

DPAC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

6:30-7:53 pm

via Zoom

Attendees: Jason (chair), Erin, Maleah, Raani (secretary), Marina, Jovonne, Rebecca, Jennah, Ray, Kavitha, Sara

Guests: Superintendent Dr. Jory, Trustee Kellogg, Trustee Flynn

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by the Chair
- Land acknowledgement
- Verification of quorum (3 voting members)

2. Introductions

- Introductions were made.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Adoption of the [agenda](#) with two changes: trustees went to Campbell River not Comox and the account balances are reversed for gaming and general. Motion by Maleah seconded by Marina, approved by all.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Motion by Maleah, seconded by Erin, September minutes approved by all.
- No one opposed the meeting being transcribed.

5. Superintendent's Update

- **Enrollment** numbers are slightly above projections. With this, the district will move out of funding protection but won't see an increase in funding as they were receiving the funding protection.
- **Catchment boundaries** will be under review due to new buildings and pressure on Springwood School. Staff recommendations are expected in January/February 2026.
- **Professional Development** focused on Truth and Reconciliation featuring Chief Recalma and his son Francis, who shared reconciliation initiatives and a locally developed Truth and Reconciliation timeline project. Dr. Jory highlighted a visit by Dr. Leighton Schnellert, who led a session on "Circle", an Indigenous construct supporting inclusion and problem-solving in classrooms. The district will continue to offer similar professional learning opportunities for educators.
- **Transportation** - Brant Prunkl, Manager of Operations, Safety and Transportation has reached out to the RDN regarding the new bell schedule and RDN bus schedule not aligning for students who attend EOES. They will be meeting to coordinate.
- **Field trip busing costs** - The district is working on options to make field trips more financially accessible for more remote/rural schools, such as averaging costs across the district. Currently remote schools pay more for field trip bussing costs. More information on this to come.

- **Individual Education Plan (IEP) Parent Night** - The district is open to having an IEP information night that will allow parents to learn more about what IEPs are and how to navigate the process. Information nights have been held in the past and the district is open to working with DPAC to make this happen again.
6. **Trustee Update - Eve Flynn**
- Trustees met with the Minister of Education on September 22. There was an open agenda. Trustees and the Minister discussed supporting diverse learners, the K-12 workforce table, financial challenges in the school system, the new False Bay School, and the Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Team.
 - Trustee Flynn appreciated DPAC lending the parent voice to the ICY team concerning our letter to the Minister of Health and Executive Director of Island Health.
 - Trustees are concerned about the loss of the program lead position as well. The Minister of Education and Child Care is aware of the concern but is not responsible for the ICY team.
 - The ICY team is functioning but it's challenging without the lead. The school district is having to take on a bigger role which is less than ideal.
 - Eve discussed several key issues with the education system, including a shortage of new teachers applying to join the UNBC system. Eve also mentioned ongoing contract negotiations and the need to address benefits costs, replacement teachers, and teacher absences.
 - Trustees on Vancouver Island have a conference twice a year to learn from other districts. Trustees went to Campbell River recently. They discussed literacy and numeracy and will be sharing these learnings at the Education Committee of the Whole meeting.
 - Trustees on Vancouver Island are concerned about BC ferries closing ramps and ferry access which affect teachers ability to get to work such as at False Bay School.
7. **Mount Arrowsmith Teachers Association (MATA) and CUPE**
- No reports to share
8. **Chair's Report**
- [Family Guide: Addressing Concerns in the Qualicum School District](#) - this resource has been circulated to PACs, shared with families on social media and is available on the [school district website](#). Please continue to share this tool with families!
 - DPAC sent a **letter to the Minister of Health and Executive Director of Island Health** re the termination of the program lead position for the Integrated Child and Youth (ICY) Team. Waiting on a response.
 - We had our **monthly meeting with the Superintendent**. If you have questions, please let us know! We are using that time to follow-up and get clarity on topics of interest to parents.
 - **A parent question was raised for the school district:** Has the school district enacted a School Site Acquisition Charge (SSAC) resolution? The Local Government Act and School Act allow a district to request that a

municipality or regional district institute a development charge to go towards the purchase of future school sites in areas of anticipated growth.

- DPAC was invited to have a parent rep on the interview panel for a vice principal position. Once elected the new DPAC can determine if they have someone who can attend.

9. Treasurer's Report

- Gaming Account Balance as of October 9, 2025: \$4,580.89
- General Account Balance as of October 9, 2025: \$16,398.32
- DPAC received \$2,500 in gaming grant funds for 2025/26.
- Our gaming grant extension was approved. We have until June 2026 to spend the remaining gaming grant funds from 2024/25.

10. Board Meeting and Committee of the Whole (COW) Updates

- Updates will be shared by email with PACs.

