



Meeting Minutes

April 15 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: Assistant Superintendent:
Brandon Curr Richard Per

Cariboo Lougheed

Central West

Assistant Superintendent: **Roberto Bombelli**

Kingsway South

Assistant Superintendent
Jeanette Laursoo

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 Gomes

Cariboo Lougheed

vacant

Central West

Lauren Couture

Kingsway South

Yingzi Feng

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement: Lauren Couture

- Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm
- 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. Agenda approval:**

A motion was made to approve the agenda and any modifications.

Moved by South slope, Seconded by Kitchener

Carried

4. Introduction to 2025-2026 budget by Karim Hachlaf

- one of several meetings with partner groups - providing overview of budget setup
- Full budget presentation tomorrow April 16th
- Frame:
 - o Increase in structural deficit - expenditures exceeding annual revenue
 - o 2020-2022 district had unrestricted budget surplus of \$9.9M
 - o 2025/26 budget unrestricted surplus “almost entirely eliminated, continuing downwards”
 - o “We are working to adjust the picture and balance the budget”
 - o This is more than just balancing to net zero: Proposed 3-year plan to begin to rebuild unrestricted surplus (our savings account). “weather the storm and build back fiscal integrity”
- Causes
 - o Funding levels remain primarily stagnant, impacting SD budgets across the province
 - o Burnaby has unique features
 - fast-growing district
 - spent millions of \$\$\$ to accommodate temporary space through portables, paid for through operating and reserve budgets
 - 5-block in high school
 - restrict international student intake - resulting in less revenues
 - increased cost with staff replacement + staff benefits
 - o “The Staggering Number is approximate budget adjustments of \$4.2M.”

- At an operating level this means program, staffing, service adjustments across the entire organization
 - o “Adjustments will be reviewed tomorrow.”
 - o some adjustments not shared, but will be shared with DPAC
 - o No meals at meetings
 - o No meetings during operating hours
 - o increase rental revenue etc
- These adjustments are not all immediate, and will play out for 3 years
- “We welcome dialogue”

5. 2025-2026 Proposed Operating Budget – offered by Ishver Khunguray

- Budget cycle starts in February.
- Funding announcement in March 15 based on headcount
- Operational plan must be in place by July 1st.
- New: April 30: partner groups to provide feedback
- New: Approval process shifted to end of may
- Unrestricted reserve “well below board policy requirements of 1-2% of budget (should be \$3-4M)
- Financial reserve necessary for things like tariffs and economic uncertainty
- Enrollment growth expected to slow down due to changes in federal immigration policy
- Projected decline in international student enrollment means reduced income
- Substantial increase in health+benefit cost - \$13.2M annual vs \$7.2M
- “We are left with an unfunded cost” - happening across all districts
- Replacement cost trending high - current \$16M
- Growing structural deficit and a minimal savings account meaning no buffer
- “how are we going to protect priorities, protect against risk, protect student outcomes”
- Current unrestricted surplus is \$29,760
- Restricted surplus is mainly funds held by the SD in trust on behalf of schools (travel funds, etc), untouchable, with carry-over from year to year
- Growth of roughly 3000 students over 3 years - projected to slow to ~200-300 students per year
- International down significantly. pre-covid 1,480. 2024/25 847. Expected to level off at a maintainable number of 770/year
- Changes to the status quo: 32.35 total staffing change (additions to manage student numbers)
- Reserve projection shows
- “We spent \$7M on portables over the past 5 years.” Capital project approvals are mitigating factors for future. 5-block day also helps mitigate.
- level of adjustments: \$4.2M over 3 years doesn’t solve the problem but gets us partway there

Questions and Answers:

Q: why continued staff increase?

A: Student body increase

Q: The reserve is only at 0.01% at the moment?

A: Yes.

Q: Can we increase tuition for international students?

A: We are looking at it - comparing to other districts. Every 2 years we do an increase of about \$500/student. Market analysis - we can't price ourselves out

Q: Developer levy "insubstantial" to the value of the project. What lobbying is happening to address that?

A: City collects money. SD collects School Site Acquisitions Charge from City. Capped by legislation. Those funds are restricted for the purchase of land. LRFP says more. Lots of school sites identified in Burnaby 2050 plan, "however we don't have the funds to purchase all that land"

Q: So one way that the SD will save money is by reducing or eliminating meals at your meetings, moving meetings out of instructional time to reduce replacement cost?

A: Yes.

Q: Projection slide: First projected year, decrease by \$2M, then quite acceleration in 2024/25. why?

A: Biggest shift is less revenue from international, higher cost benefits, higher benefit, lower local revenue

Q: Meeting not on instructional days. Do we not have to pay them extra?

A: Part is moving meetings to after school, or move to PD days

Q: Projected enrollment: looking back, what did projections look like vs actual.

A: Pretty large discrepancy first year after COVID. Not a lot of coordination between federal, provincial, local. Once we were able to adjust, our projections were better. LRFP was based on this adjusted approach. We are getting a lot better data with more coordination between parties.

Q: Welcome center being moved to schools?

A: Welcome center not touched. District Librarian distributed to schools

Q: What other revenue opportunities does the SD have?

A: Rental income - more aggressive with marketing around newer facilities. Summer programs have been popular. Looking to introduce similar for-pay program during Spring Break

Q: Cost reduction options at admin level? People who get paid at higher end of spectrum - Director, Senior Director, etc?

A: More details will come tomorrow.

Q: Most factors not just impacting our SD. Is the provincial govt giving us more funds to balance the budget?

