



Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2022

Online Zoom

Burnaby D.P.A.C.

Burnaby Central Secondary School
Room A206 – Conference Centre
6011 Deer Lake Parkway, Burnaby, BC
info@burnabydpac.com
chair@burnabydpac.com

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

- Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent
- Russell Horswill, Secretary-Treasurer
- Ishver Khunguray, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
- Roberto Bombelli, Assistant Superintendent
- Beth Applewhite, District Principal of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- Rob Smyth, District Principal of Indigenous Education
- Richard Per, Assistant Superintendent
- Jason Brown, Manager, Finance & Budgets

Board of Education

- Jen Mezei, Chair (Brentwood North, Kingsway South)
- Bill Brassington, Vice Chair (Kingsway South)
- Gary Wong, Trustee (Central West)
- Peter Cech, Trustee (Brentwood North)
- Christine Cunningham, Trustee (Central West)
- Larry Hayes, Trustee (Cariboo Lougheed)
- Ryan Stewart, Trustee (Cariboo Lougheed)

DPAC Executive

- Ashley Sandquist, Chair (Brentwood North)
- Laura Ward, Vice Chair (Cariboo Lougheed)
- Alfred Romann, Treasurer (Kingsway South)
- Calvin Taplay (Brentwood North)

Members at Large

- Christine Nguyen (Central West)
- Esther Norcott (Central West)
- Lisa Young (Cariboo Lougheed)

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement: DPAC Chair

- Meeting was called to order at **7:00 pm**
- Rob Smyth: Land Acknowledgement, honouring and remembering the relationship between indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. A dialogue between students and adults. An age-old tradition visitors followed, exchanged gifts from different nations and by doing so taught who was on the land before colonization. Burnaby is a diverse nation. Through the teachings about the land, we continue to receive the gifts – the more we learn about the land, the stronger we become. Honouring all those who've travelled the land prior to colonization and continue to offer those gifts. Of land acknowledgement.

2. Introductions: DPAC Chair

- DPAC Chair greeted all the attendees and introduced the panel of district staff, board members and DPAC executives.

- Gina Niccoli – expressed grief to Byrne Creek community, tremendous loss of a beautiful child. Thanks to DPAC, Maria Gunner, meeting PAC representatives, the support of the community with the city; Nick – District Principal of Safety – critical incident and response team.

3. Anti-Racism Survey Data Sharing Session: *Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent, Beth Applewhite, District Principle of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion; and Rob Smyth, District Principal of Indigenous Education*

- Board of Education passed a motion to present a very broad.. info gathering exercise before putting together a community engagement action plan.
- Beth presented a detailed view of the process.
- Enormous challenge, but a great opportunity
- 11,000 survey response; nonetheless people engaged in the survey. Mattered to people who took the time to share.
- Raw data “Racism in BurnabyNow.com” – Cornelia Naylor. It was not meant to neutralize. It was difficult to hear and listen too. It is the reality of what’s in our schools and offices but it was people’s truth
- Burnaby Surveys were more than Vancouver & Surrey combined
- Didn’t have as many students or volunteers as hoped.

PRESENTATION – Purpose to Listen and Really hear the stories

- What are your experiences with racism..? (Staff)
 - Micro-aggressions, sexism, Being gay
 - Student to student & othering International – students repeatedly making racist joke
 - Role of leadership – representation; slurs, jokes, institutional for the most part
 - Lack of awareness & denial
- What impact has racism had on you..? (Staff)
 - Many staff acknowledge the need for education, training – we need to help students feel accepted
 - Some staff fear and mistrust leadership – no trust because no diversity in the board; makes me feel cautious to speak my truth (easier to stay silent); mindful of my concerns
 - Racism causes emotional stress, mental health issues and physical stress – district counselling is not enough
 - Lack of awareness affects everyone – I’m part of the privileged
- What would you like staff to know...? (Students)
 - There is a culture among peers that normalizes racism – racist slurs and jokes are disregarded
 - Lack of response to racism by staff – many racism incidents are seen as not being dealt with by staff
 - Racism has intense emotional impacts – racism makes me feel insecure
 - Staff and School can contribute to racism – curriculum should have a more global view
 - Many students lack awareness on the impact of racism
- What questions do you want to ask about racism? (Students)
 - How do we recognize racism? – when will it end, why are people’s beliefs so strong?
 - What training do teachers have? – all teachers should discuss racism
 - How does the District plan to take action? BIPOC student support? How to combat racism, instead of participating in performative activism?
 - A strong sense of frustration felt.
- What experiences have you had...? (PARENTS – 2021 survey results reflective)
 - Anti-Asian Hate Crime (2021)
 - We still have work to do – prevalence of comments stating “racism is not a problem”; consistent concern amongst non-BIPOC; it’s the adults that think racism is a problem
 - More Diversity, Inclusion & Cultural Sensitivity Training Needed – little diversity on the board, more youth counselors
 - Many personal accounts of racism & discrimination – some parents have experienced racial misunderstanding because their child was learning English

- What is something you would like to see change or improved in community...?
 - Awareness & Understanding
 - Education, Action, Support & Exposure for the Community – More communication, flyers, more channels to promote Anti-Racism, Increased multi-cultural awareness; educating kids early & often
 - Safe Spaces, Inclusive Classrooms & Learning Opportunities – more diversity, lack of representation, cultural communication
 - Continued Professional, Learning/Training for Educators and Education for Students
- CO-LAB (third party) – Extension into September; provide a completed report and full set of recommendations. The engagement process is in progress, but the report will come later.
- Reflection is what is needed next. All the little things we do, end up not so little after all