11. DPAC Elections

- The following people were nominated:
 - Marina (QBES) for President
 - Vice President - Vacant
 - Jason (QBES) for Treasurer
 - Raani (EOES) for Secretary
 - Maleah (CEAP/PASS) for Director
 - Jennah (QBES) for Director
- Jovonne withdrew her nomination to be a DPAC director at this time. She is willing to volunteer with DPAC in other ways.
- There was a call for nominations, no other nominations were put forward.
- Although it is not ideal to proceed without a Vice President, the position will remain open should a volunteer step forward.
- There was a vote to acclaim members into the positions as named above. All PACs in attendance (QBES, EES, BES, EOES, KSS, CEAP/PASS, NBES) were in favour of the nominations.
- **The new Qualicum School District PAC Executive Team for 2025/26 is:**
 - Marina Gardiner (QBES), President
 - Jason Howard (QBES), Treasurer
 - Raani Desai (EOES), Secretary
 - Maleah Bajich (CEAP/PASS), Director
 - Jennah Stavroff (QBES), Director
- A big thank you to Erin West from EES for all her work on the DPAC Interim Committee, she was a valuable part of the team!

12. Old Business

- **Food Safe Training** - DPAC has funding available to cover [food safe training](#) for two PAC representatives at each school. Make sure your PAC takes advantage of this!
- **Food programming update**
 - Marina, Raani and Lisa met with the Associate Superintendent and District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care to discuss food programming.

- The district is receiving over \$700,000 in funding from the province and the federal government for food programs. This can be used for food, staffing to make the food and small appliances. There is another pot of funding for kitchen renovations.
- We have requested information on how funding was spent last year and how the budget is being allocated this year along with the programs offered at each school.
- A question was asked when DPAC will be getting the budget and program information. DPAC will ask for this information for the November DPAC meeting.
- We would like to propose that DPAC forms a **food program working group**, where parents/caregivers who are passionate about food support can come together and discuss what is happening in our district and in other districts outside of the DPAC meetings and then bring forward recommendations and questions. If you would like to be on this working group, please reach out!

13. New Business

- **District Communications Working Group Update**
 - The group met for the first time this month and will be meeting monthly.
 - The group is made up of reps for principals, teachers, staff, students, indigenous, and parents. Marina and Raani are our parent reps.
 - The group reviewed three communications plans from other districts and started discussing what communication methods are currently being used.
 - The district will put together an analysis of the communication methods being used for the next meeting.
- **SD71's Understanding IEPs for Parents & Caregivers Parent Session -** Marina attended the SD71 session and shared this with our superintendent who is interested in partnering with DPAC to have a session like this for parents/caregivers in our district. Stay tuned for more information on this.
- **BCCPAC membership** - discussed whether to purchase a BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) membership for 2025/26.
 - The membership would give our DPAC the ability to vote at BCCPAC meetings and all parents/caregivers in our district would have access to BCCPAC resources and training.
 - There is no requirement to be part of BCCPAC. PACs and DPACs have the option of joining.
 - BCCPAC is legislated as the official parent voice at the provincial level. They receive provincial money to operate.
 - Significant concerns have been raised about their transparency and accountability of their funding.
 - They have recently hired a new Executive Director and have a new board member.

- A BCCPAC membership is \$200 for DPACs and \$100 for PACs (revised from the amounts mentioned at the meeting).
 - Ray shared that some DPACs have joined together to create a [BC DPAC Coalition](#) and are trying to gain provincial recognition as the official parent voice.
 - The group agreed to defer voting and to discuss at the next meeting once DPAC reps have had a chance to learn more about the BC DPAC Coalition.
 - **Inclusive working group** - At the September meeting concerns were raised about racism in our district and the elimination of the district social justice committee. We would like to propose forming a DPAC working group where parents/caregivers who are passionate about creating inclusive and welcoming schools can come together to discuss these topics more deeply outside of a DPAC meeting and bring forward ideas and questions.
 - A suggestion was made to create mini posters that PACs can share with parents to drum up more involvement. Great idea!
 - **Holiday Stores** - We are coordinating a meetup to share information and tips between PAC volunteers who run holiday stores. If you would like to participate please email DPAC. AES, NBES and EOES have expressed interest so far.
14. Next Meeting
- Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 pm
 - We would love feedback on the DPAC meeting format/medium. Feel free to reach out with ideas!
15. Adjournment - 7:53 pm

Future Meeting Topics / Action Items

- Discuss information, resources, training parents/caregivers would like to see offered/supported by DPAC.
- IEP info session for parents/caregivers
- Vote on whether to purchase a BCCPAC membership
- Accessibility Working Group updates
- Food Program working group
- Inclusion working group
- Field trip busing equity costing - follow-up in January

Have a topic you'd like to discuss? Email us at qsd.dpac@gmail.com

DPAC Meeting Schedule for 2025/26

Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

- November 19
- January 21
- February 18
- April 15
- May 20