

Date: September 19, 2024

Location: Lord Kelvin Elementary School and online

Time: 7-9 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Laura Kwong (Chair, Qayqayt)

Minute Taker: Heather Kamitakahara (Secretary, Connaught)

DPAC Executive: Shawn Sorensen (Vice-chair, Qayqayt), Krista Macaulay (Treasurer, Tweedsmuir), Cyrus Sy (MAL, NWSS DPAC Rep), Sue Kenny (MAL, QMS), Alison Ytsma (MAL, Qayqayt)

Guests: Superintendent Mark Davidson, Trustee Cheryl Sluis, Errol Povah (Independent Candidate), Maureen Curran (Green Party Candidate), Raj Chouhan (BC NDP Candidate), Aman Singh (BC NDP Candidate)

Regrets: Shawn Sorensen (Vice-chair, Qayqayt), Cyrus Sy (MAL, NWSS DPAC Rep)

DPAC Reps: Joana Bettocchi-Henrey (Skwo:wech), Lorena Cardenas (Connaught Heights), , Natalie Taha (Herbert Spencer), Shawn Ribendy (FW Howay)

Attendees: Kim Cirillo (Lord Tweedsmuir), Charmaine Urbano (NWSS), John Hummol, Mary Ete, Trustee Danielle Connelly, Trustee Kathleen Carlsen, Marti Longstaff (Herbert Spencer), Rick Dignard

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:04	Welcome, Call to Order & Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance Welcome to our first DPAC meeting of 2024! We are here at Lord Kelvin and Online. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules. Introduced Superintendent and School Trustee.	Laura
	Introduction of Attendees The candidates for the BC Provincial election who were in attendance introduced themselves.	Laura
7:08	Adoption of September 2024 Agenda Motion to add the MLA candidates to the agenda. Joana second... carried MOTION TO APPROVE by Laura K SECOND by Joana B CARRIED	Laura
7:09	Approval of June 2024 Meeting Minutes MOTION TO APPROVE Laura K SECONDED by Krista M CARRIED	Laura

<p>7:10</p>	<p>Special Guests</p> <p>Laura K provided some introductions.</p> <p><i>DPAC does not endorse any political party or candidate, and the views expressed by invited guests at our meetings are their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of DPAC. DPAC fully supports and endorses SOGI-123 in our schools and district SOGI policies.</i></p> <p>Raj Chouhan NDP for NW-BBY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Good evening. First of all, land acknowledgement. ● Great honour to be part of this forum, thank you for organizing the meeting to allow us to share our views about education. ● Has been an MLA in Burnaby since 2005. Now going for the sixth term. The boundaries have now changed. New Westminster up to 6th Avenue now in the new riding. Have every intention to get reelected. ● Came to Canada in 1973. At that time, plan was to go to law school but then I saw people working in the fields, not covered under any law. They were not even deemed workers. Took upon myself to organize them. Organized the Canadian Farm Workers Union. There is a documentary on work, called "Time to Rise". It won best documentary in 6 countries. That is what I have been doing all my life. ● In 1988 I joined the Hospital Employees Union. Taught adult education for 18 years. ● In 2003, our union at that time met with the opposition leader Gordon Campbell. There were job losses. That inspired me to go into politics. Went into politics in 2005. ● In 2017, became Deputy Speaker of the House. In 2020, acclaimed speaker of the BC Legislature. ● When The BC liberals were in power, there was bargaining going on for the teachers. Had an all night debate in the house. I stood for education. To have smaller class sizes. Still continue to promote workers rights, teachers, rights, education. To make sure our schools have the necessary tools to provide education. ● What we have seen in the last few months, some people are talking about Canadian intimidation - about SOGI. When people want to talk about that, we said that is not fair. We trust our teachers. We must respect teachers. ● Running for the first time in New Westminister. ● Steps our government has taken: in education, as of May 2024, completed seismic upgrades at Richard McBride, Lord Tweedsmuir, ... new accessible playgrounds. Also provided millions of dollars to upgrade Douglas College to replace obsolete equipment. ● We need more schools here. ● In Burnaby, I was instrumental in bringing in funding to new schools and the hospital. I work in the community, work with people and get their feedback. 	<p>Invited MLA Candidates</p>
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- I hope to get reelected. I will work with you to make sure that we have the best representation in Victoria for New Westminster.
- Thank you.

