

Burnaby District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Location: Burnaby Central Secondary

Meeting Type: General Meeting

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was called to order and a land acknowledgement was provided. Quorum was confirmed.

2. School District 2026/27 Budget Presentation

School District leadership provided an update on the proposed 2026/27 budget and current financial pressures. Topics included:

- provincial operating funding and inflationary pressures;
- enrolment trends;
- employee benefit and operating cost pressures;
- limits on flexibility within targeted and restricted funding;
- proposed budget adjustments for 2026/27;
- counselling staffing changes;
- central service / print shop adjustments;
- the financial impact of a teacher salary arbitration decision.

The District advised that the teacher salary arbitration matter could result in an estimated cost of approximately **\$9.4 million**, including retroactive salary, benefits, and interest. A possible salary differential amount of approximately **\$4.6 million** had been identified in projections, but provincial funding had not been confirmed. District representatives explained that, without provincial funding, the impact would significantly reduce available reserves and could require further budget adjustments.

Members asked questions about the budget, program impacts, reserves, staffing, and the distinction between costs controlled locally and costs arising from provincial bargaining.

3. Parent Questions and Budget Discussion

Members discussed how parents could provide useful feedback during the remaining budget process.

Themes included:

- the importance of clear information about what decisions are made by the School District and what decisions are provincial;
- concern about the impact of further reductions on schools;
- the importance of protecting student supports and basic school services;
- the need for meaningful parent input before final budget approval.

District representatives emphasized that costs arising from provincial bargaining should be funded provincially.

4. Teacher Salary Arbitration and Advocacy

Following the District presentation, members discussed the teacher salary arbitration funding issue and possible parent advocacy.

Discussion themes included:

- directing advocacy toward the Province, Ministry of Education and Child Care, Treasury Board, and local MLAs;
- keeping the message focused on provincial responsibility for provincially negotiated costs;
- avoiding language that placed responsibility on teachers;
- preparing clear, plain-language information for PACs and parents;
- coordinating where appropriate with other education partner groups;
- making it easier for parents to contact elected officials.

Members generally supported further work on parent-facing communication and advocacy materials.

5. Follow-Up Budget Meeting

Members were reminded of the planned **April 20, 2026 Special Budget Working Meeting** to continue discussion and organize parent feedback and advocacy. The April 20 meeting would be a working / strategy session rather than a regular General Meeting.

6. Other Updates

Brief updates were provided on upcoming DPAC activities, including:

- spring budget consultation;
- volunteer appreciation planning;
- June AGM preparation;
- Executive transition work.

7. Adjournment

The meeting concluded following budget discussion and DPAC updates.

Minutes prepared by: DPAC Secretary / designate