



# Burnaby D.P.A.C. AGM Minutes

September 18, 2017

Burnaby Central Secondary School  
Room A206 - Conference Centre  
6011 Deer Lake Parkway  
Burnaby, BC

## Attendance:

### Schools by Zone

#### Brentwood North

- Alpha
- Burnaby North
- Aubrey
- Brentwood Park
- Confederation Park
- Capitol Hill
- Gilmore
- Kitchener
- Lochdale
- Montecito
- Parkcrest
- Rosser
- Sperling
- Westridge

#### Cariboo Lougheed

- Burnaby Mountain
- Cariboo Hill
- Armstrong
- Cameron
- Forest Grove
- Lyndhurst
- Seaforth
- Second Street
- Stoney Creek
- Twelfth Avenue
- University Highlands

#### Central West

- Burnaby Central
- Moscrop
- Brantford
- Buckingham
- Cascade Heights
- Chaffey-Burke
- Douglas Road
- Gilpin
- Inman
- Lakeview
- Marlborough
- Morley

#### Kingsway South

- Burnaby South
- Byrne Creek
- Clinton
- Edmonds
- Glenwood
- Maywood
- Nelson
- South Slope
- Stride Avenue
- Suncrest
- Taylor Park
- Windsor

### District Staff

Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent  
Richard Per, Assistant Superintendent

Wanda Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent  
Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent

### Board of Education

- Ron Burton, Chair (Central West)
- Baljinder Narang, Vice Chair (Kingsway South)
- Harman Pandher (Central West)
- Katrina Chen (Brentwood North)

- Mei Ling Chia (Brentwood North) *at DSAC meeting*
- Larry Hayes (Cariboo Lougheed)
- Gary Wong (Kingsway South)

### DPAC Executive:

- Kristin Schnider, Chair (Cariboo Lougheed)
- Jen Mezei, Vice Chair (Cariboo Lougheed)
- Jocelyn Schonekess, Secretary (Central West)
- Calvin Taplay, Treasurer (Brentwood North)

### Members at Large

- Shams Chowdhury (Kingsway South)
- Stace Dayment (Brentwood North)
- Dave Dye (Cariboo Lougheed)
- Herman Louie (Central West)

Guests: Vicky Ma, Minutes

## 1. Welcome and Introductions: *Kristin Schnider, DPAC Chair*

- Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.
- DPAC representatives were welcomed, and DPAC executive, district senior administrative staff, and trustees present were introduced.

## 2. Board Chair Address: Baljinder Narang, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

- Trustee Narang offered greetings on behalf of Board of Education and a warm welcome to all DPAC representatives, both new and returning. The Board recognizes that when parents, school, community, and district work together, student learning is enhanced. Burnaby has always valued these relationships, and was one of first districts to have a DPAC.
- This school year, Burnaby is starting with 50 new FTE (Full Time Equivalent) teachers, including some former Burnaby students. This year also marks Year 2 of implementing the Redesigned Curriculum for Kindergarten through Grade 9, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of exploration of the Redesigned Curriculum for Grades 10-12. As this process continues, student learning is happening more and more through applied skills in diverse environments.
- The Board recognizes parents' passion and wisdom in preparing students for a changing tomorrow and thanks parents for their support of public education in Burnaby. As always, the Board is looking forward to working together with parents this year.

