

June 2024 DPAC Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at NWSS in the library and on zoom
7:04 pm Meeting Called to Order by Chair

Attendees:

Laura Kwong, Chair/Qayqayt DPAC rep
Cyrus Sy, MAL/NWSS DPAC rep
Krista Macaulay, Treasurer (Tweedsmuir)
Alison Ytsma, MAL (Qayqayt)
Shawn Sorensen, MAL (Qayqayt)
Trustee Cheryl Sluis
Interim Superintendent Sylvia Russell
Carline Alon, Tweedsmuir DPAC rep
Shawn Ribero Howay DPAC Rep
Lorena Cardenas, Connaught DPAC rep
Natalie Taha, Herbert Spencer DPAC rep
Roselynn Verwoord, member
JC Valeros, member

Chair – Acknowledgements & Introductions

Meeting Agenda

Laura motion to adopt as presented, Cyrus second.
Carried unanimously

Minutes from May AGM

Laura Motion to adopt as presented, Carline second.
Carried unanimously

District Update: Interim Superintendent Sylvia Russel

- Code of Conduct Update:

- Implementation of legislation on the use of personal internet-connected digital devices (i.e., laptops, tablets, cellphones, earbuds, smartphones, etc.)
- This legislation comes into place July 1st
- SD40 needs to have language updated in all codes of conduct (individual schools and district)
- Last week Russell sent a letter to all parents alerting them to these changes. These changes will become more obvious as kids come back to school. Orientation will include detailed instructions
- What does this mean for the district? Fair number of documents needed to be adjusted for this legislation, this is in the process and almost done. There are some nuances to this legislation that Russell feels are well thought out. Russell notes, this will be a change for parents.

info@sd40.bc.ca – Russell notes, just recognized this email exists (Laura confirmed unknown from parents). Very few parents have used this, but those who have encouraged the changes coming through – and would like even tighter restrictions.

Russel acknowledges how damaging those devices can be, but recognizes the digital age we live in and that we need to thoughtfully recognize how we embed this in schools. What we see the government trying to do is bring in regulation to the zero-regulation we have had previously.

Slide deck to principals and vice-principals was shared. BC MECC – Ministerial Order No. M89

- You will note in our documents “earbuds and accessories like earbuds” has been put in our policy/conduct documents.
- This is a mandated act by the government, this isn’t a “choice from the district”

Russell has spoken to Mark Davidson about doing a review in late September / mid October. Remembering, that we can’t roll back and not follow the mandate. But there may be things we don’t know or don’t get right.

Question by Laura: what does hours of instruction mean?

Russell: definition in school regulation (School Act), anytime kids are in class – does not mean recess, lunch, or afterschool.

Russell: we are thinking young children, zero access through the day. As kids get older, more choice in access.

Russell: exceptions will always be made for those who use technology in health, learning plans, iep, etc.

Krista: Q – Will teachers be allowed to use phones for ELL with Google Translate

Russel: A – Yes, this also speaks to the emerging conversations going forward that we will have around why adults have higher access to students than students. This could potentially lead to more reflection on our adult’s part. But, noting that phones for adults/teachers/staff/admin is a safety issue and is necessary.

Russell: We don’t want to engage with power struggles with children, so we are laying out very straightforward action / consequence.

Russell: this is already happening and we are well on the way for much of this work, but this legislation is saying is that this needs to be consistently applied across each level.

Russell: in emergencies – like a lockdown – cellphones can be terribly disruptive and we need people not to be using them until the all clear. Children want to text their parents, understandably, but this is a teaching point.

Russell: the storage and safety of device is responsibility of the ownership, more information will come on secondary – we are working with Student Voice and the Technology Club

- Summer Learning 2024 (aka summer school): Update given on goals for Diverse Learners in New Westminster

- This is one of the places that we have really increased instructional time. Especially for our Diverse Learners.
- A phenomenal increase in all levels, elementary, middle, high school and adult full courses
- This is a free offering

Q. Cyrus – On the electronic device restrictions, can you give examples on a classroom level on how this will be enforced? (For example, currently there is such inconsistency in highschool classes restrictions). So when these changes come into place, how really will these be enforced?

