

Qualicum School District Parent Advisory Council Minutes

April 16, 2025 6:30-8:30 pm 124 West 2nd Ave Qualicum Beach

Attendees: Ray Woroniak (President/AES), Maleah Bajic (PASS/CEAP), Raani Desai (EOES), Jason Howard (QBES), Julie Birlew (SES), Laura Solowoninuk (NBES), Erin West (EES)

Regrets: Megan Hurd (Vice President), Lisa Haupt (Secretary/KSS), FBS Rep, BES Rep, BSS Rep

Meeting Recording: No recording available.

1. Acknowledgements

2. Introductions

3. Adoption of the agenda

- Moved Meleah, 2nd Erin, Passed Unanimous

4. Approval of minutes

- November 20, 2024 Moved by Maleah, 2nd Erin, Passed Unanimously
- February 19, 2025 Moved Meleah, 2nd Raani, Passed Unanimously

5. Delegations

- Janel gave a presentation about 100 Kids for Change.
- 100 Kids for Change is an organization made up of kids from the Qualicum School District. The group meets every 4 times a year (every 3 months) and each member brings a \$10 donation.
- Members can nominate a charity and then three charities are randomly drawn and the group hears from those who nominated the charities about why they nominated the charity.
- Members then vote on which charity they would like the money raised at the meeting to go towards.
- Following the meeting, members are invited to the cheque presentation at the organization receiving the funds.
- This is an opportunity for kids to meet other kids, learn about charities in Oceanside, work on presentation skills in a relaxed environment, and have fun.
- The meetings are upbeat and fun with games and presentations.
- Please feel free to share this information with your PACs.

6. QSD Staff Update

- Pete the Cat April 17th
- Celebrations of learning upcoming
- Budget session with partners was today. Next opportunity for participation at the May Board meeting.

- Pre K registration closed
- Bus app is out
- Track is finished
- Teachers layoffs coming
- Grade 7 conference upcoming
- Questions
 - Was the distance for eligible bus rides changed? 3.2 km.
 - Has not been changed
 - Teacher layoff reasons
 - 100 less students
 - Is there financial assistance for families that need to travel for events?
 - The school does try to support but does not have funding for this.

7. QSD Trustee Update (Trustee Elaine Young)

- Spoke to Pete the Cat
- She shared she was laid off 3 times as a teacher. 100 less students this year.
- Policy committee format has 3 readings. 1st on track and make public, 2nd deep into the policy, 3rd decide it's ok. Best time to provide feedback is 2nd reading.
- Trustees time commitment - go to in camera meeting and regular board meeting every month. Should attend all 3 policy meetings and pro D days. To be an involved trustee would be about 20 hours a week.
- Feeding Futures used for new kitchen at KSS. KSS is making sandwiches for QBES.
- Are graduation rates used as a metric for senior staff performance? Is there a financial incentive reward tied to this?
- It's more complicated than that
- Questions
 - Does our school district have any agreements with staff for a performance-based compensation package? To be eligible to receive pay increases for performance.
 - No

8. MATA Update

- Was not able to attend.

9. CUPE update

- Was not able to attend.

7. Treasurer report

- A question was asked about the status of transferring the DPAC bank accounts.
- History:
 - The current DPAC President would like to move the DPAC bank account currently at TD to CCCU where there are fewer bank fees, online banking and because they allow for e-transfers.