## 3. Superintendent's Address: Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent

- "A Musqueam Welcome" video was shared. Video was produced by Burnaby Central students and staff, and spoke about their learning associated with carving a welcome post, in collaboration with the Musqueam Nation. The House Post symbolizes respect, reconciliation, and moving forward as a community. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUN4hlG6tA&feature=youtu.be>
- Review of District Summer Activities:
  - High enrolment in the district's summer session - 7500 students spread through 4 secondary sites and 17 elementary sites.
  - Facilities and maintenance work continued. Alpha Secondary – construction is on target for students to move into the new wing in fall 2018. Montecito Elementary - new rooms and library completed and already in use at the beginning of this school year.
  - The International Student Program won the ST (*StudyTravel Magazine*) 2017 STAR High School Program Award for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. Burnaby's program is recognized globally by agents referring students for international study experiences.
  - The Human Resources department worked through the summer. Over the past year, Burnaby has hired ~370 new teachers, so that even with the loss of a number of teachers and administrators to other districts, our staffing remains quite stable.
- BC School Superintendents attended their annual leadership conference, where the new Minister of Education presented the new government's focuses moving forward:
  - **Student Success** – staying the course with implementing the new curriculum; implementing First Nations curriculum and Calls to Action (Truth & Reconciliation Commission)
  - **Leadership Instruction** - building capacity, continued professional development for teachers and administrators
  - **Collaborative Relationships** – building and maintaining strong relationships with parents, Boards of Education, and Superintendents through regular meetings and consultation
  - **Smart Investments** – renewed focus on early learning initiatives and child care, commitment to review funding formula, funding for basic school supplies
  - **Learning Environments** – continuing/accelerating seismic and other building upgrades, funding for school playgrounds, supporting mental health initiatives
- Burnaby Board of Education's strategic priorities, which have been in place for the last few years, align well with the province's direction and focus.
- The BBC article "*How Canada became an education superpower*" shares that one of the key reasons for Canada's education success is its focus on fairness and equal access to education, and this resonates with Burnaby school district's approach of equality of access and wrap around care of students. <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-40708421>

- As a result of the acceptance and safety that Burnaby schools provide, students feel empowered to do incredible things. Some recent examples:
  - Burnaby North grad earns prestigious Terry Fox Humanitarian award <http://www.burnabynow.com/community/burnaby-north-grad-earns-prestigious-award-1.21598832>
  - Burnaby's Got Talent event – Secondary students performing and displaying their amazing talents in a variety show format. <http://www.burnabynow.com/news/education/byrne-creek-crooner-takes-burnaby-s-got-talent-1.16058001>
  - Two Cameron Elementary students (11 and 12 years old) invent app to alert people about wildlife sightings in their area. <http://www.burnabynow.com/news/education/burnaby-girls-invent-app-to-keep-people-wildlife-safe-1.20300498>
  - “Making a meal out of math class” - Burnaby South teacher Amos Lee taking math students to restaurant to apply math principles. <https://issuu.com/burnaby-now/docs/bbywed20170614> (page 17)
  - Partnership between the Burnaby Fire Department and the district's career programs, to provide students with a chance to try career related activities first hand. <http://www.burnabynow.com/news/education/students-test-their-mettle-at-burnaby-fire-department-s-first-youth-academy-1.21097439>
  - Kristin Schider, DPAC Chair, speaking to the importance of parent involvement and the positive relationship between DPAC and SD41. <https://issuu.com/burnaby-now/docs/bbyfri20160909> (page 11)
- “Samsung Solve For Tomorrow” video was shared in closing, as an example of students thriving and supporting other students in our district. Burnaby South Rebels Media team collaborated with BCSD (BC Provincial School for the Deaf) students to create a tactile speaker device (watch band format) that allows students to feel the beat of the music. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvtC5nXhQsQ>
- We are in good hands – our Burnaby students believe in and are actively living out acceptance, inclusion, and innovation.

#### **“A Platform for Sharing” - Launch of New Website: Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent**

- In the last year, senior administrative staff have held conversations around some key themes – Education is everybody's business, inventing the future, bold leadership, and building capacity and succession for all roles. In Burnaby, our Mission Statement informs our strategic priorities, which in turn shape our district and school structures, initiatives, and programs. How all of these work towards innovation, improvement, and learning are outlined in the district's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, a 90-page document, available on the district website. Senior staff considered how to most effectively “tell what we are and what we offer”.
- The result of these conversations and work is a new website “*Inspiring Excellence*”, designed to share the stories in the district that highlight all the parts of the district's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning in a practical, effective, and engaging manner.
- Website is currently in Beta testing, with work still being done on layout and design. Go live date is targeted for November 2017. Format will include 8 broad categories, under which stories from individual sites or district initiatives will be posted, including articles and videos.

**Q:** If website is in Beta form, are parent representatives able to view it in its current state?

**A:** Roberto will send the URL to DPAC executive; however, parents are advised that content and layout are still in constant flux. When the website goes live, the Beta URL will no longer be viable.

**Q:** How long will a story reside on the site?

**A:** There are no current timelines for story removal/archiving. Newer stories will automatically pop to the top of a category. However, as time progresses, if the number of stories becomes unwieldy, a cut off window may be established.

