

**Date:** January 16, 2025  
**Location:** Skwo:wech and online  
**Time:** 7-9 pm

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Chair:** Laura Kwong (Chair, Qayqayt)  
**Minute Taker:** Krista Macaulay (Treasurer, Tweedsmuir)  
**DPAC Executive:** Shawn Sorensen (Vice-chair, Qayqayt), Krista Macaulay (Treasurer, Tweedsmuir), Heather Kamitakahara (Secretary, Connaught), Cyrus Sy (MAL, NWSS), Sue Kenny (MAL, QMS), Alison Ytsma (MAL, Qayqayt)  
**Guests:** Superintendent Mark Davidson  
**Regrets:** Cyrus Sy, Sue Kenny, Board of Education Trustee rep  
**Attendees:** Joa Henry, Laura Kwong, Krista Macaulay, Alison Ytsma, Carline Alon, Lorena Cardenas, Michelle Snow, Shawn Riberdy, Temitope Adewale, Manisha Rajora

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Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:00	<b>Welcome, Call to Order &amp; Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance</b>	Laura
	<b>Adoption of JANUARY 2025 Agenda</b> MOTION TO APPROVE by Laura SECOND by Krista <b>CARRIED</b>	Laura
	<b>Approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes</b> MOTION TO APPROVE Laura K SECONDED by Krista <b>CARRIED</b>	Laura
7:35	<b>Superintendent Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cyber issue, crippled us to use online and digital sources. Everything is up now. The board will get a forensic report on how this happened and what happened. This will come with recommendations. Dark web is being monitored. (Likely around February)</li> <li>● Board passed a budget revision for a new HR position [1 or 2] (staffing had not grown since we were at 5k). Additionally, we are in a new and much more complex hiring market, where we are constantly hiring throughout the year.</li> <li>● Board approved 5.1 FTE for more admin time in our schools. The goal of this is for principals to be more engaged with teachers and families and to better support student behaviour.</li> </ul>	<b>Mark Davidson</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● District received 34 applications for the vice principal pool. It is likely hiring will be internal. Process underway.</li> <li>● We are starting to examine budgeting, but no grants have been confirmed (March). Mark has concerns with the word “efficiency” without adequate funding.</li> <li>● Mark has been to every school multiple times and is happy to be a known and welcomed presence.</li> <li>● QUEST: How many students at FRMS. A: Around 700</li> <li>● QUEST: There is a growing coalition of parents of gifted students to find ways for our schools to support our kids. What they’re finding from their own conversations is that their kids are twice exceptional. So they’re seeing more G designations than P designations. No programs are addressing their needs and many parents are finding it difficult to advocate for their kids – some even dropping out to meet the need.</li> <li>● A: The best benefit for gifted kids is not within programs set aside, but for schools that allow this exception. For example, not all these students will have similar gifts. We are also seeing issues in timing with designation and the extra long wait times. With IB, there’s no need for 8/9 when we have 11/12. But – what we really need to focus on is cost for an entire school. In a capacity crunch, we also cannot put a 14 class when we cannot even have a regular day schedule. Further, the inequities that it brings with teachers (class of 14 vs 30). Our district needs to meet the needs of a designation (and those in process of). Part of increasing the admin time to all of our schools is to ensure that the processes of meeting the needs of designation are met. Also, in our system, for Learning Support Teacher and ELL Support we should have 77.4 FTE doing this work across the system. However, like all areas of staffing, we are finding it challenging to hire qualified staff who want to be in this area. We are always chasing folks who want to do this work.</li> <li>● Q: Transition to middle school lacking in support with comparison to how much there is in kindergarten. The amount of prep for students and families in kindergarten is not nearly the same for middle schools. Kids don’t know how to manage lockers, moving from classrooms, homeroom, etc. Is it possible we can have more support for grade 5 students?</li> <li>● A: We have a summer school program that addresses that. But we are working on principles of transition between elementary and middle schools. What this means is that middle school admin will come together and identify the critical things that people in grade 5 need to know before they make that transition – what can we introduce them to in their own schools and bring them to the middle school to get a little experience before the next year. (Sandra and Geraldine are doing this)</li> <li>● Ques: What, if anything, is the Board/District doing or know about regarding Eby’s new mandate letter (re: Support effective learning for</li> </ul>	
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	<p>students across the province by working with the Minister of Infrastructure to accelerate the delivery of new and expanded schools in a cost-effective manner, and by working with the Minister of Post Secondary Education and Future Skills to expedite the certification and deployment of new and experienced international and domestic teachers.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A: It looks promising that our capital plans will be approved. We will hear about this all in March. Parents shared concerns about modular and “accelerate”, are we planning for schools or are we planning to just put a physical space in.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8:00</b></p>	<p><b>Standing Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chair Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public Board Meeting is changing, questions/comments need to be submitted prior. DPAC is working on providing some written feedback for the Board. We have one week to do this.</li> <li>○ Invited to Board of Education Meeting to discuss board’s advocacy priorities (attended by Alison).</li> <li>○ Notes from Alison: Board is meeting with Jennifer Whiteside and wanted to prioritize DPAC Asks. We mostly talked about funding / capital. They will talk about expediting Simcoe and other properties they’re looking at. They’re asking about portables being funded from capital not operating. They’re asking about 1ea in every classroom and one counselor in every elem – and where this is coming from. The more interesting part of the meeting was talking about strategy in terms of being more political in our asks and what that looks like. Alison brought forth the idea of a board coalition with shared asks/messages to lobby. The Board has other ideas: send a group of people to Victoria (board member, DPAC, parents) to attend meetings to get our message across to show the dire state that is. Board wants a big push to parents to put political pressure on politicians. The board is wary of pushing too hard.