

PAC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2026

In Person: in the Multipurpose Room

Online:

<https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62552738910?pwd=Y7hYaY6AdAKITKBATjVwXTk6F3DCP0.1>

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

PAC Executive

Emily Lefebvre (EL), Co-Chair

Tegan Williams (TW), Co-Chair

Christine McCallum (CM), Treasurer, regrets

Katherine Rosenbaum (KR), DPAC Rep

Mike Joe (MJ), Hot Lunch Coordinator

Taryn Hayes (TH), Member at Large, regrets

Marlene Cummings (MC), Member at Large, regrets

School Representatives

Jason Eng (JE), Principal

Elizabeth Kleiber (EK), DPAC Exec, regrets

Rachelle Siemens (RS), Garden Club, regrets

ITEM	LEAD	TIME
1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Introductions (2 mins)	EL	6:30-6:32
2. Additions to and Approval of Agenda and Previous Minutes (2 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved• There will be transcript from Zoom, as well as notes, but likely not super accurate when folks from far from the computer are speaking	TW	6:32-6:34
3. Treasurer Report (10 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• See attached current report• Craft an email to remind staff to use their stipends• Deadline to submit receipts for reimbursement is June 19	EL, TW	6:34-6:36
4. Principal's Report (20 mins)	JE	6:37-7:00

- VSB budget for next year
 - Approved by district
 - Sizeable deficit compared to this year
 - Will have complex impact on schools, including losing support staff, some schools losing teachers
 - Projected enrolment actually up for Nelson, but loss of designations
 - Loss of staff doesn't quite match-up
 - VP loses ½ day of admin time, adds teaching time
 - Nelson will still have 20 divisions
 - Loss of resource teaching time, library, etc.
 - SSAs not decided yet
 - ELL numbers going down with decrease in immigration numbers
 - K students may or not may not be ELL, but we can't tell until they actually attend school
 - Don't want to lose staff
 - Designation kids going to High schools, so their funding goes with them
 - Not enough coming in to replace the ones leaving
- Grounds walkthrough update
 - Will go to staff
 - How can the PAC support outdoor education?
 - Indigenous focus ProD
 - 2 areas outdoors can be used for learning
 - Indigenous garden
 - Teaching and learning opportunities
 - Garden club, staff
 - outside connections for cedar weaving, powwow dancing, hoop dancing, elder knowledge-keepers, storytellers
 - But want the school/kids to be a part of workshops, vs always just performances
 - Corner of garden
 - Grounds is open to expanding the indigenous garden at the back of the school
 - Will plant more in the autumn when there is rain
 - Environmental Youth Alliance
 - Contact from the garden club
 - From the Strathcona Community gardens
 - Outdoor classroom is an important idea
 - 1) what prevents teachers from using the grounds for education outdoors?
 - 2) what would encourage their use of the outdoors?
 - Tegan to send an email of the above to Jason who will forward to the teachers.
 - Need to decolonize education and the school site
 - In addition to surveying teachers on their intended outdoor classroom use, look to how expanding space can

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> encourage decolonizing learning and incorporating indigenous ways of learning and knowing ■ An Indigenous-focused space design does not have to limit the use of the space to only being for Indigenous content ○ Does Nelson connect with Britannia or Xpey'? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Those schools have dedicated indigenous education ○ Want direct involvement in the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Site tour of Musqueam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intermediate kids ● Great speakers there 		
<p>5. DPAC Rep Endorsement (5 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read the letter from Elizabeth, attached below ● Was unanimously endorsed by the PAC 	EK	7:00-7:02
<p>6. DPAC update (5 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last meeting focused on recognising and treating comas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resources in this folder ● Inclusive education sub-committee meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ VSB has no written procedures for inclusive ed., just quotes the ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Which has not done anything ○ No information for parents, steps, rights, contacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Up to parents to advocate for their children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only if they know what they want or have the energy to do so ○ No procedures, just policy ○ VSB hard to navigate ○ The sub-committee is drafting a response to the VSB ○ VSB underspent \$1million on inclusive education and that money went back to the admin ○ Dyslexia screening funding also not spent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It was removed in 2018 ■ Why? ■ Shirking of accountability ● Larger concerns for VSB renting out school space and acting as developers ● Stakeholders all push-back to protect their own membership any time there is a budget cut ● Teachers don't want resource teachers to be teachers ● What should a VP do, in an ideal world? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They would be just a resource teacher ○ IEP development, PE prep, helping the teachers ○ Currently the VP has 33% admin time, rest is teaching 	KR	7:02-7:15