Aman Singh NDP for RCH-QB

- I will start with food, which is so important.
- Last year, our government funded what is the start of a breakfast food program. Invested money to implement a breakfast food program.
- Since we formed the government in 2017, we have added something like 40,000 student spaces across British Columbia.
- Added capacity at Queensborough Elementary School.
- Background, I represented lots and lots of marginalized people. Recovering alcoholic. Rights and education are dear to my heart.
- My mom was a math teacher. We were immigrants from India, she had to give up her career to care for me.
- We have opened thousands of childcare spaces. There is tons more work to be done.
- Half a million people have signed on to MSP. More people have moved to British Columbia. There is more stress on schools.
- In terms of capital and human investments, we have made significant gains. We have enhanced the ECE wage.
- Our schools are stressed and we understand that. We want to continue to invest in education.
- We have made unprecedented investments in universities.
- Housing units for Douglas college students.
- In those 16 dark years (under BC Liberal government), under 200 units of student housing were built.
- We are committed to education and building a British Columbia that works for everybody.
- Treating all people with compassion and with care.
- The Queensborough bus - I didn't realize how long it takes to get things done in Government. Everybody knows about the bus. Now there are 7 buses in the morning and 7 in the evening. Dedication to public education is really what our government is about.

Maureen Curran Greens for NW-COQ

- Have been living in New Westminster for 20 years, and have been a teacher for many years. When I lived here, I was part of the PAC as well.
- That is how I ended up where I am. I am not a politician, I am a citizen. I saw things that weren't getting done, but I am stepping in. Good at building teams, working with people, working across party lines.
- Want to make BC better and make New West better.
- Education is a passion of mine, that is why I became a teacher. I volunteer running the swim team at my school. We stand up and do this because we love the kids and we want to make their experience a good one.
- Only parents really know how much we are holding everything together with love and duct tape and volunteers.

- When the NDP got into power, they haven't done nearly what they promised.
- Our schools have gotten more overcrowded. How much we are struggling.
- There are never even close to enough EAs to cover the kids that need help.
- It is really hard for teachers to try and meet the learning needs of all of their students, who are at different levels, especially when we do not have the adequate help of EAs.
- I have a number of colleagues who feed students daily, out of our own funds. These are signs that there is a larger problem, not just our schools.
- I know that these are complex problems, but I do believe that we can do a lot more, and there is a lot of action that we can take locally. More housing supports, more mental health supports and more education supports so that they all grow up to be the people that they want to be.
- Any time we see a kid pulled away from their potential because of other things, it breaks my heart.
- I hope that we have seen what going back and forth has been and maybe a change might be in store for us.

Errol Povah Ind for RCH-QB

- Born and raised in Nanaimo, currently living in North Vancouver. If elected, I will definitely be moving, most likely to the QB area.
- I would like to ask a question: Matt Walsh asked "what is a woman?" Does anyone have the answer? It is an adult female human.
- How many genders are there? Answer? Numerous.
- Needless to say, as you may be able to tell from my t-shirt, I believe Covid, SOGI, are quite literally crimes against humanity. I believe the world was turned completely upside down when Covid was declared a pandemic. In my opinion it was a Plandemic or a Scamdemic.
- We have the bird flu and Monkey pox.
- Served 3.5 years in the Canadian navy.
- The lockdowns, the masks, the vaccine mandates. I am totally disgusted with unions for abandoning the people who did not get the shot.
- Needless to say, in education, I believe SOGI is a crime against humanity. Children are being mutilated.

Laura - I am going to interrupt. Anti-SOGI views are not tolerated here.