</li> <li>○ They want DPAC to push the same messaging. They will be sending a pamphlet to parents asking them to send letters to politicians. DPAC said if we want parents to write these, we need a message from the board that states the dire state we are in.</li> <li>○ SOGI – Gender Neutral Bathrooms (female → anyone who identifies as females; all genders; male → anyone who identifies as male). Money received for this. We will be developing a gender supportive handbook for administration/teachers/students. SD40 Logo with Rainbow on front of every district building.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Laura</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BC Ombuds office is conducting an investigation into school exclusion (survey → <a href="https://bcombudsperson.ca/school-exclusion">https://bcombudsperson.ca/school-exclusion</a>)</li> <li>● <b>Treasurer’s Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ KRISTA Motion to add \$200 to Gaming parent conference and remove \$200 from Gaming parent education and to receive \$350 from Qayqayt PAC donation for BCCPAC AGM. ALISON Second</li> <li>○ Discussion: Elections at this AGM will be incredibly important with the board turnover. BCCPAC is recognized as the Ministry’s partner – as much as we do what we can to advocate directly from our PACS/DPAC, BCCPAC has the official voice. It is important to push this organization as best we can to continue to represent our interests/interests of parents-caregivers in BCCPAC. This means to push on BCCPAC to be a more transparent organization that represents our interests</li> <li>○ CARRIED unanimously</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Krista</b></p>
<p><b>8:20</b></p>	<p><b>School Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● FRMS (Temitope) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Little Miss Coffee Fundraiser and Purdy’s fundraiser in fall. A few new fundraisers starting – but in the midst. Super Cooks registration and Yoga classes is open (grades 6-8). This is open to all schools.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Queen Elizabeth (Harinder) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>● EGMS (Manisha) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning happening for grade 8 grad. Upcoming Quebec trip for FI students. Band is fundraising as well. Change to Fun Lunch program to see if it brings in more funds (sushi being added to usual McDonalds and pizza)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Hume Park (Pamela) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Lord Kelvin (Eryne) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Skwo:wech (Joana) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bake sale. Family dance. Stay at home workshop happening (super successful). Advocating for more garbage cans for playgrounds. Working on a bike bus. Wondering how other PACs communicate with other parents.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● QMS (Sue K) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Connaught (Lorena) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Carnival Committee formed (all new group). Wellness Day was held for all students. 2 hot lunches happening this month, pizza and sushi. Bake sale in December was extremely successful. We are having more parents participate in events (new parents).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>DPAC Reps</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Howay (Shawn) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Annual Pancake Breakfast in December with lots of volunteers (more than ever!). We moved from sausages and pancakes to fruit and pancakes. Fruit was not a hit! We tried out moving from juice to hot chocolate, the younger kids were not as good with that, plus a lot more work. Annual Friendship Dance in postponed to May. Other fundraisers (Created by the kids).</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Tweedsmuir (Carline A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Purdys and Art Cards Fundraisers in fall were successful. Our Climate Club (KSW) are helping PAC with recycling for fun lunches. Spring Carnival planning well underway. Fun Lunch coming up this month. PAC Funding Saleema Noon parent education.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Hume Park (Michelle): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PAC meeting on Thursday, hoping people show up. Fundraising going well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Herbert Spencer (Natalie T)</li> <li>● Qayqayt (Laura) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fun Lunches going well, but struggling with volunteers. Movie night hosted (split k-2/3-5). These are community events, not fundraisers. About to start Read-a-thon.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● NWSS (Cyrus S) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
8:40	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● None</li> </ul>	Laura Kwong
8:50	<p><b>Old Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● DPAC reached out to City staff around transportation and traffic safety issues. We had a meeting to discuss, but have not heard back. We are continuing to invite them to DPAC meetings to share (even if it is just, we don't have the funds to do anything – not a priority). The report the City is basing their priorities on is based on ICBC data – DPAC has raised issues with this (there is not data on near misses/pedestrians/bikes). City has said this is heard, but ultimately comes down to funds.</li> <li>● Joa: Making progress in terms of bike bus. HUB transportation has come up with a grant for schools to apply for sponsorship for this. Skowech is putting a survey out about interested pacs. This is not in partnership with the city or school board/district.</li> </ul> <p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BCCPAC AGM location and costs for travel (discussed during treasurer's report)</li> </ul>	Laura Kwong

<b>9:00</b>	<b>Adjournment:</b> 9:03pm - MOTION by Krista, SECOND by Shawn, <b>CARRIED</b>  <b>Next Meeting:</b> February 20 <sup>th</sup> @ Tweedsmuir	
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