CLOSING REMARKS – Rob Smythe

- Justice – Commissioner of the Truth & Reconciliation report. There are no shortcuts.
 - We understand it will be a lot of hard work; how do we get there as a community?
 - Gently lean on the elders to help us understand the knowledge of the teachings
- Carving of the Eagle
 - How much we can learn from the eagle? It's really important for us to look back in order to move forward
 - The gifts you receive... the greater the gift you receive, the greater the responsibility
- Education – Nelson Mandela
 - Embrace education to make change, as educators, share that responsibility
- Elroy Baker
 - Working with families in the schools; he really hopes that the school is seen as a home and house; staff is seen as a family to the students
 - Students in the school feel that sense of protection, care and (belonging) as a family (longhouse); here with each other when faced with challenges, experiencing in joy and celebration
- Matriarch Gina – at top
 - Work together, respect
 - Acknowledge that this can be difficult to hear, appreciate the opportunity to share experience – hope that if you're travelling tonight, really appreciate the opportunity tonight to share with everyone.

4. Approval of Agenda:

- A motion was made to approve the agenda any any modiciations.
- Moved by: **Sally F.** Seconded by: **Alfred R.**

5. Approval of previous AGM Minutes: Only transcripts, so cannot pass the minutes

6. DPAC Treasurer Report: *Statement of Financials 2021-22 and Proposed 2022-23 Budget for Approval*

- Budget 2021-22: Not completed because we don't have all the numbers yet for next year.
 - Didn't spend very much this year, last year and before (all the years of the pandemic)
 - 3 Accounts: Gaming (\$2,500/year), SD from the District (up to \$6,000) topped up by the district
 - Starting this year with \$8,295.77 – need to spend some money so that we can continue to receive gaming grant
 - Starting 2022-23 with more than \$10,000; no in-person meetings and no expenses – only 3 people wanted to go to the DPAC conference, BCC PAC membership expenses
 - Hopefully, we can reinstate in-person meetings, expenses on refreshment, travelling expenses
 - Good financial position starting new fiscal year.
 - **Q. What are the common expenses?** – expenses are normally spent on speakers, events, refreshments; generally, we don't have large expenditures. We normally run a small surplus. We would not spend all of \$6,000 in the year. Probably spend \$2,000 of the \$2,500 from gaming

- **Q. Can we spend money on training, more engagement?** – Zoom online training is not the standard; for next year we're open to other options including speakers; get more people on the DPAC executives. Good to spend money on extra things for training.
- **Q. How much time to shadow Alfred?** – it's not enormously taxing; time commitment is about 1 hour per month (outside of meetings). Once pandemic is over, a few things to apply for (gaming and school grant applications). Less busy than the PAC because no fundraisers. Accounts are pretty automated, it's not a multi-national corporation. There are three accounts.
- **Q. Can we do workshops like we used to do before the pandemic?** – similar suggestion, and advocate to support workshops
- **Q. Meetings at school refreshments are on DPAC budget?** – yes, hospitality was included

7. DPAC Updates: *DPAC Reps*

- **Topic Heading:** Flag Raising Ceremony of the Pride Month
 - Part of SOJI committee, Ida Hat international day against transphobia and homophobia
 - Not a lot of committee reports, because it has shrunk

8. At Our School - Show and Tell:

- **Topic Heading:** TELL – first in-person at Westridge
 - In-person audience, masks were requested and spaced out; tickets to reserve the space (only 2 nights, and matinees). It went really well.

9. Questions and Answers:

- **Topic Heading:** Byrne Creek
 - **Q.** Byrne Creek would like to know what DPAC is doing to support the safety of all students of Byrne Creek and Stride Community schools? We sent a joint letter to DPAC executives, school trustees and school officials and have heard back from everyone but DPAC.
 - **A.** DPAC invited Byrne Creek PAC committee to attend the Safety presentation this week; shared it with Sam (she's been reached out by the city). She was given the go ahead to send a delegate. A meeting planned w/the District, Trustees and partner groups for further discussion.
 - A www.gofundme.com page was created to help with funeral expenses

10. 2022-23 DPAC Executive Committee Elections:

- i. Burnaby Central – Name Standing:** Adriana Constantinescu
 - Nomination by J. Marlborough. Seconded: Esther N. Carried unanimously.
 - By acclamation – Adriana Constantinescu
- ii. Brentwood North – Name Standing:** Harinder Parmar
 - Nomination by Esther N. Seconded: Sally F. Carried unanimously.
 - By acclamation – Harinder Parmar
- iii. Burnaby Central – Name Standing:** Kristin Schnider
 - Nominated by: Alfred R. Seconded: Harnek B. Carried unanimously.
 - By acclamation – Kristin Schnider
- iv. Brentwood North – Name Standing:** Ashley Sandquist
 - Nominated by: Alfred R. Seconded: Harnek B. Carried unanimously.
 - By acclamation – Ashley Sandquist
- v. Kingsway South – Name Standing:** Alfred Romann
 - Nominated by: Harnek B. Seconded: Adriana C. Carried unanimously.

- By acclimation – Alfred Romann
- vi. **Caribou Hill – Name Standing:** Laura Ward
 - Nominated by: Manny P. Seconded: Harnek B. Carried unanimously.
 - By acclimation – Laura Ward
- vii. **Caribou Hill – Name Standing:** Lisa Young
 - Nominated by: Esther N. Seconded: Manny P. Carried unanimously.
 - By acclimation – Lisa Young

11. Adjournment:

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.
- Moved by: **Nadia M., UHE** Seconded by: **Harnek B. Gilpin**
- Meeting came to an end at: **8:50 pm**

12. Next Meeting Date: *September 19, 2022*