**Q:** As the new website seems to be similar in style to social media sites, will there be opportunity for viewers to “like” or comment on stories?

**A:** District is being careful to pace the release of functionality. Each story is currently set up as a blog post, so the potential to incorporate comments/likes exists, and may be implemented in the future.

**Q:** Will this new website incorporate updates on current concerns, e.g. recent concern in other districts over water quality in schools?

**A:** Updates, policies, and general information will remain on the current SD41 website. The new website will be built around the role of sharing stories. The idea is to connect everyone in the district, show how our work connects to our priorities, and to share what is going on in our schools.

**Q:** Will the new website be promoted on current district/school websites?

**A:** A link will be added to the district site. Also, schools will be able to provide a link for specific articles on their school websites. All featured stories will link back to this new website.

#### **4. MyEducationBC (MyEdBC) Family Portal Update: Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent**

##### Secondary Schools:

- MyEdBC has been rolled out to all secondary schools in the district and is fairly well subscribed to by parents. The portal was used to deliver all Grade 8-11 report cards digitally in June (Grade 12s received paper reports) and will be used for reporting for 8-12 right from first term. Minimally, all secondary sites will use the portal for student scheduling, attendance, and report cards. MyEdBC offers a lot of other reporting functionality, but the extent of use will be teacher dependent, and will hopefully grow as teachers become more familiar and comfortable with it.
- One of the features of the portal allows parents to request automatic updates (e.g. attendance), but this was turned off recently by the province. The district is working with the Ministry on this.

##### Elementary Schools:

- Currently, MyEdBC lends itself to secondary style report cards only. The district has an elementary report card that meets the interim reporting order requirements and has trained staff to this reporting structure. In anticipation of a finalized reporting order coming soon from the Ministry, the decision is to keep the current reporting structure until then. Once the accommodations have been made in MyEdBC for whatever the new reporting order will be, elementary reporting will transition to the portal. Right now, district is working to transition all elementary schools to using the portal for attendance only.

**Q:** Does the MyEdBC portal have the capacity to incorporate e-portfolios and different ways to communicate student learning?

**A:** The portal does have some capacity for this kind of reporting, and it is the district's belief that with the new reporting order, some of that functionality will become embedded in the portal. However, some schools may still choose to use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor for this kind of reporting (e.g. *FreshGrade*).

#### **5. Table Top Activity**

- DPAC representatives were asked to consider the following questions, and input was recorded by zones and submitted to the DPAC executive.

*“What are the challenges your PAC is facing? How are you looking to overcome these challenges? How can DPAC support you?”*

*“What would you like to get out of DPAC this year? What do you want to hear about/learn about at general meetings?”*

Break 8:20 – 8:30 pm

## 6. DPAC Updates

- a. DPAC Executive Vacancy – Kingsway South Zone
  - Anyone who is a current DPAC representative in the Kingsway South Zone and is interested in sitting on the DPAC executive this school year, please email [info@burnabydpac.com](mailto:info@burnabydpac.com) or speak to any current DPAC executive member. Workload is not onerous - a couple of extra meetings per month plus some email correspondence.
- b. Parent Information Evenings (PIEs)
  - **PAC 101 – Wednesday, September 27 at 7 pm, Burnaby Central, Room A206**
    - Workshop will benefit returning executives needing a refresher or wanting to discuss PAC challenges, parents new to the executive role, or those curious about PAC roles.
    - Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2017-pac-101-workshops-tickets-25500950028>
  - **Treasurer’s Workshop Presentation at the October DPAC Meeting**
    - Workshop will provide an essential understanding of PAC finances to all PAC members.
  - **Raj Dhasi Presentation – Thursday, November 2, 2017**
    - Vendor fair will be included at this event. More information to follow.
- c. BCCPAC (BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils) News
  - BCCPAC is a non-partisan organization that is the recognized provincial voice of parents. BCCPAC is in conversation directly with the Ministry of Education, advocating for parent concerns and issues. Jen Mezei, Burnaby’s DPAC Vice Chair, is the BCCPAC President this year, and Jocelyn Schonekess, DPAC Secretary, is an active volunteer on many BCCPAC committees.
  - Reasons for PACs to join BCCPAC:
    - Access to many additional resources for parents
    - Timely and regular updates on Ministry of Education decisions/actions
    - Automatic notification of surveys and other ways to provide input to the Ministry
    - A vote at the AGM, giving your PAC a voice at the provincial table
    - Eligible to apply for a scholarship for a Grade 12 student at your school. (Last year, a Moscrop student won the scholarship.)
  - Reminder that Annual Membership Fees (\$75) are due by **December 15, 2017** if PACs would like voting privileges at the AGM in the spring.
  - **Survey of Special Needs Parents:** Shortage of staff at schools (resulting from scramble to hire staff to meet restored contract language) has resulted in a concerning number of special needs students not being able to attend school on days when designated staff are absent. BCCPAC will take survey data back directly to the Ministry, and expects the Ministry to address this urgent issue directly. Please share to parents via school listserv or social media. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCCPACFullDaySchool>