Errol: My free-speech is being infringed on.

Maureen: we have families that need to be protected.

Joanna: This is not the space for this conversation. This is a DPAC meeting, we are not questioning gender, vaccine policies. Right now, you are going against

what is safe for schools. Please stop and hold your views in a different space. Present your platforms like the other candidates have.

Errol: I will be fighting all the standard issues. I think it is tragic in a first-world country we have to talk about out of control homelessness, cost of living, cost of food, housing, out of control crime, free drug vending machines. You might not want to hear it, but I am fully on board in tackling all those issues. What sets me apart is my position on Covid, SOGI and the climate crisis.

Questions

Joanna (DPAC Rep): Would like to make a statement - the viewpoints spoken tonight by Errol are not representative of or endorsed by the DPAC.

New West is a growing City with a lot of new housing projects going on. How do you plan on supporting the population? The way assessments are being conducted and how we are understanding diversity are changing. How do you plan on supporting those needs?

Aman Singh - These are things we have been trying to address for a number of years. That has put pressure. We have been dealing with all of that. Things like the expansion of QB elementary, getting things upgraded. In terms of housing, we have looked at a lot of different solutions. These things take time. Especially when there hasn't been investment before. The federal government used to be in the business of building affordable housing. In the meantime, we have been doing whatever we could. With the suite of legislation we passed last year. Rents are decreasing. We are hoping to do more.

Maureen - Yes it is great that we are finally getting a place at QB, and we need more housing. However, we need a lot more affordable housing. The way it has been done with all the targets handed down. I think more work needs to be done coordinating with communities. I was involved in trying to build that high school (NWSS). We can't have planning that is 12 or 15 years past when it started. We need more proactive and integrated planning. Things like, I love that we got a bus system. But what is our real long-term plan to make sure that people are going to have all the things they need to go with the housing? We need a lot more coordination. So that we are not left in a lurch. Some of the schools here are among some of the smallest properties. It makes it very hard for students to have good outdoor space. We have smaller and smaller shrinking spaces and more and more towers. We want to take our kids out to playgrounds. The percentage of GDP going to education has been dropping every year.

Raj - When we are talking about the planned expansion of housing... that is exactly what was laid out by Premier David Eby. We need housing based on the needs of the community, and that is the plan.

	<p>Laura - thank you. We do have questions for you to answer, to further help voters in New West know who you are and what you stand for. Thank you so much!</p> <p>For the record: New West does not support anything said by the candidate Errol Povah.</p>	
<p>7:55</p>	<p>Superintendent Update - Superintendent Mark Davidson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● So I'll start with the fact that I have worked in Provincial government as well as superintendent. ● I have immense respect for people who are elected and then do that work. Being a governor is a really challenging role to hold. ● It is also hard in my job because I am not a politician, to listen and not say what you think. ● The old adage, the best time to plant a tree is 10 years ago, and the next best time is today. ● The greatest issues we have talked about is that there is a gap in legislation, that requires space to be set aside for schools in growing urban communities. ● Our system is up a little over 100 students from where we finished last year, which is right where we projected. New registrations lead the data, and those who left lag. ● We have exceeded our projection a little bit. ● We have added divisions in a number of schools across the system. ● We are having challenges in staffing. Teachers and education assistants. TOCs, we would have maybe 27-28 out, today we had 33. We are drawing TOCs off the list, while we try and hire teachers on a continuous basis. ● We are working hard to address that. Robert Weston and Gordana Ballarin are cold-calling teachers to see if they will take jobs. ● We hired an associate Superintendent - she is responsible for learning and innovation and is working with Connie Swan our indigenous learning VP and is supporting on our work to building an advisory committee. ● Everything is new. It is a lot. We are working hard to communicate with government clearly on where we stand on the administrative side. We dipped our toe in the red zone. We will see what transpires in the next 30 days. ● I've been to every school, sometimes 2 or 3 times. ● Will do walkabout one month and meet with the admin team. ● This is an amazing place. Everywhere I go, teachers will say, this is the best school in the district. ● There is a lot of pride at the schools. ● You have a lot of people in schools who are there because they really love kids and they want to do great things for them. I have for a long 	<p>Mark Davidson</p> <p>and</p> <p>Cheryl Sluis</p>

time really liked working with and for students. This is the greatest gig you can get.

