

School District Introduction and General Meeting

1. Agenda Update

- Amended Chris to Curtis under Constitution and Bylaws item

2. District Staff Introductions

- Karim Hachlaf, Superintendent
- Roberto Bombelli, Deputy Superintendent
- Richard Per, Assistant Superintendent
- Kelly Chow, Assistant Superintendent
- Ishver Khunguray, Secretary Treasurer
- Brandon Curr, Assistant Superintendent
- Jeanette Laursoo, Assistant Superintendent
- Harpinder Hothi, Executive Director, Human Resources

3. Superintendent's Remarks and District Overview

Board and District Governance

- The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Education were introduced and were present at the meeting.
- The role of the Board of Education is to provide direction to the School District through a five-year strategic plan.
- The Superintendent is responsible for leading the implementation of the Board's strategic plan.
- The School District is the fourth largest in British Columbia, with 41 elementary schools and 8 secondary schools.

District Contacts

- Brentwood North: Brandon Curr; Kathryn Yamamoto
- Cariboo Loughheed: Richard Per; Kevin Brandt
- Central West: Roberto Bombelli; Nick Christofides
- Kingsway South: Jeanette Laursoo ; Kelly Chow

Problem Resolution / Escalation Process

1. Staff member/teacher
2. Principal
3. Director of Instruction / Assistant Superintendent
4. Board of Education
5. Appeal of a Board decision, where applicable

4. Strategic Plan 2025-2030

- The new plan builds on the previous five-year strategic plan.
- It generally maintains the District's existing strategic trajectory while updating the plan to reflect the current context.

Vision

Curious minds, confident leaders

Mission

Engage, educate and empower learners

District Values

- Students First
- Joy and Curiosity
- Truth and Reconciliation
- Belonging
- Collaboration

5. Enhancing Student Learning Report

- The District's Enhancing Student Learning Reports (ESLR) are available on the School District website.
- The Province provides five years of data to support the reporting.
- Examples of measures include literacy scores, numeracy scores, grade transition data, and graduation data.

6. Questions and Discussion

Teacher Absenteeism

Question: What strategies have been implemented to address teacher absenteeism, which was identified as an issue last year?

Response:

- Harpinder Hothi led an initiative focused on reducing absenteeism.
- The initiative had a targeted saving of \$500,000 through reduced absenteeism.
- The initiative met and exceeded the target.

Artificial Intelligence and the Strategic Plan

Question: Does the strategic plan consider the implications of artificial intelligence, and at what level are AI-related issues addressed?

Response:

- AI and technology-related implications are being considered at all levels.

- The strategic plan identifies the need to address digital citizenship and the implications of current technologies for education.
- Strategic direction and vision are established at the Board level.
- The District's senior leadership team then works with school-based staff, including principals and teachers, to implement the direction.

Gradual Entry to Kindergarten

Question: Does the District need to continue the gradual-entry model for Kindergarten? The current approach is difficult for working parents.

Response:

- The District establishes the school calendar.
- Provincially required instructional hours for Kindergarten are 25 hours fewer than for other grades.
- Kindergarten classes therefore typically begin somewhat later than classes for other grades.
- Gradual entry also provides teachers with an opportunity to use afternoons to get to know parents and families.
- Instructional-hour requirements are established at the provincial level.

Follow-up:

- The District acknowledged that it has heard concerns and feedback regarding gradual Kindergarten entry.
- Richard Per and his team will review the Kindergarten gradual-entry program over the course of this year to determine whether changes can be made.

DPAC GENERAL MEETING

Attendance

DPAC Executives

- Vivien, Chair
- CJ, Vice Chair
- Treasurer - Vacant

Regrets: Mike (secretary)

DPAC Representatives

Brentwood North Zone

- Lynne - Burnaby North
- Curtis - Montecito
- Karina - Lochdale
- Sharon - Gilmore

- Sherry - Sperling
- Rowena - Brentwood
- Darwin - Rosser
- Vivien - Alpha

Kingsway South

- Catherine - Lakeview
- Erfan - Edmonds
- Vinod - Stride
- Manrinder - Byrne

Cariboo Lougheed

- Trinity - Mountain
- Courtney - Cameron

Central West

- Fayaz - Cascade
- CJ - Douglas
- Lauren - Gilpin
- Lisa - Burnaby Central

Regrets: Audrey, Forest Grove, Branford, Suncrest,

9. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda with amendments.

- Moved by: Curtis, Montecito
- Seconded by: Erfan, Edmonds
- Carried

10. Overview of DPAC - Vivien

11. Table-Top Discussions: Top Priorities

Kingsway South - Reported by Erfan

- Improvement of academic education
- Impact of AI and technology on education
- Music, arts and language programs
- Budget for support and cleaning staff
- Sports at school / after-school
- Survey parents regarding optimal school start time

Cariboo Lougheed - Reported by Trinity

- Social media, particularly for high school parents
- Constitution and bylaws: every executive and DPAC representative should learn them

- Welcome package for new DPAC representatives
- Cameron school: advocate for more accessible and affordable child care, including after-school care, by partnering with local organizations

Central West - Reported by Fayaz

- Recommend that DPAC be involved in any changes to, or integration of, gradual entry
- Concern regarding a homeless shelter being built near elementary and secondary schools, including Moscrop, Cascade and Inman, and potential school-safety impacts related to drug use near schools

Brentwood North - Reported by Curtis

- Constitution and bylaws
- Increase participation by offering hybrid meetings
- Communication: emails, website and clear points of contact to avoid loss of communication

11. Funding Expenditure - CJ.

Discussion regarding spending \$900 by October 4.

The Treasurer suggested using the funds for a speaker for a mini PAC 101 session and babysitting.

- Moved by: Trinity, Mountain
- Seconded by: Curtis
- Carried

12. Budget - CJ.

The Treasurer presented a draft budget as attached and asked for questions. A motion was made to pass the budget as presented.

- Moved by: Curtis
- Seconded by: Erfan
- Carried

13. Nominations for Executive Vacancies

Nominations were held for the Treasurer and Member-at-Large vacancies.

- Brentwood North Zone: Curtis, Montecito - acclaimed
- Kingsway South: no nomination
- Central West: no nomination
- Cariboo Loughheed: Courtney Diccio, Cameron - acclaimed

14. Public Forum

Members voted to run a public forum if Courtney, as a new executive, could chair the forum.

- Moved by: Sharon, Gilmore
- Seconded by: Lynne, Burnaby North

15. Community of Whole / Burnaby Board Meeting

Members signed up to attend the public Community of Whole / Burnaby Board Meeting, pending the schedule:

- Rowena, Brentwood
- Sharon, Gilmore
- Curtis, Montecito

16. DPAC Speaker Suggestions

- AI talk - Morten, winter
- Genetic counselling: how the environment affects development and mental health - Jeanna, UBC Associate Professor
- White Hat: digital awareness around grooming
- Paul Kershaw, Gen Squeeze Founder - \$2,500