

Burnaby DPAC  
General Meeting Minutes  
Date: February 18, 2026  
Time: 7:05 PM – 9:00 PM  
Location: Burnaby Central Secondary- Library

### 1. Call to Order & Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. The Chair welcomed attendees and noted that the focus of the evening was the 2025–26 Amended Budget presentation from School District 41. Members were reminded that:

- February is a look-back at the current year’s financial position.
- April will focus on the proposed 2026–27 Annual Budget, including program-level questions.

### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes & Agenda

Approval of January 19, 2026 General Meeting Minutes  
Moved: University Highlands  
Seconded: Brantford  
Carried

Approval of February 18, 2026 Agenda  
Moved: Second Street  
Seconded: Brantford  
Carried

### 3. School District Presentation

2025–26 Amended Budget (Operating Fund)  
Secretary-Treasurer Ishver Khunguray presented the amended operating budget for July 1, 2025 to January 2026.

#### Key Highlights

#### Enrollment Trends

- Enrollment growth has flattened following three years of significant post-COVID growth (1,000 students/year).

- Current projections indicate small enrollment declines over the next three years.
- Declining enrollment impacts funding, as approximately 90% of operating revenue is enrollment-based.

#### Structural Position

- The district entered the 2025–26 year with a small structural surplus (\$827K).
- Current projection shows a structural surplus of approximately \$966K.
- This is a significant improvement compared to the prior year's structural deficit and \$4.2M in adjustments.

#### Reserves (Unrestricted Operating Reserve)

- Prior projection (Spring 2025): \$40K.
- Year-end actual (June 2025): \$2.2M (better than projected due to one-time savings).
- Current projected year-end reserve (June 2026): \$3.2M.
- Board policy target: 1–2% of operating budget (\$3.5M–\$7M).
- District remains below the 1% minimum target but is trending toward it.

#### Revenue & Accounting Changes

- Increase in total operating budget largely reflects reclassification of school-generated funds (restricted, school-controlled).
- These funds remain controlled by schools and are not available for general district spending.

#### Expenditure Highlights

- Salary line tracking slightly favorable.
- Substitute costs have decreased due to implementation of Attendance Management Program.
- Projected savings from reduced sick leave and substitute use (\$220K realized to date; trending toward projected savings).

#### Cost Pressures Discussed

- Prior year portable costs (\$4–6M) were unfunded.

- Benefits cost increases exceeded original provincial allocations.
- Ongoing inflationary pressures (supplies, utilities, services).
- Deferred maintenance and long-term capital needs noted but not part of the operating fund.

#### 4. Attendance Management Program

District leadership clarified:

- Program is non-disciplinary.
- Focused on supporting staff with higher-than-average absences.
- Intended to reduce disruption and substitute costs.
- Projected savings (\$500K); currently trending toward that projection.

Discussion included clarification that savings come primarily from reduced sick leave and substitute usage across employee groups.

#### 5. Discussion & Member Questions

Members raised questions and comments regarding:

- Long-term sustainability of reserve rebuilding.
- Whether surplus rebuilding delays restoration of programs cut in 2025.
- Transparency around deferred capital and IT modernization costs.
- The impact of enrollment decline on future structural balance.
- Collective agreement funding and benefit cost pressures.
- Equity of cost-recovery model for Grade 7 Band.

Trustees acknowledged:

- 2025 adjustments were difficult and deeply felt.
- The district remains financially constrained.
- Provincial funding structure is a key driver of ongoing pressure.

It was clarified that:

- April 15 will be the session for detailed program-level questions tied to the proposed 2026–27 budget.

#### 6. "What We Heard" Recap (From January 19)

Executive summarized key themes from prior meeting:

- Funding pressures feel systemic across schools.
- Parents want clearer advocacy pathways.
- Questions about where advocacy is most effective (MLAs vs. Trustees).
- Desire for better understanding of budget process.
- Real-life impacts of prior cuts continue to be felt.

Executive noted that program-level questions (e.g., custodial levels, counselling, band) will be addressed April 15 when the proposed 2026–27 budget is presented.

## 7. Advocacy & Engagement Discussion

Significant discussion occurred regarding:

- Parent frustration with perceived limited impact of consultation.
- Provincial funding structure and constraints on school boards.
- The role of MLAs in influencing education funding.
- Challenges with broader parent engagement.
- Potential strategies:
  - Newsletter to summarize key issues.
  - Collecting parent contact information (opt-in).
  - Centralized communication tools (e.g., newsletter, WhatsApp).
  - Clear calls to action.
  - Relational organizing at school level.

Executive committed to:

- Exploring infrastructure for parent communications.
- Investigating technical and privacy considerations.
- Reporting back with options.

No formal advocacy motion was adopted.

## 8. Grade 7 Band Update

District presented a cost-recovery model:

- Approx. \$350 per student annually.
- 28 sessions (90 minutes each).
- Initial rollout at 6 sites.
- Minimum enrollment thresholds required.
- Commitment to scale based on demand.

Members expressed concerns about:

- Accessibility (transportation, scheduling).
- Limited sites.
- Equity implications.
- Whether this constitutes a true replacement for in-school programming.

Chair committed to raising concerns in monthly meeting with district leadership.

#### 9. Upcoming Dates

- March 30 – Safer Schools Together event (Burnaby North)
- April 15 – Proposed 2026–27 Budget Presentation to DPAC
- April 20 – DPAC Special Meeting (budget feedback)
- April 22 – Partner Group Feedback to Board
- April 28 – Board Budget Approval Meeting
- Mid-May – Volunteer Appreciation Event (separate from AGM)
- June 1 – AGM
- Mid-June – Exec Transition / DPAC 101

Committee reports available online.

#### 10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.