



District Parent Advisory Council

DPAC General Meeting Minutes WEDNESDAY, January 29, 2025 7:00 PM Via Zoom

Attendees - Trustee Chuck Denison, Stephen Whiffin sd43, Nadine Tambellini Superintendent, Dave Sands sd43, Craig Woods Coq Trustee, Jimmy DPAC Treasurer, Sherie DPAC secretary, Rosey DPAC president, Jamie dpac vpresident, Amber DPAC, Nick DPAC.

Elementary Schools represented: Alderson, Anmore, BlakeBurn, Capehorn, Central, Coast Salish, Glen, Glenayre, Mary Hill, Hampton Park, Hazel Trembath, Mountain View, Scott creek, Moody, Smiling Creek, Westwood, Kilmer, Mundy Road, Miller Park, Nestor.

Middle Schools represented: Banting, Como Lake, Eagle Mntn, Kwayhquitlum, Montgomery, Minnekhada, Maple Creek, Moody, Pit River, Summit.

Secondary Schools represented: Charles Best Sec, Port Moody Sec.

Other: HWSS, H.Mihanyar, S. Low, Tanya, A. Lee, Helena, E. Zhang, L.Amaral, M. Ritchie, Rachel, Kelly, E Wylie.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY - Jimmy Fung

Meeting Chair: Jamie Manchester

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Approved - Mary Hill, Seconded - Maple Creek Middle,

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES - From General Meeting November 27, 2024 - Approved - Mundy Road, Seconded - Westwood Elementary.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Jimmy Fung - 5 minutes

- Income Statement November/December 2024
- General Account - \$34,785.43
- Gaming - \$6058.89
- Out - Annual Insurance = , Office Equipment = , Payroll = = \$2400.
- Nothing Incoming

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Nadine Tambellini - 15 minutes

- Andrea Hunter - Learning Services principal is now new Assistant Superintendent
- Jeremy Clark - was principal - Feb 14th new Assistant Superintendent - taking over Nadine Tambellini's current role.
- Nadine Tambellini - new sd43 Superintendent - will be joining the budget process and cont. work on Directions 2030
 - Involve conversations with DPAC and partners to look at next 5 yrs in district
- Programs of Choice - Montessori, programs of choice, French immersion - completed
- Kindergarten registration starts on Feb 4th-6th.
- Programs of Choice - register at school you are accepted at - will be in your acceptance letter.

GUEST PRESENTATION - TECHNOLOGY & AI IN THE CLASSROOM

Stephen Whiffen (Assistant Superintendent - Tech Ed - sd43 Assistant super CIO) and
Dave Sands - (sd43 Principal of Technology) 40 minutes

- **WHY Use AI (Artificial Intelligence) in Schools?**
 - Kids **will** have access - whether we like it or not, it's already here.
 - Mostly for Middle School and up
 - BYOD - begins in grade 6 - so technology becoming a larger part of school role
 - Less obvious - AI in tools we already use, sometimes in the background - eg) Microsoft Word
 - Need to know how to recognize when it's being used - to teach kids to think critically
 - **Helping the Teacher Teach and Work**
 - To allow teachers to work more efficiently, to expand dynamic tools can use in classrooms
 - **Helping Students Learn and Succeed**
 - AI helping with vulnerable students with learning barriers - showing success there
 - **Curriculum Connections** (if used correctly)
 - **Challenge** if used poorly - will have opposite effect and remove critical thinking needed
- **What we've done so far**
 - Brought in Guest speakers - from University of Regina, and from MIT
 - Did some sessions in spring and fall with teachers
 - CoPilot 13+ - see below
 - Created AI posters and a video for students - to show students who will work with AI
 - Focus on helping students see Technology as a learning tool
 - How to protect yourself and you personal info
 - About learning **with** AI , **not from** AI -
 - About checking for bias and accuracy - don't take AI content at face value
- **What we've learned**
 - Cell phones, social media etc - came out quickly and now we are playing catch up with monitoring use and consequences
 - Are jumping on AI use by students as fast as possible
- **Technical Strategy - What is Copilot**
 - Is like ChatGPT and DALL E 2
 - sd43 uses Microsoft 365 and its tools, Copilot is connected automatically to these.
 - **Copilot** has "**Guardrails**" to prevent the AI from doing certain behaviours
 - **Green shield symbol** - enterprise data protection = guardrails are in place - safe for 13+ (new. A few months ago it was 18+ only - now have controls in place to ensure safety for 13+ - first district in Canada to have 13+)
 - **Guardrail will prevent** - "friend" behaviour - some AI responds like a friend would - because of machine learning as the tool learns more about the user
 - **Privacy** - some chatbots will save all your inputted data - and can be shared