- In order for the account at TD to be closed and funds moved to CCCU, the current DPAC President, Vice President and Treasurer are required by DPAC bylaws to be added as signing authorities to the TD account in order to close it.
- There was some confusion over the last year as to who could close the TD account (current or past DPAC executive members) resulting in the current President, Vice President and Treasurer not adding their names to the TD account.
- The process has since been clarified by TD that they honour DPAC's bylaws.
- **MOTION: Ray put a motion forward to remove Kari Kitazaki, Brenda Fisher, Jessica Threlfall and Angel Delange as signers on the District 69 Parent Advisory Council TD bank account.**
 - Moved by Maleah
 - Second by none
 - **Motion Failed**
- The motion was not supported by some of the DPAC reps because it was deemed unnecessary. The DPAC bylaws stipulate that the current DPAC President, VP and Treasurer are to be the DPAC signing authorities, therefore the past DPAC executive members will be removed from the account when the current DPAC executive members are added.
- DPAC received a letter of resignation by the current Treasurer. In addition, the current Vice President and Secretary have indicated that they are stepping down from their positions at the upcoming DPAC AGM/elections in May.
- With the AGM happening next month, it was decided by the group that it makes sense to wait the 4 weeks until the elections and have the 2025/2026 DPAC President, VP and Treasurer be the new signing authorities on the DPAC account.
- DPAC funds currently remain inaccessible which is not ideal.
- The current DPAC executive members are left in an uncomfortable situation because DPAC is not in alignment with its bylaws and past DPAC members are left in an uncomfortable situation because they no longer hold a role with DPAC and wish to be replaced on the TD account.

9. Business arising from the minutes / action items

- A) Connect Summit
 - Without access to the bank account, DPAC is unable to plan an event.
- B) Ideas for utilizing dpac funds
 - Without access to the bank account, DPAC is unable pay for Food Safe and First Aid Training at this time.

11. New business

- A) Vote on bylaw change to strike section 10.5
 - **Bylaw 10 currently reads:**

"Section 10: TERM OF OFFICE

1. *The term of office for SD69 DPAC President and SD69 DPAC Vice President shall commence in July of each year. The term of office for the remaining Executive shall commence in November of each year.*
2. *Terms of office, for positions other than SD69 DPAC President and SD69 DPAC Vice President, shall commence November to the following October 11*
3. *Any elected member of the Council may serve on the SD69 DPAC Executive for as many years as she/her, he/him, they/them and others is elected to a position but no person may hold any one (1) position for more than three (3) consecutive years.*
4. *No person may hold more than one (1) SD69 DPAC Executive Officer position at any one time.*
5. *The Past President shall hold that office for one (1) year. The Past President is an ex-officio position, and can hold no other position."*

- Suggested bylaw by BCCPAC

"Term of office:

6. The executive will hold office for a term of one year beginning immediately following the election (or between specified dates, for example, from July 1st to June 30th).

7. No person may hold the same executive position for more than four years."

- Discussed removing 10.5 so that a past President could remain on the executive team in another role if they desire.
- **MOTION: Ray put forward a motion to remove Section 10.5 from the DPAC bylaws.**
 - Moved by Maleah
 - 2nd Erin
 - Passed unanimously: Jason (QBES), Raani (EOES), Erin (EES), Laura (NBES), Julie (SES), Ray (AES), Maleah (PASS/CEAP)
 - **Motion passed**

B) Open letter from BC District Parent Advisory Councils to Premier David Eby

- An open letter was sent to PACs by email asking for approval to send.
- DPAC did not send a letter, only 5 of 12 pacs approved of sending so the motion failed.
- Due to timing, no discussion took place.
- The letter is at the bottom of the minutes if PACs would like to send it.

C) May 21, 2025 DPAC election and call for nominees

- DPAC is seeking nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors at Large.
- Ray indicated he is interested in the Secretary role and Maleah is interested in the President role.

- Elections will take place at the AGM.

12. Recurring Business

- A) School pac updates from dpac reps
 - Skipped due to time constraints
- B) Committee of whole meeting report
 - Maleah Bajic provided an update at the meeting
- C) Budget meeting report
 - Maleah Bajic provided an update at the meeting
- D) What to include in the dpac report for the board meeting
 - Skipped due to time constraints
- E) Agenda items for the next meeting
 - Skipped due to time constraints

