



Meeting Minutes

March 10 2025

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

Superintendent: Karim Hachlaf

Schools Attendance (bolded names indicate attendance)

Brentwood North

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

Cariboo Lougheed

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

Central West

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

Kingsway South

- Burnaby South
Byrne Creek
Clinton
Edmonds
Community
Glenwood
Maywood Community
Nelson
South Slope/BCSD
Stride
Suncrest
Taylor
Windsor

District Staff

(bolded names indicate attendance)

Brentwood North

Assistant Superintendent:
Brandon Curr

Cariboo Lougheed

Assistant Superintendent:
Richard Per

Central West

Assistant Superintendent:
Roberto Bombelli

Kingsway South

Assistant Superintendent:
Jeanette Laursoo

(bolded names indicate attendance)

Board of Education (Trustees)

Brentwood North

Larry Hayes
Kristin Schneider (Chair)

Cariboo Lougheed

Jen Menzei (vice chair)
Bill Brassington

Central West

Peter Cech
Mikelle Sasakamoose

Kingsway South

Gary Wong
Kristin Schneider (Chair)

DPAC Executive & Members at Large (bolded names indicate attendance)

Brentwood North

Vivien Gome

Cariboo Lougheed

vacant

Central West

Lauren Couture

Kingsway South

Yingzi Feng

vacant

vacant

Adriana

Gaby Maioli

### 1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement:** Gaby Maioli

- Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm
- Acknowledgement: We are fortunate to meet on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Coast Salish nations, Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish people, where we live, work and play.

### 2. **Introductions and Welcome to SD Guests**

### 3. **2024-2025 Amended Operating Budget – offered by Ishver Khunguray**

- (PDF)

Higher costs related to extended health and dental claims: from 9 million to 13 million

Enrollment 26 782 for current school year

COLA (cost of living allowance) increased funding accounts for difference in anticipated and actual teacher costs

2.3 million more than anticipated for substitutes

Carryover budgets - restricted surplus (contracts. utilities rates)

Not needing to purchase portables (going for extended day) moved more money into transfer to operational budget for next year

Financial reserve - down to \$43 795 from starting point for 2024-2025 of \$638 001. This savings account should be 1-2% of operating budget of \$332 420 101 which would be 3.5-7 million

More claims - means higher health premiums

The Board will approve this amended budget tomorrow at their Board meeting.

April 30th partner groups deadline to provide feedback on budget - Trustees will consider this feedback over the month of May. End of May - Board meeting for final approval. A difficult budgeting process is anticipated.

Questions:

Q: What about health and dental increases for next year?

A: They aren't sure about next year and don't anticipate additional funding for next year. Trustees - a motion has been put to their BC AGM to have this funded provincially

Q: Why is the projected rate so different than actuals for substitute teachers?

A: More need for substitute teachers based on increased sick days by regular staff

Q: How many international students are needed and how many spaces are available for them.

A: The block extended schedule is to accommodate local students. It won't allow for the expansion of international students

Q: Teachers and CUPE staff are accounted for in substitute costs. Why is teacher absenteeism at nearly 10%

A: He doesn't have a specific answer for this

Q: What is being cut? Custodians seem to already worry about this.

A: Custodian cuts was to happen next year and will be presented in April. They don't have a funding confirmation for next year yet.

Q: Can parents/guardians receive more context and details and perhaps options when being asked to provide feedback about cuts for next year's budget?

A: Yes, and we have provided a 101 session prior to the actual budget presentation.

#### 4. **Presentation by Burnaby Teachers Association - Alex Peters (President), Ditta Cross (1st VP), and Preet Lidder (2nd VP)**

- PDF presentation

They take direction from their members. Staff reps from each school site meet with elected leaders.

What are their biggest concerns

- daytime custodial cuts as they are major part of keeping schools clean and safe (sweeping for dangerous items/ risks). Cleaning bio hazards.
- Lack of professional resources - outdated texts are not being replaced. Teachers need to photocopy resources, but there is an inadequate paper budget.
- stress and workload is leading to increasing absenteeism/ increased sickness (also when things aren't clean/ germs are spread)

Diverse Learners

- SOGI, Anti-racism, disability justice are front of mind
- Concerns around anti-SOGI rhetoric...less of a problem here (fortunately) compared to some other SDs. Nonetheless, queer teachers aren't feeling supported, are feeling scared.
- Colab report is a challenging read as it speaks to so much more work to do for racially diverse students. EDIR committee is new and hopefully will address historic and ongoing gaps
- Lack of support for students with disabilities

Teacher Burnout - the BTA receives calls every day from teachers who are overwhelmed

- Increasing workload
- Worry for students with diverse needs not having their needs met
- Change in timetabling - need more time to prepare their lessons

Bargaining - every 3 years

- Provincial bargaining begins this week
- There is local and provincial bargaining (only things that don't cost money can be bargained locally...this is already complete).
  - Survey members, talk to committees - to determine their objectives for this round. Ratify objectives at meeting. They didn't make any significant gains. Tough year for BTA - hard to report lack of gains.
- 1/8 block for secondary is for prep, in elementary 120mins/ week
- Looking for anti-discrimination/ anti-racism wording. Less gains here compared to last round.

Welcome to have more collaboration with DPAC. Need to leverage power of parents/guardians together with teachers in order to see the shifts the students need. Encourage us/parents/guardians to be in touch with our MLAs

Q - What do teachers feel about new block schedule. Do they like it?

A: No, it's not going to be great - but they accept it as the only option since we cannot afford portables.