## 7. At Our School – Show & Tell

### Parent Education Opportunities (in order of date)

- Burnaby South Secondary – “Understanding the Teen Years – How to Communicate and Connect with Your Teen” Presentation with Patti Drobot, Gordon Neufeld Foundation: Wednesday, October 11, 7 pm at the Michael J. Fox Theatre. 300 tickets available to district parents. Event is free but registration is required. <https://understandingteenyears2017.eventbrite.ca>
- Burnaby Mountain Secondary – “Unlock Your Future – The Key to Scholarships” Presentation with Brittany Palmer: 7-9 pm, Thursday, October 12 in Gym 2. 350 tickets available to district

parents. Event is free but registration is required. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/unlock-your-future-the-key-to-scholarships-tickets-37879206727>

- **Stoney Creek Community School - *On-Line Security for Elementary Age with Jessie Miller:*** Wednesday, October 18. Open to all Burnaby parents. Info will be on DPAC website.
- **Gilpin Elementary – *White Hatter Presentation on Internet Safety, Elementary Focus:*** Wednesday, October 18. If event opens up to district parents, information will be forwarded.

### School Events – Sharing to Inspire

- **Armstrong Elementary – *Identity Showcase:*** The school is holding an Identity Showcase, where each child and staff member will have a chance to share unique aspects of their identity – hobbies, likes/dislikes, way of thinking, etc. Parents may also participate. The goal is to build connection and community. Armstrong is also hosting an immigrant support program, start 1<sup>st</sup> week of October, every Wednesdays for 10 sessions.
- **Edmonds Community School – *Welcome Back Party:*** Our back to school welcome was hosted on Saturday, September 16 and was a great success. South Burnaby Metro Club (SBMC) was on site running soccer for the students.
- **Forest Grove Elementary – *3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community Lunch:*** This is an event connecting the school garden to the whole school, thanks to a *Farm to Cafeteria Canada Grant*. Students help prepare and serve a hot lunch to whole school community, using produce from the school garden. Local chef Scott Jaeger from the Pear Tree Restaurant will be brought in once again to connect with students. **Farm to School Grants** enable schools to purchase salad bar equipment to add to their hot lunch program. Grant application deadline is October. Details here: <http://www.farmtocafeteriacanada.ca/our-work/farm-to-school-month-canada-2017/>

### Upcoming Open School/Community Events

- **SBMC Soccer – *Free Training Sessions:*** SBMC is providing free training sessions to new and returning players. For times and locations, see link. <http://www.sbmcsoccer.net/training.html>
- **Second Street Community School – *Annual Celebration of Aboriginal Culture:*** Wednesday, October 18. If able to open event to other schools, information will be forwarded to DPAC.
- ***The Walk for Reconciliation Walk – Walk with the School District:*** Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Meet between 8:45-9:30 am at W Georgia Street and Hamilton Street, downtown. All are welcome to attend – the district is registered as a team. More information and sign up here: <http://www.sd41.bc.ca/blog/2017/09/11/we-are-all-one/>

### 8. Questions & Answers – none

### 9. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm by Kristin Schnider.

WEBSITE – [www.burnabydpac.com](http://www.burnabydpac.com) Email your events to be published.

COMMUNICATION – Email [info@burnabydpac.com](mailto:info@burnabydpac.com) or [chair@burnabydpac.com](mailto:chair@burnabydpac.com)

FACEBOOK – <https://www.facebook.com/BurnabyDPAC>

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