13. Questions / Open discussion

- Some DPAC reps raised that it would be helpful if they were informed before statements are made on behalf of DPAC to the media so that they can inform their PACs or be prepared for questions. It is difficult to reflect all parent views cohesively as views are diverse; however, having a shared understanding of what is being presented amongst DPAC reps/pacs would be helpful.
- **MOTION: Jason put forward a motion to have a vote prior to statements and comments to the media on behalf of DPAC.**
 - Moved Jason
 - 2nd Raani
 - In Favor: Jason (QBES), Raani (EOES), Erin (EES), Laura (NBES), Julie (SES)
 - Against: Ray (AES)
 - Abstain: Maleah (PASS/CEAP)
 - Motion passed

14. Adjournment: 8:30 pm

15. Next meeting date: AGM on May 21, 2025, 6:30

Extra Information:

Open Letter from BC District Parent Advisory Councils (DPACs)

To: Premier David Eby,

Dear Premier Eby,

Congratulations on your re-election as Premier of British Columbia. Your leadership and commitment to our province are highly valued, and we look forward to the continued positive changes you will bring to British Columbia. We, the undersigned members of District Parent Advisory Councils representing families from communities across BC, request the inclusion of critical issues facing our public schools in your upcoming mandate letters to the Minister of Education and Child Care, The Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Finance, and the Treasury Board.

Our schools are at the heart of community life and directly shape the next generation of British Columbians. The challenges facing BC's public school system require urgent and committed action to ensure all children have equitable access to safe, supportive, and high-quality education.

1. Deferred Maintenance and Aging Infrastructure

The state of BC's school infrastructure has reached a critical point. The BCSTA has estimated there is more than \$9 billion in deferred maintenance across the province, which directly impacts the safety and well-being of students and staff. From deteriorating buildings to insufficient ventilation systems, many schools are in urgent need of repair. Delaying necessary maintenance compounds facility condition deterioration, escalating repair costs and creating exponentially costly legacy debt as compared to addressing maintenance issues right now.

What We Ask:

- **Increase Capital Funding:** Commit additional funds to address deferred maintenance, prioritizing seismic upgrades, energy-efficient retrofits, and safe, modern learning environments.
- **Reduce Planning Times:** Streamline the planning and approval process for renovations and new schools to ensure capital funding is allocated efficiently and projects are completed in a timely manner to meet the urgent demands of growing communities.

2. Capital Funding to Meet New School Needs

Rapid community growth, combined with delayed investments, has resulted in overcrowded schools and an increasing reliance on portable and modular classrooms, which were originally intended as temporary solutions. These measures have placed significant strain on the education system and created inequities in the learning environments available to students. As

urban landscapes continue to evolve and new housing legislation drives significant density increases, the planning and funding processes for new schools must adapt to meet the demands of accelerated urban growth.

Existing capital funding levels fall far short of the province-wide need for new schools, leaving districts unable to keep pace with rising enrollment and community growth. Without timely investment, overcrowding and reliance on portables will persist, further exacerbating the challenges faced by students, families, and educators.

What We Ask:

- **Comprehensive Long-Term Funding Plan:** Establish a fully funded 10-year capital strategy to meet district requests for new schools, ensuring timely responses to enrollment growth and infrastructure needs.
- **Interim Support for Portables:** While addressing the backlog of new school construction, provide full funding to cover the costs of portables for all school districts as an interim solution. This includes funding for acquisition, setup, and maintenance, ensuring districts are not forced to divert critical resources away from other priorities.
- **Honor the “Building Schools Together” Initiative:** Maintain commitment to the principles of the “Building Schools Together” initiative by prioritizing investments in areas where school capacity expansion is urgently needed.
- **Updated Area Standards:** Modernize area standards to allow for the planning and construction of urban schools and innovative, non-traditional school models, such as those integrated with municipal community centers, to better align with the realities of today’s communities.

3. Funding Gaps for Students under the Inclusive Education Umbrella

Students with non-designated learning needs, including those with unrecognized or emerging challenges, require meaningful support to fully engage with the curriculum. Whether or not these students have an official designation, their learning needs remain real and urgent. However, chronic underfunding of school districts for special education and support for diverse learners has created a systemic issue: resources intended for students with designated funding are often redirected to meet the needs of unfunded students, leaving both groups underserved.