- Have spent a lot of time meeting with other partners.
- Have met with community leaders who came with specific concerns.
- What I feel the mood is that people really want to lean in and love on kids together, and find answers to challenging problems. I am here for it.
- Simcoe Elementary on FRMS lands. We had heard, something might be approved in summer. Haven't received that announcement. We don't know.
- I started as a secondary social studies teacher, then vice principal. K-12 vice principal and then high school principal. Worked for the Ministry for year and a half and hated that. Superintendent... all in K-12 system. System in Alberta was the lowest socioeconomic urban centre in Alberta. Early on performed below, and exceeded predictor data. It is an excellent system filled with amazing teachers. The greatest challenge in every system is bringing people together and making space for positive and supportive conversations. That is individual conversations with families and for us to be receptive and responsive, and be able to be honest about the limits of our action and the power of our reflective action.
- Principals and VPs are in their own association which creates a different dynamic. But the most skilled makes it seem like that distinction does not exist.
- Teachers and staffing is assigned through formulas and collective agreement instead of engaging in conversation with what makes sense in that situation.
- We have formulas, but there are times when professional staff would like to make the decision, and they are really handcuffed here to formulas. That said, there are ways to work within the collective agreement to still accomplish what we want and need for kids.
- Professional learning days in the context I came from, are driven by the system and autonomy is given to the schools. That made it easier and faster to build momentum. Again, there are ways to work within what we have. The team that are here have experience that we are able to work around those things.
- (in answer question on the EGMS Principal) Interim Acting Principal Darren Ells will be there til May. And then taking over will be Jen Davis who will be the principal going forward. Outgoing principal situation is not something that we can comment on. Ideally, the person moving into the role would be available but she is on leave. We have an excellent person there in the meantime. It is sometimes unavoidable.
- (on a question regarding clean air for schools) We have a meeting with Fraser Health to discuss. This like capital planning is one that is connected with funding. To redo everything, is massive capital investment, part of which comes from the provincial government. Think of the age of many of our schools, the air is certainly healthy, but many

are not brand new or modern. In order to make dramatic change, that would require significant investment.

- (in answer to a question about the permanent modular building proposed at Lord Tweedsmuir) It has not been approved yet. What we have heard is that those kinds of projects are getting quicker approval because they are less expensive and faster. It is certainly viable but we haven't received word.
- (on Lord Tweedsmuir inadequate administration and gym time). Gyms are a capital expenditure that comes from government. Regarding admin and the level of administration, I will say I have been up front, our admin time in our schools is low compared to jurisdictions in our region. Any decision in one place, requires reduced spending somewhere else. We will bring recommendations on how to bring admin time up.
- Krista (Tweedsmuir) explained some classes only get gym time 2 times per month. This is very different from other schools.
- There are so many schools where the amount of space we have cannibalized has made it hard to function. The number of capital projects approved recently, like SImcoe, we have done really well compared to our regional partners. But they are really behind the 8-ball. The thing we are up against is that we, along with 9 boards in the province, are all fighting for that same dollar. Then of course they are going to try to stretch it. The Board advocates for the right kinds of space. It is actually not okay, and having worked with and for politicians, every government inherits a set of challenges that are either amplified or blunted by their own actions.
- Shawn (Howay - DPAC rep) For my daughter that goes to Glenbrook. She's got disabilities. So she has IEP meetings. The IEP meeting is limited to 15 minutes. Part of that has to do with the principal change etc. Is there any way to address this issue?
- The goal is to have a meeting that is long enough for people to talk about what needs to be talked about. Not aware of the average time that is the norm here. But I will talk to Rhonda our director for inclusion to ask what is the norm and how are we supporting schools in structuring that time? There is a level of autonomy in how they do it, to ask Rhonda to reach out.
- In my office, only one staff member has been there longer than 7 months. The good thing is, everyone has experience in different systems. So all are raising ideas about how we can do things differently. Rhonda is working hard at examining the way we do things. It will be positive, thoughtful change. We can always learn to do things better. It is reasonable to raise what other systems do.