Q - When the BCTF bargains, are gains covered provincially? Is this determined during bargaining?

A - Teachers bargain with employer representative. Benefit provisions are increasing in cost and are being more heavily used. Cost pressures, inflation is not covered. Implications of what happens at bargaining table are not always funded at Provincial level. Things are not connected together.

Q - What are their thoughts on increased absenteeism amongst teachers?

A - Many teachers are getting run down due to workload. More stress means easier to get sick - but also many are too overwhelmed

Q - What is the relationship between the union and the students - for example, why would students receive communication from the BCTF or BTA

A - This would be regarding the FSA campaign - BCPC and BCTF have agreement that the BCTF can send communication about their opposition to FSA testing

Q - Can you provide details about how the workload is increasing? What is the cause if the number of teachers is keeping up with student population?

A - There are more students with diverse needs. Designations are late to come - so this is a stress to primary teachers - as there is no funding for students without designations. Non-enrolling teachers are facing increasing paperwork. The overall underfunded system has year over year impacts. In the last few years we now need to worry about uncertified teachers - this is evidence of the longstanding under-funding. The cost of living creates stress for newer teachers - who are, more than in the past, having to work multiple jobs in their earlier years.

Q - When did burnout ramp up and how does it compare to lack of funding

A - The per student formula has been inadequate for far too long. The compounding impact of this is hurting current teachers

Q - What can parents do?

A - Call your MLA and raise the concern that the per pupil funding formula needs to increase. School underfunding is always a political issue. Use your voices.

## 5. **Approval of Feb 2025 Minutes**

- A motion was made to approve the Minutes and any modifications.
- Moved by: Brantford
- Seconded by: Cascades Heights

## 6. **DPAC Updates and Reports - please look to submitted reports**

- Presentation by DPAC exec - transition and future planning
  - Overview of objectives from Constitution
  - Executive Team:

- Chair - Gaby
  - Vice Chair - Vivien Gomes
  - Secretary - Lauren Couture
  - Treasurer - vacant
  - Members at large - Adriana Constantinescu and Yinzi Feng
- o The former Treasurer, despite multiple requests, has not shared relevant financial information and has most recently demanded not to be communicated with. The executive, no longer able to communicate with him, accepts this as his resignation.
- o 1st call for nominations - as the exec now has three vacancies to fill: two positions from Cariboo Lougheed and one from Brentwood North
  - Paul from Kitchener (Brentwood North) offers to step in
- o An overview/ list of committees is presented(SD Partner Groups - many, and DPAC Sub-Committee)
  - We encourage General Members to get in touch with the Exec if you are interested in these committees
  - The procedures around selecting individuals to act as DPAC representatives on these committees is currently being revised within the C&B updates. At this time, we ask the membership for their ideas/feedback about how to join/ be selected for these committees so that this can be considered within this update:
    - Members need more information about what is involved (what is content, what level of influence do we have, what is time commitment)
    - People need to know how to be an effective representative (not of themselves/ but on behalf of others), and the system needs to support this
    - Proper representation requires planning - and a general survey can help ...can SD send out a survey that covers many of these topics - this will help inform the DPAC "mandate" at many of these decision making tables/ committees
- o Next Steps
  - update C&B - for ratification at AGM
  - ensure continuity of communication
  - Create guidelines and strategy to help future group
  - Continue advocacy
  - Handover of assets
- Second Call for Nominations
- Committee reports - see attached
  - o Accessibility - Oral report by Alison Russell. Priorities from last meeting: want National Accessibility week to be noticed, want each school to have this in their calendar. Want an accessibility champion at each school. Creating an accessibility presentation. How can admin welcome children with accessibility issues. This committee seems to have high awareness on physical disabilities, less so on cognitive disabilities.
  - o C&B - this subcommittee is working hard on this, they have a lead editor Melanie from Alpha and will get a draft to the General Membership prior to the AGM in order to solicit feedback
  - o Budget - Hisham, previous Treasurer has not provided details as noted above. The DPAC is in a tricky spot as without the financial/ budget details we are not able to provide the reporting required by Gaming. This creates uncertainty about our ability to access future grants.
    - Related to this, the Past Chair and Past Vice Chair have not agreed to the handover of any assets. No one on the current exec has signing authority.
    - Trinity is asked if she will cooperate with the new executive by handing over signing authority. She says no - she does not feel comfortable. She also says that she will speak to Gaming, but is unclear about what she plans to share with them. She says

she is going to leverage legal action against the remaining exec members for she believes her removal from the executive was wrong

- Members from floor express their concern - it isn't acceptable that the removed members retain control of funds.
- Members ask her to consider that she is no longer in a position to speak to Gaming as a DPAC executive member
- Trinity is asked to hand over the assets and to move forward so that the DPAC can get back on track. Several people note that the general members will hold the exec accountable and note that she shouldn't decide on behalf of everyone who can and cannot be responsible for the DPAC spending
- Trinity notes that she thinks that she is moral and trustworthy and that the current exec members are not, and that they must have fooled everyone. She leaves the meeting despite members still having questions for her about the hand-over of financial assets/ signing authority
- Motion (by Brantford), (seconded by Edmonds) - for Gabi, current Chair, to speak to the folks at Gaming and speak to folks at the bank in order to try to regain control of funds
  - carried
- Third call for Nominations
  - o Anne from Second Street (Cariboo Lougheed) offers to step in as Treasurer
  - o voting in the two new interested people (Kevin and Anne) will have to take place at the Next General Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:22.

**Next Meeting Date:** April 15 2025

Meeting Minutes Prepared by DPAC Secretary Lauren Couture