This funding gap forces school districts into an untenable position—either making cuts in other operational areas to provide the necessary supports or leaving students without adequate help, allowing them to fall through the cracks. As a result, many students are denied equitable opportunities to succeed in mainstream classroom settings, while the strain on educators and the broader system continues to grow.

What We Ask:

- **Need Based Inclusive Education Funding:** Designate separate dedicated funding for students who require additional support but do not meet traditional designation criteria.
- **Update Designation Funding:** Establish a process to regularly review and update designation funding guidelines to reflect the evolving needs of all students and target direct funding to all designations.

4. Meeting Special Education Needs and Educational Assistant (EA) Staffing

Chronic underfunding of special education is impacting students with diverse needs, and school districts face difficulties recruiting enough Educational Assistants (EAs) to provide adequate support, especially in remote and rural districts.

What We Ask:

- **Increase EA and Specialist Staffing:** Commit to funding additional EAs and specialist teachers to support students with special needs.
- **Update the Inclusive Education Manual:** Commit to updating of the Inclusive Education Manual, supporting best practices in inclusive learning environments.

5. Addressing School Exclusion

In BC, every child has the right to access quality education, grounded in the belief that inclusive education ensures all students, regardless of their abilities or needs, can learn and thrive together in a supportive environment. However students, particularly those with complex support needs, are excluded from classrooms due to a lack of resources and support.

What We Ask:

- **Ensure Equitable Access to Education:** Develop policies and establish funding measures to prevent student exclusion due to inadequate support resources.
- **Fulfill CEA Commitment by 2025:** [Honor the promise](#) to increase Classroom and Education Assistant resources by September 2025.

6. Mental Health Resources for Students

Despite the growing need for school-based mental health support, the resources to provide these services remain limited across many districts. Understaffing due to underfunding of school counselors and mental health professionals results in inadequate mental health support for students and overextended staff.

What We Ask:

- **Expand Mental Health Support:** Increase funding for mental health programs and ensure each school district has adequate access to school counselors and mental health professionals.

7. Equitable Funding for Extracurricular Programs

Extracurricular activities in sports, arts, and enrichment are essential for student development. Cuts in many districts due to funding constraints creates inequity across communities. In the absence of school based extracurricular programs, families who cannot afford private programming are left without alternatives, further limiting their children's ability to participate and thrive. Access to these vital activities should not be determined by where you live.

What We Ask:

- **Allocate Funding for Enrichment:** Guarantee funds for extracurricular and enrichment programs to ensure that all students, in all districts, can access a well-rounded education experience.
- **Account for regional differences:** Develop a funding mechanism that recognizes and adjusts for the cost variances between districts to ensure equitable allocation of resources. Factors such as the higher costs of living in urban areas, increased transportation expenses in rural or remote districts, and unique local needs must be considered to prevent systemic disparities in extracurricular and enrichment program funding.

8. Outdated Technology in Schools

BC schools still operate with outdated technology. As a result, schools cannot sufficiently prepare students for the digital world. As technology continues to evolve, so too must our schools' infrastructure and resources.

What We Ask:

- **Invest in Modernizing Technology:** Guarantee funding to update technology across BC schools, ensuring that students are well-prepared for the digital economy and future job markets.
- **Establish Continuous Technology Modernization Practices:** Implement an ongoing process to evaluate and adopt new technologies as they become available, ensuring that all schools have access to up-to-date tools and resources. This proactive approach will prevent school districts from a cycle of falling behind and playing catch up with technology developments.

Premier Eby, like you, we the undersigned parents and community representatives are committed to ensuring BC's public schools are a foundation for future success. These requests reflect the immediate needs and aspirations of families across BC, and we look forward to your government prioritizing these areas in your upcoming mandate letters.

Thank you for considering our recommendations based on our experiences as DPAC parent leaders across the province. We appreciate your support and collaboration in building a stronger, more equitable education system for all BC students.

Sincerely,

QSD DPAC