Board of Education Update - Cheryl Sluis

- Capital update: major capital submission last June after the last DPAC meeting. It has 3 parts: site acquisition, new schools, additions.
- Site Acquisition:

- New school in Fraser River zone.
 - Work is well underway related to site identification. Working closely with City and Ministry.
 - Next on list is land near Queensborough Middle. Very quickly the middle school is going to be at capacity again and continues to grow.
 - As a district with one high school there is a need to accommodate more secondary students.
 - We are looking for land to ensure that that can happen.
 - Space for alternate program is #2 priority - finding land for that.
 - When Sapperton Green comes back to the table, it looks like there is more talk about that. Looking for a school in the Glenbrook zone.
 - Simcoe in the long-term, we are going to continue to need another elementary school. That is another piece of land we are looking for.
 - Simcoe is the top current priority and we have got the approval to go ahead. A new Middle School in the Fraser River zone comes after we find the land. That is \$86 million in today's dollars. And an additional secondary school in Queensborough is around \$100 million dollars.
 - Groundbreaking - great event. Have experienced some delays. The board knew if we built that as a 2-storey addition, it would be full immediately. Took the time needed to build something that is the right size. 21 classrooms, climate resilient addition.
 - Tweedsmuir- the pre-fab that will end up on Tweedsmuir is the next priority after Queen Elizabeth.
 - Total pricetag - \$334 million. That is what the District needs.
- Advocacy:
 - There are 3 current priorities that the BCSTA are working on: inclusive education, recruitment of staff, capital funding.
 - They have had meetings over the last number of months advocating for all of these pieces.
 - There is a capital working group report. There was no sugar-coating in that report.
 - There are 1,071 portables in the Province and \$9billion needed for maintenance.
 - Looking for the Province to make reasonable increases over time.
 - It is reasonable in the ask, and we will see how that goes. The pressure will continue.

- Board advocacy:
 - Working closely on capital projects to make sure there is awareness of what our district needs.
 - Advocating for funding for technology due to personal device restrictions.
 - Asking for more details about the federal food program that they are working on.
 - Haven't heard anything yet.

- School Generated Funds Committee Report recommendations were completed and can expect an update. Thank you DPAC for participation on that committee.

- Q - Krista: 30,000 new residents in 22nd street neighbourhood. Was interested to note that when cities take on school site acquisition charges. Had brought this forward to MLA Whiteside.

- Sluis -it is frustrating. Have a motion coming up at next meeting. Agreed.

- Q - Krista: did mention to Whiteside about changing the Planning Act. We can change how we plan for schools. That could be a good way to push. Why can't the legislation be changed for schools?

- Q - Joanna: Lunch Lady. What were the results of the survey conducted last year? Is there a possibility to go back to the previous provider who offered more options to families?

- Sluis: we did get a report about the survey results and a good discussion about the pros and cons of each provided. My understanding is the Lunch Lady is the one who can service the needs of the district. Don't have much more than that at my fingertips but could get more information.

- Davidson: one thing out of the survey was a desire for a greater level of choice, and they were really receptive to that. Rick feels good about their reception to feedback and their desire to meet our needs. Rick feels positive about the relationship with them.