A. Russell – part of this will be working with staff. We will have lessons for teachers to follow about this. In each classroom each teacher has a lot of decisions to make. We have set up the steps for misuse that are fairly clear and progressive. In this there is contact with parents and administration coming in to work with them. Perhaps with this laid out more clearly, this will help. But I am not naive enough to believe that this will work out smoothly. However, having a mandate changes things. This isn't the teacher's rules, this is the law.

Board of Education Update – Cheryl Sluis

- Nutrition, we received a report from Rick Bloudell at our last ops meeting. 3% increase in orders since winter. New items and field trip food offers. The district is working closely with newcomers and emphasizing this service, showing how to use online, etc. This is such a needed service for so many in our community. Tweeds and Qayqayt provided direct feedback (through Rick) to Lunch Lady around package changes, reducing waste, and educating families on recycling. Moving forward, we are going to continue our commitment with working with the Lunch Lady. Costs will stay the same, but changes: more protein, seasoning and new menu options. To reduce plastic/garbage, reducing condiments and increasing seasoning in food instead. We will continue with the subsidy actions and student engagement. Some positives the district would like to share in working with this vendor is communication – easy to communicate with, responsive, ordering is easier, and most appreciated by staff is the accuracy and timeliness of deliveries. These are some big reasons why we want to continue this work forward.

DPAC ask – please send every single complaint directly to Rick. This way we can address things immediately.

Childcare Update – We have a new daycare going up in Tweedsmuir and fully expecting this to be full. This is funded by the board of education.

- Qayqayt Education* this is funded by ministry and is a 3 year pilot, we don't know if this will be funded but we are hoping so. There is evidence to support this model and we are doing what we can to make sure this continues.
- Relocation of childcare have been successfully relocated to Tweeds and Howay. This means, those classes in Qayqayt and Fraser are ready in September.
- About 50% of the childcare options we are offering are year round, all-day coverage – but half are not.
- We have 169 spaces that we have opened over 5-6 years. We are proud of the fact that 71% of our facilities are offered by non-profit. Where space allows, we are going to continue to demonstrate our commitment to childcare.

Columbia Square Development:

- there was an open house June 19 where the developer and architects were answering questions from the public.
- Developers and architects are ensuring there is space for a school, but this is not shown in the plans.

Questions:

Shawn – I put feedback into the Be Heard request, I'm getting a different response that the City is NOT responsible for new schools. This is the School's Responsibility.

Cheryl- it is up to us to make sure these conversations are happening and we are working with the ministry to make sure there is an opportunity to purchase airspace parcels in phase 2 or phase 3.

Laura – I also went and asked if there was a plan for school and what processes are in place, but the answer I received from the city was – all we need to do is zoning. Are we getting different response based on who's asking? Personally, I felt like I was shooed away. I hope it is not just lip service.

Cheryl: I went in being clear who I was and Dave Crowe too. I hope for the same thing. That's not great to hear you are getting a different response. This is a bit concerning. We need to force conversations to happen as much as we can. We will let you know if these questions are not happening and if there is a need for more advocacy.

Cyrus: I'm also really curious, from a developer standpoint, is there any precedent for a developer putting into a school into a large scale urban development in the lower mainland of bc. My impression is that this doesn't happen very often, or at all. Why? My expectation is – the developer wouldn't want to fund that.

Cheryl- the developer is happy to sell anyone space, but the challenge is that we are doing work with the ministry to make sure we can purchase when it is built

Natalie – I am wondering about accountability, and how do we ensure this?

Cheryl – I don't know if I have an answer for you, because the need won't be immediate. We need to get these in the plans.

Alison- I too get the same non-answers.

Cheryl – Noted.

Alison – I wanted to add one more thing about the MECC not wanting to fund future needs, in the case where we don't have other options – are we bringing this to the ministry?

Cheryl – yes, we are having those conversations on a regular basis with City partners, the Minister/Ministry, etc. Locally we are meeting with our MLAs on a regular basis so they understand the need, so when they talk with their caucus they are ensuring the community needs are well represented.

Laura – MOECC building Schools Together Brochure – this could be helpful.

