

District Community Schools Advisory & Coordinating Committee (DACC)

Date: November 6, 2025

Location: Maywood Community School

DPAC Representatives: Vivien Gomes-Pollon, Trinity Bissett

Key Presentations and Updates

Several presentations were delivered by district staff and community school leads, including updates on Burnaby's Community School goals and the October 2024 strategy timelines. Speakers highlighted the collaborative structure between the City of Burnaby and Burnaby School District, with community schools funded approximately 60% by the Ministry of Education and 40% by the City.

Trustee Bill Brassington and Councillor Daniel Tetrault provided updates:

- Trustees are advocating for additional provincial funding to support out-of-school and StrongStart programs.
- The City is advancing sustainable housing initiatives and exploring school safety improvements such as new pedestrian lighting (estimated at \$250K+).

Written reports from district presenters will be provided to the committee secretary.

Main Discussion Themes

The meeting focused on community engagement and inclusion within the Community Schools model. Using the "Above and Below the Line" framework, participants explored visible elements (programs, attendance, partnerships) versus underlying cultural and relational factors (trust, inclusion, access).

Discussion group highlights included:

- Expanding daily after-school program access across all sites
- Improving childcare and preschool availability
- Coordinating programs for siblings
- Encouraging high school student volunteers
- Strengthening parent engagement and presence
- Building trust with community partners
- Developing funding strategies to offset family costs
- Fostering emotional safety and welcoming environments for all children

PAC executives also raised ongoing concerns about EA (Education Assistant) shortages and custodial staffing. District staff noted that the EA training program offered through Burnaby's Adult Education program aims to improve retention and fill casual vacancies.

Community School Review and Recommendations

The committee reviewed the Mini Community School Review, which includes five long-term recommendations:

- Increase youth leadership in community and non-community schools. (*Completed 2023*)
- Expand Community School goals and elements district-wide to meet diverse needs and ensure long-term sustainability. (*Completed 2024*)
- Enhance the “Family of Schools” model to strengthen child, youth, and family connections. (*Completed 2025*)
- Increase competencies of staff and community members through education and development. (*In progress*)
- Maximize available resources for greater impact and equity. (*In progress*)

The remaining two recommendations (#4 and #5) will continue development, with follow-up discussions scheduled for the next meeting.

The session provided a valuable opportunity to ensure parent perspectives are represented in the ongoing evolution of Burnaby’s Community Schools strategy.