qathet School District
4351 Ontario Avenue
Powell River, BC, V8A 1V3
604 485 6271 • sd47.bc.ca
@qathetschooldistrict

DPAC Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2026

Attending Members
Jessica Jantz, Co-chair (Edgehill)
Kate Boyd, Co-Chair (Brooks)
Kirstie McLeod, Secretary (James Thompson)
Ben Drosdovech, Treasurer (Kelly Creek)
Emily Janes (Edgehill)
Angela Stevens (Henderson)
Jen McLean (Westview)

Attending Stakeholders
Jaclyn Miller, Trustee & Chair of the BoT
Paul McKenzie, Superintendent

Regrets
Danielle Quinney (Brooks)
Jonina Selbie-Parker (Texada)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Treasurer's Report

Please see attached report

Format of Future Meetings – K. Boyd/J. Jantz

Kate and Jessica would like to change the format of the meeting. The 45 min+ guest presentations and the school check-ins are swamping the meeting time, resulting in 2+ hour meetings. In an attempt to keep next year's meetings to something closer to an hour, they proposed eliminating or sharply curtailing guest speakers' time, and having the reps pre-write the school updates, so that the meeting time can be focused on the agenda items brought forward. It was also suggested that school updates could have a theme each time so we don't try to report on everything every time (e.g. one meeting we all contribute fundraising plans and ideas, another we report on parent engagement ideas, etc)

Track and Field Concession – K. Boyd

As previously discussed, this did not continue in the usual rotation this year. The council was asked if they wanted to keep the rotation.

Various ideas were discussed. It was acknowledged that it requires a lot of volunteer hours, particularly if hot food is served, and it can be hard to source the people, since parents don't want to miss their kids' events. It was suggested that we could field 2 parents per school and split the proceeds, or hand it off to a business.

The council will revisit the question in October.

Superintendent's Report – P. McKenzie

Paul had a lot of 'to do' items for this meeting, and acknowledged that in some cases he realized that a little late.

Sensory Rooms

A question was raised last time about whether the upkeep of the sensory rooms was a PAC responsibility, or if the district would be able to shoulder that cost. Paul noted that if specific items are needed for specific students, those could be purchased under the inclusive ed budget, but he hesitated to commit to general upkeep under current circumstances, as it's not something specifically covered by a current budget item and this could be a costly undertaking. Paul mentioned site-by-site resources being varied and probably not really adequate to the task.

Similarly, with questions about whether Tawnie, the district OT, could assist with support and staff education, there are some issues.

First, it was observed that usually, there is a distinction between sensory rooms, which provide stimulation of the senses (bright colours, lights, tactile items), often including vestibular stimulation (swings, bouncers), while a calming room is more usually designed with soft lights, neutral colours, and weighted items. The rooms we have been referring to as sensory rooms are often being used as calming rooms, and it is difficult, if not impossible, for one room to be both.

Second, the sensory rooms are not consistent across schools. Many schools have opted to use the Variety Club packages that are part of that funding model, but some have more independently sourced items, which makes it harder to give advice. In addition, some of the equipment (Snoozeline was one brand mentioned) requires training to use properly, and Tawnie does not feel able to provide that training at this time. There is a community OT that might be able to do that.

School Supplies

Although the principals have all agreed on a new plan for school supplies, they are working on the structure and will bring it to the PACs individually.

Paul will be checking with the board, to see if it is permitted to have a fee instead of physical supplies.

Tech Tips and Phone/Social Media Guidance for Parents

Paul handed out the new digital literacy resources handout, put together by the communications team, which was very well received.

A related concern was raised: apparently, Youtube and AI resources are being used at break and lunch times by students, in a low-supervision environment. Although a consent form is sent home, what, when and how resources are used is left up to the teacher, and there is not much transparency on what content is available and being used. Also, this access seems to be used as a behavioural tool or reward, rather than to support learning, which is not what the consent form implies. Paul will look into it.

PAC by-laws

All councils are asked to have their by-laws uploaded by June. Provide them to Erika, who will send the updates to communications and have the websites updated by October.

DRAFT

Helmets at Winter Wonderland

Going forward, there will be a consistent message that helmets are to be worn by all staff as well as students.

OLC

Paul contacted Hugh, who said he is open to other options. Paul will contact him and come back to Kirstie specifically.

Restorative Justice

At the last meeting, when we had the restorative justice presentation,there was a lot of enthusiasm about the program. Henderson had a presentation, but there were so many options, they finally decided to focus on providing the program to the grade 6/7s as a transition piece. It was asked whether the SD would be providing the program to students outside of Brooks. Paul wants to talk to Tawny about this, but is not sure what the SD can do at the present time.

School check-ins

Brooks: Kate Boyd

Grad gifts are well in hand, and the sensory room collaboration is going well. It took a while to get going, but should be operational soon. For Staff Appreciation, they will be making tickets.

Henderson: Angela Stevens

Angela circled back to the OLC and pointed out that the real need is summer programming, particularly for kids who have challenges of one kind or another.

Kate provided some context: Summer Reading was supposed to be a small and targeted program to help children with known literacy deficits. It morphed into a more general program as the lack of summer programs for NT students in town put pressure on the program to include NT kids, and since there are so many more of those, over time those kids and their (easier to accommodate) needs became centered. Now even that program is gone.

There is now pretty much no programming for ND kids during the summer – academic or otherwise. This is an inclusion problem that needs to be addressed in some way.

Angela will send a letter to Paul outlining this need.

Edgehill: Emily Janes

Starting next week, the gym will be under active renovation, so Edgehill will not have a space where large groups can gather for things like assemblies, and several such events are coming up. In particular, during the volunteer picnic it was very hot and it would be nice to have some shelter this year. They are hoping to find the large white 'wedding' tent that is owned by the district. It seems to be missing. Kirstie offered her 30' x 12' tent, but it is too small for the need. Paul will look into it.

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Kelly Creek: Ben Drosdovech

Things are going well. Our new hoodies look great. We also have new jerseys that Mike designed which are awesome.

Our West Coast Seed Fundraiser was not a huge success as we did not advertise enough but still went well.

We had a March Bookfair, these are always a hit. They do not bring in a ton of money but the Scholastic bookfair rewards which we receive for book sales are great for gifts for the teachers and classrooms.

Earth week was great with classes heading to the OLC for the day.

The school has implemented a new policy after the Tumbler Ridge incident. Visitors must enter the school from the front doors now instead of accessing from any doors at the school.

Mike has been looking into some capital improvements, painting inside the school, improvements to our field and possibly some playground retrofits. Some of the equipment at KCCS is quite old but still functionable and used often by the kids.

Discussions still ongoing with MOTI on improvements to our school zone

Westview: Jen MacLean

Colby is doing the logo change. The Sensory room will be ready over the summer – it's slow going because there are so many stakeholders, but it's getting there. The book fair has not happened yet.

James Thompson – Kirstie McLeod

James Thompson is having a bit of a parent engagement crisis. We are down to 3 members next year, unless we recruit more, which has so far not been successful. They will need to have an EGM to update the bylaws to allow for a quorum of 3 people, electronic meeting and voting by electronic means (email, chat). Suggestions were solicited – one was to have one 'classroom parent' for each division, who is expected to act as a part of the PAC and advocate for the classroom, as a way to make it a more urgent ask.

Texada: Not in attendance this time

Next meeting

June 17, 6 pm, at Snookers

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

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