



COWICHAN VALLEY DISTRICT PAC

**Minutes February 15, 2024, 7pm
via in person & Zoom**

6:30 pm - Special presentation on the School Board Budget process with Secretary-Treasurer Jason Sandquist

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DDapa5WxH5hkKhGTzGtUAwGBjeNg4FMHv-QoG3kPD/Bc/edit>

Call to order at 7:12pm

1. Introductions & Acknowledgement

In Attendance:

Voting Members:

Carmen Sundstrom	DPAC Chair, CSS DPAC Rep
Keirsten Tymko	DPAC Secretary, Chemainus El. Secretary & DPAC Rep
Lindsay Stewart	DPAC Treasurer, Ecole Cobble Hill DPAC Rep
Sam Towstego	Crofton El. Secretary & DPAC Rep
Vlad Valastiak	OLPAC DPAC Rep
Hina Charania	Mill Bay Nature School DPAC Rep
Vanessa Phelan	Maple Bay El. DPAC Rep
Joseph Legault	Frances Kelsey DPAC Rep
Reahael Pugh	Bench El. DPAC Rep
Lisa Oczkowski	Alex Aitken DPAC Rep
Maaike McCooley	Discovery El. DPAC Rep
Rosaline Elias	Chemainus Sec. / Thetis Island DPAC Rep

Non-Voting Members:

Jason Sandquist	Secretary-Treasurer
Cathy Schmidt	School Board Trustee

2. Motion to adopt agenda by MBNS, seconded by FKS

3. Motion to approve previous minutes from January 18, 2024 by OLPAC, seconded by MBNS

4. Reports

4.1 Chair

DPAC had our partner liaison meeting with the Board regarding the budget this past Tuesday. Our focus that we gave them was on inclusive ed, indigenous ed, and the grad rates for both, and communication. Last year, the Board approved additional funding for screening and assessments. That resulted in allowing us 12 new EA positions. We asked them to continue funding this area.

4.2 SD Admin - Secretary-Treasurer Jason Sandquist

- Kindergarten registration:



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- All registrations for Ecole Mt Prevost and MBNS were able to be placed
- Lottery was held on January 19th for Kindergarten seats at Ecole Cobble Hill with 9 students on the waitlist
- Registration took place the week of January 22-26 at catchment schools
- The districts projection for 2024-2025 kindergarten registration is 520
 - Proposed 3 year school calendar:
- Boards must make proposed school calendars available for public feedback at least a month before March 31st which is the deadline for submitting the school calendar to the ministry.
- The board has passed a motion for the proposed 3 year calendar from 2024-2027
- The proposed calendars and a public survey are now on the school district website.
- The board of education is asking for public feedback on the 3 year calendar proposal before the deciding meeting on March 5th.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SNKSTQG>

- Pro D day on February 19th
- School messenger is still in its testing period and will be in full use soon!

4.3 Board of Education - Trustee Schmidt

- Wrapped up partner liaison meetings this week that were focused on budget.
- Public consultation on the Cowichan Secondary building / site is complete. Results have been posted. Decisions will be made soon. The new high school is partially drywalled, flooring is in, and some painting has been completed. We are still scheduled for September 2024 open! Once Cowichan Secondary is clear they will be fencing around it. A celebration of the closure will be happening. The date is TBD at the moment.
- Trustee Schmidt attended the gravity car challenge and was very impressed!
- Provincial elections are coming up this fall. BCSTA wants to keep the conversation around education and are working on their 3 main priorities.

4.4 Treasurer

No activity.

General = \$14,509 Gaming = \$2598 Term Deposit = \$9089

4.5 PIE Committee

Committee is on hiatus. Stay tuned!

4.6 Indigenous Committee

Next meeting is next week. On February 23rd, there will be a student-led Indigenous Leadership summit. Update: next week's meeting will be rescheduled. Stay tuned.

5. Old Business

5.1 Election of DPAC Secretary



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Asked for nominations. As there were none, this is tabled until the next meeting.

5.2 Update on Kindergarten registration

All K's who registered for MBNS and Prevost got placed. Ecole Cobble Hill currently has 9 students on the waiting list. For the district, they are forecasting 520 K students and so far 390 are registered.

6. New Business

6.1 6.1 Pedestrian Overpass over Hwy 1

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation-projects/other-transportation-projects/north-cowichan-active-transportation-overpass>

Last week, there was a public consultation regarding the proposed overpass. This is a wonderful idea and will help keep our kids safe. Funding for this project has not been secured. I propose that we write a letter of support to the Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure and "cc" all other interested parties. There was discussion and all were in favor. Deadline to write a letter is by the end of February. Carmen to write a letter and circulate it with the executive. It will be shared at the next meeting.

6.2 BCCPAC Conference & AGM, May 3-5

The Friday conference's theme and content focus is "Back to Basics - Building Capacity". Attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from Minister Singh and senior Ministry staff, and to learn from the BCCPAC Board and other presenters, while also connecting with other parents from across the province. AGM will take place on Saturday and half day Sunday.

DPAC budgeted \$4000 for executive and possibly other PAC members to attend (who are current BCCPAC members). We have enough funds to pay for 4 others to attend - DPAC would cover the registration and hotel costs which would be double occupancy. Discuss with your PACs. If you are interested in attending with support of your PAC, email the DPAC. If there are more than 4 of you then we will do a lottery. The deadline to email DPAC will be **March 8th**. Our current list of schools who are members are: Alex Aitken, Bench, Chemainus El., Chemainus Sec., OLPAC, Cowichan Sec., Crofton, Discovery, Drinkwater, Bonner, Maple Bay, Quam., Cobble Hill, Prevost.

6.2 BCCPAC Parent / Student Awards

Each year there are awards that are given out at the AGM.

Bev Hosker Motivational Award - The award honours a parent who is newly involved in their PAC/DPAC and has taken on a leadership role.

George Matthews Award for Excellence - The award honours a parent whose leadership, dedication, and influence demonstrate to the entire education community the importance of the parent role in the public education system. Recipients are selected on the basis of dynamic and exemplary leadership and inspirational practices that have had



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a major, identifiable impact on parent interest and participation in public education.

Life Membership Award - The award honours an individual who has provided service to BCCPAC and whose contributions are considered to have been innovative and of significant lasting importance for furthering the inclusion and support of parents in the public education system.

Educational Award - The award is open to any Grade 12 student attending a BCCPAC member school who is planning to pursue post-secondary studies (academic, vocational, technical or training). The award honours a well-rounded student who is involved and interested in many things and has an understanding of the importance of parent involvement in education. The recipient will receive an award in the amount \$1,000. Deadline for all award submissions is Feb 28.

6.3 BCCPAC Resolution deadlines

If your PAC is thinking of putting forward a resolution, the deadline is Feb 24th for special resolutions (regarding BCCPAC C&B) or right up until and even on the floor at AGM for ordinary resolutions.

6.4 BCCPAC Nominations are open

This AGM all 10 positions are up for nominations. I really enjoyed my time serving BCCPAC and would encourage any of you to step forward. Deadline for submissions is March 31st.

6.5 BCCPAC Town Hall on Advocacy, Feb 27

This is a free event but you do need to register. The Inclusive Education and Anti-Racism Committees are planning the discussion to seek feedback from membership. Join us to brainstorm and help shape what parent advocacy training might look like!

7. Motion to adjourn at 8:06pm by OLPAC, seconded by MBNS.

Next meeting: April 18, 2024 @ 7:00pm - **with a 6:30pm start - half hour presentation from Nourish Cowichan**

Need to get in touch?

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