<p>8:45</p>	<p>Standing Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chair Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PAC 101 presentation - deferred from this meeting to next ○ Can put this on the agenda for October. ○ Encourage new exec members to come out. ● Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gaming account. ○ We all have to submit gaming report September 30th. ○ The gaming number should be around \$1,600. ○ Once we get gaming that will go up by \$2,500. ○ Operating is at \$3,201.14. That doesn't include a few things. ○ Have to follow up with SD40 about the \$2,000 that was promised. ○ Note: gaming is becoming more restrictive. It is important to get this deadline in. Have to get gaming report in to ensure we get the gaming grant now as well as for next year. ○ Have to be more robust in accounting. ○ Will be putting together Treasurer 101. 	<p>Laura</p> <p>Krista</p>
<p>8:59</p>	<p>School Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FRMS (Laura) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No report ● Queen Elizabeth (Harinder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No report ● EGMS (Marti) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The first PAC meeting is coming up. Working on fundraising, committees, the CPF group planning for the trip to Quebec this spring. There was not enough ability with the staffing to do the Grade 8 camp this year, so instead doing Wildplay. ● Hume Park (Pamela) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No report ● Lord Kelvin (Eryne) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No report ● Skwo:wech (Joana) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bike to School week in October. ○ Halloween HOWl is coming up. ● QMS (Sue K) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No report ● Connaught (Lorena C) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No report ● Howay (Sean or Shawn?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Just did our budget and one of the things was the BCCPAC membership. We had this question come up before. And whether or not we should pay the membership. Question to everybody is, what is our membership going to? 	<p>DPAC Reps</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura - a couple of years ago, made connections through BCCPAC and partnered with DPACs on advocacy that should have been done by BCCPAC board or committees. We were trying to address significant issues that we are all facing. There was tons of red tape in our way and time put in by members, and the resolutions would sit and not be actioned in the Board that was elected to work on the resolutions and represent all parents. The former Executive Director had spent a lot of time and money flying around the province. We have very little faith that with the current people on the board, that there will be any progress and any way for the organization can function in a meaningful way. Paying for a membership fee likely won't get you any value this year as a PAC but you could have a vote in a by-election. But, where we stand as a DPAC, we have made some valuable connections with a number of DPACs. ● Tweedsmuir (Kim for Carline A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Week 1 of school went well. ○ Still have 2 classes without teachers. The PAC received a very polite complaint about serious heat and overheating in our portable. ○ (Krista) - we are talking about physical health. It is a Worksafe BC complaint. Every single parent here believes that our children should have the same rights that we do as parents who work. You should be able to have the same level of protection as Worksafe BC. That didn't occur for one student. ○ Kim - this complaint came in May as well. ○ If any other schools are dealing with that, what are you guys doing? ○ Davidson - Had a conversation with Matt our director of facilities about our approach to air movement in portables. Portables have different heating/cooling depending on their location. It is cost-prohibitive to put cooling in all. The question then is, is there a threshold where you can provide in some but not in others? There is a conversation happening in facilities depending on the location and orientation of the portable. ● Qayqayt (Laura) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No report 	
<p>8:50</p>	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letter sent to MOECC and our local MLAs on June 28th. ● The letter was well-received. We received a response with an invitation to a meeting to discuss, which was really nice to have. ● The meeting was really positive. There was some back and forth. ● Jennifer Whiteside was open to ideas. ● The need is here and we have unique constraints. Whiteside was very receptive to an idea for an urban school pilot to run in New West. 	<p>Laura Kwong</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It was positive and we felt heard. ● Post all correspondence on our website. 	
8:54	<p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We want feedback on the digital device restrictions. ● We know when you roll out a new policy, sometimes you have to make a couple of changes. We ask for PACs to collect feedback. <p>Davidson: FRMS is right behind the office. Have heard play there like not used to at Middle School. Kids are playing more. At recess they are playing more. Generally students have been really patient and respectful.</p> <p>Krista - have heard great things from teachers.</p> <p>Laura - PACs can collect feedback and we can share that with the district. We could put together a little survey- quick form. Vancouver DPAC did a very extensive one.</p> <p>Laura - we are collecting questions for the candidates. We will send out written questions for the candidates.</p>	Laura Kwong
9:14	<p>Adjournment: 9:14pm - MOTION by Krista, SECOND by Joana, CARRIED</p> <p>Next Meeting: October 17 at EGMS</p>	