- **Copilot chat data not saved and not used to train large language models** used by AI
 - No one at Microsoft can view your data
- Copilot is the **only** AI tool sd43 will use.
- **Disadvantage** - more guardrails in place will prevent the AI from working at highest ability - so may see other chat bots give 'better looking answers'.
 - Google Gemini - does NOT have these guardrails in place.
- **How we can use this?**
 - **Teaching** - focus on safety and critical thinking. We can question where does AI get info? Accuracy? Biases?
 - Brainstorming, Research, Collaboration
 - Involving AI in the collaborative process - eg. Group project - using AI almost as a member of the group for input. - can help with critical thinking.
 - Efficiency - lesson plans, differentiation learning resources, communication
 - **Assessing Student Learning**
 - Shift from Product to Process - instead of focusing solely on the final product, emphasize the learning process
 - Diversified Assessment Methods - moving beyond written work, to using a variety of assessment methods - presentations, projects, and portfolios
 - **Student Learning**
 - **Assistive 'Tech'** - please explain... eg) such and such as if I was a 10 yr old
 - **Study Aid** - create eg) 10 Qs I may see on a quiz about ecosystems. Or ask me Qs may ask as a job interview.
 - **Research Suggestions** - provide ... eg) 10 sources can use to research a particular topic.
 - **Expanding learning** - Make it better... eg) how to put in a 'prompt' the question into the AI chat bot to get the information they want.
- **Start Here!** - engage in discussions around AI. This can include topics like data privacy, bias in AI algorithms, the impact of AI on jobs, or academic integrity. Encouraging critical thinking about these issues helps your students understand the broader context of AI technology.

QUESTIONS

- **How long are student projects kept? A.** After a student leaves the school the students info/projects are removed (deleted) within 90 days
- **Guardrail in Copilot Chat- A.** When end a chat, the data is gone, not saved.
- **Google AI features? - A.** oes have some age related features - but dependent on you being 'all in' the Google environment - and sd43 is not.
- **Presentation in school to parents? - A.** yes - check with school principal - reminder, these tools are **not** available to elementary school students.
- **3rd party tools to detect the use of AI? A.** cat and mouse game - Sd43 doesn't recommend using tools to 'detect' AI. (Older kids can use tools to 'humanize' chat gpt answers).
 - Instead we can create learning experiences where students can't use these tools - such as doing the work in front of the teachers.

- **Are parents being alerted to school usage before each lesson?** - **A.** Not for each class - teachers may include in a syllabus, but many are now automatically included in Microsoft programs.
- **Copilot - parents should be notified** exactly what AI tools are being used in the classroom? **A.** Yes, we need to look at new ways to reach out to parents. Will be imperative that we engage in active parent education in the future.
- **Can you elaborate about what kind of dialogue should we have with our kids about AI?** - **A.** Ask our kids - What do you know about AI? Do you know it's in your social media? Eg. Your personal info put into a generic chatbot will be used in a large language model and you cannot remove that info.
- **A.This is going to continue to change very very fast - a challenge for parents** - by the time we learn how a specific tool is working it will be replaced/upgraded by something slightly different. - Discussions are about critical thinking and safety while using these tools.
- **How is it introduced in middle schools?** **A.** Copilot is for Grade 8 and up only.

LOOKING AHEAD - Jamie Manchester - 10 minutes

- **SQUARE as a payment method** - In order to reverify your account or create a new account with Square, you will need to upload a bank statement, your PAC C&B, and your most recent Gaming Account Summary Report.
- **BCEID - a new portal to apply for this years 2025 gaming grants** - application due in June 2025. Recommend to register as a business - a multiple user account - a webinar on Feb 3rd about it. -we will update PACs about the process for registration for the gaming grant.
- Link to more information on Gaming Grant and new online system: BCEID <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/gambling=>
- **Rosey Manhas running for Coquitlam School Board Trustee**, what that means for DPAC - **the general voting day in Feb 22nd - advance days are Wed Feb 12th & Sat Feb 15th.** If you live in Coquitlam pls vote - see our DPAC newsletter to see all candidates for trustee positions.
- **Stand-Alone Session, Parent Interactive Panel Discussion on February 12, 2025** in person at ELC
 - **For more info and to register visit www.dpac43.ca - Community Announcements - Panel Discussion - Tickettailor link.**
 - Can also reach out directly to Amber at our dpac office to register, and it is also on our social media.
- **Next General Meeting February 26, 2025 on Zoom**

ADJOURNMENT - Motion by Panorama Heights - Seconded by Maple Creek -

1100B Winslow Avenue, Coquitlam BC V3J 2G3 | Phone: 604.939.3690 | Email: office@dpac43.org | Website: www.dpac43.ca