

Burnaby District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Time: 7:05 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Burnaby Central Secondary School - Library

Next Meeting: April 15, 2026

Public procedural version. Detailed meeting notes are retained in DPAC's internal records for reference.

1. Call to Order and 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 review of 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

A motion was made to approve the January 19, 2026 General Meeting minutes.

Moved: University Highlands

Seconded: Brantford

Carried

3. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the February 18, 2026 General Meeting agenda.

Moved: Second Street

Seconded: Brantford

Carried

4. School District Presentation: 2025/26 Amended Budget

School District finance staff provided a presentation on the **2025/26 Amended Operating Budget**.

Topics included:

- enrollment trends;
- enrollment-based funding;
- current structural budget position;
- unrestricted operating reserve levels;
- school-generated funds and accounting treatment;
- substitute costs and attendance management;
- benefits cost pressures;
- portable costs;
- inflationary operating pressures;
- deferred maintenance and capital needs.

Key points included:

- enrollment growth has flattened following several years of significant growth;
- modest enrollment declines were projected over the next three years;
- approximately **90%** of operating revenue is enrollment-based;
- the District entered 2025/26 with a small structural surplus;
- the current projection showed a structural surplus of approximately **\$966,000**;
- the unrestricted operating reserve was projected at approximately **\$3.2 million** by June 2026;
- the Board policy target for the unrestricted operating reserve is **1–2%** of the operating budget, or approximately **\$3.5 million – \$7 million**;
- school-generated funds remain school-controlled and are not available for general District spending;

- substitute costs had decreased, with savings partly connected to lower sick leave and substitute usage.

Detailed presentation notes and Q&A are retained in the internal meeting record.

5. Attendance Management Program

School District leadership provided information regarding the Attendance Management Program.

The program was described as:

- non-disciplinary;
- focused on supporting staff with higher-than-average absences;
- intended to reduce disruption and substitute costs;
- currently trending toward projected savings.

Questions were received regarding how the program operates and how savings are measured.

Detailed discussion is retained in the internal meeting record.

6. Member Questions and Budget Discussion

Members raised questions and comments regarding:

- long-term sustainability of reserve rebuilding;
- whether reserve rebuilding may delay restoration of programs reduced in 2025;
- transparency around deferred capital and technology costs;
- the impact of enrollment decline on future budgets;
- collective agreement funding and benefit cost pressures;
- the cost-recovery model for Grade 7 Band.

It was clarified that the April 15, 2026 meeting would be the appropriate session for detailed program-level questions tied to the proposed **2026/27 Annual Budget**.

Detailed discussion is retained in the internal meeting record.

7. “What We Heard” Recap from January 19

The Executive summarized themes heard from the January 19 General Meeting.

Themes included:

- funding pressures feel systemic across schools;
- parents want clearer advocacy pathways;
- members want clearer information about where advocacy is most effective;
- members want better understanding of the budget process;
- prior budget reductions continue to be felt in schools.

The Executive noted that program-level questions, including questions about custodial services, counselling, and band, would be addressed during the April 15 budget presentation.

8. Advocacy and Parent Engagement Discussion

Members discussed advocacy, communication, and parent engagement.

Themes included:

- frustration with the perceived limits of consultation;
- the provincial funding structure and limits on School Board flexibility;
- the role of MLAs in education funding decisions;
- challenges reaching and mobilizing a broader parent audience;
- interest in newsletters or other regular parent communications;
- possible opt-in parent contact collection;
- centralized communication tools;
- clear calls to action;
- school-level relational organizing.

The Executive committed to exploring communication infrastructure, privacy considerations, and practical options for future parent engagement.

No formal advocacy motion was adopted.

9. Grade 7 Band Update

An update was provided regarding the proposed cost-recovery Grade 7 Band model.

Information shared included:

- approximate annual cost of **\$350 per student**;
- approximately **28 sessions**, each 90 minutes;
- initial rollout at **six sites**;
- minimum enrollment thresholds;
- potential to scale based on demand.

Members raised concerns regarding:

- transportation;
- scheduling;
- limited site access;
- equity and affordability;
- whether the model is a sufficient replacement for in-school programming.

The Chair committed to raising these concerns with District leadership.

10. Upcoming Dates and Notices

Members were reminded of upcoming dates:

- **March 30:** Safer Schools Together event at Burnaby North;
- **April 15:** proposed 2026/27 Budget Presentation to DPAC;
- **April 20:** DPAC Special Meeting for budget feedback;
- **April 22:** Partner Group Feedback to the Board;
- **April 28:** Board Budget Approval Meeting;
- **Mid-May:** Volunteer Appreciation Event;

- **June 1:** AGM;
- **Mid-June:** Executive transition / DPAC 101.

Committee reports were available online.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately **9:00 PM**.

Minutes prepared by: DPAC Secretary