Cheryl commented how much Bills 44 and 47 have changed the collaboration we have and the power the City and community has around building.

Krista – Amenity Cost Charges, but really the City will come back to say – we aren't responsible for schools so we won't put this in. So it might be best to go to the Province/MLAs about this, Because that is who holds the power around changing this.

Cheryl – Yeah, this isn't going to go away. This has to be our highest priority.

Laura – Notes that DPAC may have a meeting with MLA Whiteside. Which came from an email after a TownHall from David Eby which was about schools but their conversation only focused on housing. If we do get a meeting set up, we would love to talk about all this with Jennifer Whiteside. If there is support from the board and district staff for some stats/facts we can pull out.

Cheryl – yes, we would be happy to support that!

Chair Report – Laura Kwong:

- Tomorrow is National Indigenous Peoples Day and there is an event at Moody Park from 9:30-2:30. Please join
- I have posted our full survey results on our website and will send to Board/District
- Next week DPAC is hosting naxolone training for all parents/students interested, happening June 27 at 6:30. Please send in your RSVP so we can get your kit.
- We are working on getting childcare for this.
- A few of DPAC made it to the Columbia Square, BeHeard is open. Please encourage your school communities to provide feedback.
- Help for the Hard Times for Families Workshops are happening all summer. They also have a seminar: Transitioning to Post Secondary – on August 7th
- Lastly, we have a PAC Discord Server. Please join. Our Whatsapp group for DPAC reps too.
- Saleema Noon has funding for PACs to put on their programs.

Treasurer Report:

Gaming is at \$3919.09 but should be \$1826.43 after all cheques are balanced out.

Operating is at \$3478.43 but should be \$2728.43 after all cheques are balanced out.

Krista presented our proposed budget for 2024-2025. Noted changes that arised, specifically funding from the Board of Education of \$2,000 for our Operating.

- Laura Motion to adopt the 2024-2025 budget as presented, Carline Second
- Carried 7/12

Committees:

SOGI committee, Laura and Cheryl unable to attend. No update.

Anti-racism advisory committee, Mita Naker sits on behalf of DPAC and sent in some notes (June 6th):

- concern that not all Indigenous nations are being acknowledged
- still more concerns on anti-racism document and how to handle the use of N word (what are we noticing and naming). This is the most used word staff are hearing at schools.
- there will be an AP on how to respond to racism events

School Reports:

Carline (Tweedsmuir) – Few fundraisers, Sports Day PAC supported food, we had our AGM and we have a huge number of execs.

Cyrus (NWSS) – Busy end of the year, lots going on at school with grad/theatre. We had our AGM in May and we had to say goodbye to a few long time members, but got to welcome new members. We have a healthy PAC and I'll be returning as DPAC Rep. NWSS Past Treasurer put a handbook for NWSS, this might be a useful template for other PACS. If our PAC agrees, it would be so helpful to share amongst others.

Natalie (Herbert Spencer) – Sports Day today. PAC Lunch. Grade 5 leaving ceremony. Carnival. Busy! Natalie staying on as DPAC Rep

Shawn R. (Howay) – Final PAC meeting held and executive is pretty much the same. We have added new positions to our execs (coordinators) to help with Fun Lunch, Communications, Fundraisers, Events and so forth.

Shawn S. (Qayqayt) – Freezie Fridays have been super successful. Hectic and intense, but have been quite profitable and well-received. We had a Fun Day because our space is too small to do a Sports Day. Grade 5 Leaving Ceremony is planned. Lots of field trips and end-of-year activities. We have quite a healthy PAC for next year, lots of people signing up for new roles. We also had a great Pride walk in 2023 but this wasn't in the calendar for 2024, but PAC is interested in bringing this forth to ensure it happens this coming year.

New Business:

- Letter of Advocacy regarding school capacity issues, school facility conditions, and planning for growth, to the MOECC and our MLAs based on recommendations from BCCPAC Facilities Committee

Laura Motion to send letter draft around to PACs for input and to sign on, Alison Second Carried

Motion to adjourn meeting Laura, Krista second Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm

Next meeting - Thursday September 19th at 7 pm on zoom, in-person location TBD