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the VP is in a classroom, they can't be in a meeting or a school-based team ● Huge turnover at the district level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ District principals are moved to a parallel portfolio or a new district, climbing the work ladder ○ There is a disconnect between the staff at VSB HQ and the schools ○ 20 district principals, 0 of them connected to schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bureaucracy not in the kids' interest ● All the is why DPAC advocacy is so important 		
<p>7. Hot Lunch (5 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Going well ● Need more hands for White Spot day May 22 ● Reports about most-ordered items to come next meeting 	MJ	7:20-7:21
<p>8. Upcoming Events, Fundraisers, and Volunteer Opportunities (15 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both Emily and Christine leaving and will need to be replaced ○ Some folks have already come forward for Treasurer ○ Chair is a job that needs to be split, OR we need one chair and 2 vice-chairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Katherine said that if absolutely no one steps-up, she will do it, because it needs to be filled ■ Will alleviate stress ○ If there are vacancies in September, we can target the incoming Kindergarten parents ○ Meet the Teacher can be a big push that Jason will help with ○ Suggestion for PAC reps from each division for next yeat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Don't make it voluntary ● Movie Night, May 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costco shop, pizza run, concession, set-up, cleaning ○ Could use extra help ● Sports Day, May 29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Costco trip, sorting snacks ○ Most volunteer posts filled already ● Volunteer appreciation tea June 2 ● Staff Lunch, June 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flowers ○ Might go over budget, but unlikely ● Spring Fair, June 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ set-up, takedown, activity leads, concession ○ Katherine will do a limited edition print run of the posters to sell for fundraising 	TW, EL	7:21-7:35

<p>9. Communications / Other items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Garden Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Garden parents have continued with our Friday sessions for CR teachers. Our spring time schedule as us holding a session every other week to plant, weed, generally up keep our garden boxes. Our sessions generally consist of three activities – one gardening activity, one craft and one tasting. ○ The development of the beds between the playgrounds is complete for the spring/ summer, we will do more planting in the fall ○ One garden parent attended Welcome to Kindergarten and garnered some volunteer interest. ○ We have provided content for the Jason’s school newsletter – update and photos (thanks to Elaine and Abeer) ○ The west coast seeds fundraiser made \$624 for the club ○ We also submitted for the Whole Foods garden grant again (potential \$3500) – expect to hear in July/August 2026 ○ We received the Bulbs4Kids allotment again for this year ● Email from concerned grandparent about the lack of shade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Willing to donate to provide more cover ○ How to execute shade/cover? ○ Need to cost it out, add to grounds discussion ○ So far no solutions look promising, but email with ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Retractable awning? ○ Where kids play and use the site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ but maybe something that attaches to already existing structure like the earthquake storage ■ Make sure it doesn’t restrict other play ○ More trees near the field to add shade to gravel area, too ○ Moodyville Park sails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Attached to playground structures ○ If \$vb comes then we can make something happen ● On Our Way to Kindergarten last week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Great responses ○ Cookies are for closers ● Targeted emails to get PAC reps from each division? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Which meeting do you want to come to? ○ Get in early (K parents) and set responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Affecting positive change ○ “It’s not too late” to send to parents with older kids ○ What skills do you have that you want to share? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Through the lens of helping kids and other parents ■ Might garner broader and general involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improve the community ● Send an email to parents to remind kids to wear helmets on electric scooters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lime scooters are supposed to be 16yrs + 	<p>EL, TW, etc</p>	<p>7:35-</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recently a 16 yr old went brain dead from crash while on a scooter, not wearing a helmet ○ Generally road safety still good to teach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Reminder to parents 		
<p>Action Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Craft an email to remind staff to use their stipends ● Outdoor classroom is an important idea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1) what prevents teachers from using the grounds for education outdoors? ○ 2) what would encourage their use of the outdoors? ○ Tegan to send an email of the above to Jason who will forward it to the teachers. ● Reports about most-ordered items to come next meeting ● Send an email to parents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lime scooters are supposed to be 16yrs + ○ Recently a 16 yr old went brain dead from crash while on a scooter, not wearing a helmet ○ Generally road safety still good to teach 		

Summary of my work on DPAC Executive since the start of my term, July 1, 2025

Over the past ten and a half months my primary objective on DPAC has been to move forward the work of the Executive and provide support for parents' queries, concerns, and initiatives.

To these ends I have volunteered:

- to be on an ad hoc Executive policy committee
- to lead a DPAC General Meeting on the topic of Math instruction
- to be on an ad hoc bylaw committee
- to lead a privacy breach investigation
- to create a new website for DPAC
- to become DPAC Secretary when the former DPAC Secretary went on leave
- to revive the DPAC Newsletter, not written or distributed since May 2025

I have fielded queries from parents and directed them to appropriate resources or individuals on:

- the issue of sibling priority in VSB schools
- how to navigate relationships between PACs and school principals
- how to navigate concerns about PAC mismanagement
- the use and management of school-approved electronic devices in schools
- the sale and disposal of school property
- DPAC General meeting topics
- requests for strategies on how to effectively advocate to the VSB

Currently I sit as the primary representative on the VSB's Advocacy Committee and Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) Committee. I also sit as the alternate representative on the VSB's Policy and Governance Committee and Education Plan Committee.

DPAC has been through a transitional year in 2025/2026 and so one of my goals for 2026/2027 is to continue building a strong and stable DPAC. Another goal is to continue building the DPAC community through newsletter submissions from PACs informing the wider PAC community about initiatives in their own respective schools. I also have particular interest in creating resource documents on how to navigate the VSB system of meetings and public delegation meetings for more parents to understand this other avenue for having their voices heard directly by Trustees and the Administration.

I hope you will endorse me to continue in this work on DPAC.