A: Short answer, no. Board advocates to all levels of government. One positive outcome: move cost of portables to prefab modulars. Kitchener, Brentwood, Alpha, Nelson not coming out of operating dollars. Not only area of advocacy: premium cost of benefits - BC Trustees Association putting forward

resolution to address downloaded cost of agreements made by province. Municipal bylaw changes around transit hubs - 20-storey tower has significant impact. "Short answer is no, but that's not an answer we are accepting."

Q: Schedule: when are we getting the info on the proposed budget?

A: Public meeting 16th April, full list of adjustments published on SD website Thursday morning.

Q: Advocacy - how fruitful is it to engage with incumbents, possible new candidates, have you invited some of them to tomorrow's meeting?

A: Limited money coming from federal govt: IRCC for newcomers, universal school meals program announced - still waiting to cash that check. "The last place we need to be cutting is public services at this time." "There's nothing stopping anyone in this room from asking these questions. The government has a mandate for the next 4 years."

7:55pm - 10 minute break

7. Approval of March 2025 Minutes

- Trinity (Burnaby Mountain) had amendments to suggest but could not pull them up immediately
- A motion to defer the approval of the Minutes to the April 22nd meeting was made
- Moved by: Alpha
- Seconded by: Gilpin
- Carried

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

- **Finance:** the current executive still does not have access to our gaming funds. We cannot spend nor account for these funds. We are very far behind on our reporting requirements with Gaming because we have not access. The removed executive members have not agreed to pass on the signing authority.
- Despite providing the approved Feb minutes where the vote to remove the members occurred, the bank suggests that the general membership vote that we add the current executive members until such time that the conflict can be resolved. The manager suggests we take that vote tonight and approve the minutes tonight.
- Trinity: "Miguel said if there wasn't a conclusion on your side or our side, they would freeze the accounts."
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- Lauren: "The information we have received is if we have minutes approved, they can move forward. Bank recommends having more than 3 people as signing authority.

Discussion

Q: Does this approval need to come from the exec or the general meeting?

A: Lauren: It's a good question, according to our C&B it is the exec that determines who on the exec has signing authority. So normally, this question wouldn't come to the general membership

Q: What are the concerns with how the money will be used?

A: Trinity: "I'm not comfortable with how the money is being used. I'm willing to give it up if we are able to tell the truth about what happened on February 8th. we need an opportunity to speak"

Q: Do you have concerns about how funds are being used?

A: I think it's irresponsible to hand over a bunch of money to people who haven't been honest and ethical

and responsible. That's what I'm asking for.

Q: Are we legally allowed to do this vote? I don't think this is the purview of the general membership.

A: Trinity: yes - this is what the bank asked us to do

Q: Why can't we just vote to add 2 more signatures?

Amended motion: Add two more people to the existing signing authority

for: 6

against: 8

Defeated

- Gaby has requested report from SD for money they manage on DPAC's behalf
- collecting PAC information - form will be up on website so that we know who are your up to date/ relevant contacts
- **May 8 speaking event** - 6:30 to 8:30 "Using Today for a Safer Tomorrow - Digital Citizenship and Online Safety" including a section on sextortion. Event is free and open to all parents and caregivers. PDF included in meeting package. Please forward to your schools.
- Election for vacant Executive seats:
 - Paul nominated for open seat in Brentwood North
- AGM on May 26. Election of exec (and hopefully new C&Bs).
 - Recommend PAC AGMs to take place before. Consider engaged parents who are moving from primary to secondary
 - Note: School Act mandates one DPAC rep per school regardless of size. We are aware that the existing version of our C&B has incorrect information - this is why it is being revised. There are errors and many omissions
- BCCPAC AGM May 23 to 25th. Online participation. You can pass by proxy. Online proxy must be in by May 14th.
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- Gaming grants: application process has begun and will close June 30th. Link is in agenda. DO NOT LEAVE THIS FOR THE LAST MINUTE! Start your next PAC exec off right by applying ahead of time.
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- Harinder: "I am the elected exec representative from Brentwood North. The February 8th motion was not valid. I have not had an opportunity to speak." Discussion about Harinder's interpretation of the vote to remove executives. It is noted that those minutes have already been accepted, which means that the outcome of that meeting has been accepted. The outcome (removal) has also already been accepted by the SD, the Board, the BCCPAC, Gaming, the BTA etc.
- Election of Paul:
 - Moved: Gilpin + seconded by South South Slope
 - Motion carried

Request by Exec/Lauren: can we ensure that you (Harinder and Trinity) sign the cheques today before leaving so we get the payments done? Trinity & Harinder: Yes.

Trinity: Hisham has handed all the reports to Trinity and Harinder. Trinity will provide reports to exec. Lauren notes, the current exec has not been able to provide ANY budget updates to this membership, and as noted, we are delinquent on our reporting to Gaming. We require these reports immediately.

Vivien: Had casual meeting with local MLA. She suggests speak to your MLA about getting funding for teachers + schools. Please make an appointment with your MLA, or write a letter. Raise your concerns, make yourself heard.

Question: Tried to register for the contact form. What email to use? A: Whatever emails are used for DPAC business. Same with websites: DPAC intends to have links to all PAC websites on our updated website

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Meeting adjourned at 21:05

Next Meeting Date: April 22 2025

Meeting Minutes Prepared by Morten Rand-Hendrikson

Questions for after

Q: "Communication and coordination between city/province has changed"

Q: Rental spaces generating income: Consider the month of August for camps - extend the summer program to accommodate more programs.