosdovech*

It's been a good start to the year. Classes are full, though they have lower kindergarten numbers this year, so some classes have been split. The parking lot was repaved and trees trimmed over the summer, and the bus storage spot changed, paths were cleared up, all making approaches easier and providing a little more parking. Everyone is pleased. Ben noted that Mike from Operations is always totally on the ball with windfalls and other maintenance.

The Strong Start program was initially moved into a portable this year, and has been using various spaces in the school for activities.

The PAC Scholastics book fair was a success, raising \$600 or so. In other fundraising, Fresh to you and Movie night (by donation) upcoming .

First day they did have a PAC table, and got signatures but no new faces at meetings.

#### *Henderson: Laura*

Laura raised a number of concerns:

1. Use of the Outdoor learning centre (OLC). What is the funding structure and how do we get more days. Laura would like to see more ability to use it for camping, including a cross-district 7th grade camp, which apparently used to be a thing but isn't anymore.

This sparked some general discussion. Westview has hired Emily and put \$20000 toward their room, while Edgehill has also used Emily as a resource, but with a \$5000 budget. James Thompson is in the process of making their room, and Brooks is interested as well. The Variety grant strictly limits the types of materials they will help fund to very expensive, specific items. There is a concern about wear, tear, and upkeep.

Paul observed that the OT might be able to help develop common messaging & best practice, but he's not sure beyond that. He will look into it.

Emily was concerned that supervising staff were feeling stressed about the natural wear, tear and breakage that is natural in a high-tactile space like this.

It was noted that Variety will support specific off-list equipment if submitted on behalf of a specific student.

2. Sensory room: Laura asked if there is an OT in staff in SD47 as a district? Paul replied that there is. Laura asked, could that OT oversee the sensory rooms? Could there be a district level oversight or group rates? It would be nice to have district level professional input.

#### **Business arising: sensory rooms**

3. Phones and social media: Laura asked for some guidance on how to navigate that for parents. White hatter is great, but more for an older demographic (middle/high school).

The DPAC did provide a virtual meeting a couple of years ago, but it was poorly attended. One member suggested providing tech tips in the WAG, and Paul will forward that idea to principals.

***Action item: phone and social media information and support for parents to be added to January's meeting agenda, Paul to suggest tech tips for individual school WAGs.***

4. Laura runs the Patricia theatre and has been approached about fundraisers – she wanted to let us know that she is happy to do this. James Thompson had asked for a 'party package' (party room rental) for a raffle, and she was happy to oblige. Also, Henderson and James Thompson have done



many field trips to the theatre, very successfully. Emily asked about the cost for such a trip. Depending on attendance, it's usually about \$200 or so, plus bussing if applicable.

#### *Edgehill: Emily Janes*

Edgehill is in the middle of a huge renovation, but the community has risen to the occasion. There's a great vibe/energy, and the kids are showing few signs of stress despite all the changes and displacement. Staff is doing a great job of making it a community and understanding point (e.g. so-and-so's dad is working on the roof today!). Gaga ball pit has been completed, with help from the district. It has sparked lots of excitement, lots of peer-to-peer teaching and connection.

PAC meetings are going well, the first meeting was the biggest yet, although the second meeting had the usual 10 or so members. The goal is to have more community events, within the limits of the current budget. They are also discussing next year's fundraising goals, after the renovation is over - e.g. playground equipment. They are trying to follow through on the plan to set a theme for each meeting, - e.g September was focused on fundraising, October fine-tuned those plans, November they are looking at getting a speaker in.

#### *Westview: Jen MacLean*

The new siding went on over the summer. There was some vandalism in the garden but staff fixed it all. They have new softer lighting inside. The staff changed gradual entry to be shorter, which is easier for everyone. Pizza and book fair night was a success. Sushi coming up, and a mountain biking event. Sensory room has started with a 20,000 budget. October meeting is next week.

#### *James Thompson: Kirstie McLeod*

School start went smoothly. JT did have coffee and muffins on the first day and PAC members strolled around with signs on our backs that said 'ask me about PAC' and similar. There were a few interested parties, but no new faces around the table at the September meeting. PAC is now gearing up for our big fundraiser, the Halloween Carnival, set for Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. There are 19 volunteers for the event so far, but are still a bit nervous about the day because there is a Halloween dance at Brooks that night, so our usual plan of using Brooks students who are JT grads to fill in, might not work.

We are also developing a sensory room with a budget of \$5000 from PAC, \$5000 from Variety, but will certainly be looking at other schools' plans as well.

Kirstie was asked to bring up the complaints process again, but that has been amply explored in Paul's presentation, and a delegation will be meeting with him on the matter separately.

#### *Brooks*

No representative, no report.

## Business arising: Board of Trustee Invitations

### Next meeting

January 21, 2026

*Meeting adjourned at 9:37 pm*

Jaclyn asked if DPAC would prefer that she represent the board at all meetings, or if we'd like to continue having a different trustee each meeting, as in the past. No real preference was given, but there was a query about having trustees at PAC meetings. Jaclyn said that she did bring that question back to the board, and the sentiment was that rather than PAC meetings, trustees would welcome invitations to events like carnivals and movie nights.