

Burnaby District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, November 17, 2025

Time: 7:06 PM–9:08 PM

Location: Burnaby Central Secondary

Executive Present: Paul Kwon (Chair), Vivien Gomes-Pollon (Vice-Chair), Brock Stephenson (Secretary), Ruchika Nankani (Member-at-Large)

Regrets: Heide Baer (Treasurer)

School District and Trustees: Karim Hachlaf (Superintendent), Lucky Saini (District Principal for Education & Technology), Kristin Schnider (Chair, Board of Education Trustee)

1. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Land acknowledgement delivered, recognizing that the meeting took place on the unceded, ancestral lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

3. Presentation: Trustee Kristin Schnider

Role: Chair, Burnaby Board of Education, Trustee.

Purpose: Post-May 27 budget update and overview of current advocacy work.

Budget Advocacy (Provincial)

In June, Trustee Schnider presented Burnaby's key funding concerns to the Select Standing Committee on Finance & Government Services, including:

- Inadequate funding for temporary resident enrollment after Sept. 30.
- Need for full funding of all costs associated with provincial collective agreements, particularly unfunded benefit premium increases.
- Inequities in the Classroom Enhancement Fund allocations between districts based on district that protected classroom reductions.
- Burnaby's board also collaborated with the BC School Trustees Association to amplify these concerns at the provincial level.
- Portable funding envelopes

Advocacy (Local Government & Federal)

Board continues direct engagement with City of Burnaby regarding capacity, portables, and long-range planning. Trustee noted monitoring of the recently passed federal budget for implications on:

- National School Food Program (maintained, not expanded).
- Possible impacts to IRCC settlement worker funding due to federal cuts.

Q&A Themes:

Parents raised:

- Confusion regarding elementary band program continuity
- Concerns about communication gaps leading to parallel efforts by school groups
- Desire for clearer strategy on advocacy timing and parent mobilization
- Questions on vertical schools, new school capital projects, and enrolment projections
- Clarification on attendance management program (projected savings of \$500k preventing further cuts)
- Concerns about user pay model of education
- Question on how New West got a new elementary school while Burnaby lives with retrofits

Trustee Schnider agreed to:

- Take back questions on band program coordination
- Encourage improved communication from district staff
- Provide follow-up through DPAC
- Reiterate that DPAC advocacy is autonomous and valuable

ACTION: DPAC will collect topic suggestions and forward them to Trustee Schnider.

4. Presentation: Lucky Saini, District Principal for Education & Technology

Topic: "AI in Schools & Digital Literacy"

- Differences between data-driven and generative AI
- Impacts on student learning
- Research on effective use of AI: feedback, prompting, research support
- Risks: bias, inaccuracy, privacy, algorithmic manipulation
- Need for digital citizenship education, parent education, and age-level boundaries

District is developing:

- Guidelines for AI use
- Teacher training
- Parent workshop in new year (to be shaped by DPAC feedback)

Q&A Themes:

Concerns about:

- Risk assessment
- Accuracy and hallucinations
- Cognitive impacts on learning
- Mental health and safety risks
- Environmental costs of AI
- Equity: parents without tech knowledge or students without home devices
- Age-appropriate use and privacy of minors

Requests for:

- Sharing Lucky's slides publicly
- Considering broader tech literacy for parents
- Stronger ethical framing, including environmental impacts

Lucky welcomed feedback and emphasized:

- District is *not* rolling out student AI tools broadly
- Current priority is staff training + literacy building
- Parent feedback will shape the January/February district-wide workshop

ACTION: DPAC will collect questions and topic suggestions and forward them to Lucky.

Break

Five-minute break taken at 8 PM.

5. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was introduced.

Amendment Proposed: A standing agenda item for all future GMs: Tabletop Roundtable Discussion (10–12 minutes) at each meeting.

MOTION: To add the roundtable item as a standing agenda item beginning January 2026.

Moved by: Moscrop Secondary
Seconded by: Buckingham Elementary
CARRIED

Agenda approved as amended.

6. Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2025 General Meeting

Moved by: Buckingham Elementary
Seconded by: Brantford Elementary
CARRIED

7. Unfinished Business

Constitution & Bylaws (C&B) Update – Melanie Wilkins-Ho (Guest)

Melanie, former C&B committee lead (2024–25), presented background on last year's work:

- Current C&B (2011) has significant gaps and structural issues
- Draft prepared in April 2025 represents a full modern rewrite

Recommended approach:

- Replace entire document with a new one
- Focus first on structural clarity, roles, elections, committees, membership authority

Clarified legislative context:

- School Act Section 8 (PAC) and 8.5 (DPAC)
- One DPAC rep per school, elected by secret ballot
- Term length: one year
- DPACs autonomous from principals/administration

Identified improvements needed:

- Clearer roles
- Defined dispute resolution
- Digital asset management
- Proxy logic for DPAC representation
- Hybrid meetings
- Committee structure

Answered questions re: Robert's Rules, BCCPAC guidance, and parent education needs

ACTION: Executive to issue a call for C&B Committee members.

8. Meeting Behaviour Policy

Discussion Summary:

- Burnaby Mountain noted the draft circulated too late for a November vote. Reminder: policies affecting member rights require one full meeting-notice cycle.
- Members expressed concerns about tone and clarity.
- Executive acknowledged community feedback and confirmed it will revise the document.

Motion:

“To refer the draft Meeting Behaviour Policy back to the Executive for revision, and return with an updated version at a future General Meeting.”

Moved by: Kitchener Elementary

Seconded by: Burnaby Mountain Secondary

CARRIED

9. DPAC Committee Reports

Due to time constraints, members were asked to refer to the Committee Reports included in the meeting package.

10. Parent Feedback Survey Update

Due to time constraints, the full trend presentation was deferred.

- Early trends will be shared in follow-up email to members
- Survey extended to **December 15**
- Principals have been asked to distribute through school newsletters
- Strong encouragement for DPAC reps to circulate widely

11. Show & Tell

- Gilpin: “Kind Mind” initiative supporting student well-being
- Brantford: Received free floorball equipment from the Vancouver Canucks
- Burnaby Mountain Secondary: “High School Musical” school production announced
- Parkcrest: Winter Market coming up Nov 29
- Alpha: Boys’ and Girls’ volleyball teams qualified for provincials
- Edmonds: questions for district
- Chair offered a copy of Dark Cloud to anyone who would like it

12. Adjournment

Moved by: Brantford Elementary

Seconded by: Buckingham Elementary

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Next General Meeting: January 19, 2026.