



District Parent Advisory Council

**DPAC General Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2023
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Rosey Manhas called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
48 schools represented – quorum met

Schools with a representative in attendance:

Elementary: Anmore, Aspenwood, Baker Drive, Blakeburn, Castle Park, Cedar Drive, Central, Coast Salish, Coquitlam River, Glen, Glenayre, Hampton Park, Harbour View, Heritage Mountain, Irvine, Kilmer, Leigh, Lord Baden-Powell, Mary Hill, Meadowbrook, Moody, Mundy Road, Nestor, Porter Street, Rochester, Roy Stibbs, Smiling Creek, Walton, Westwood.

Middle: Citadel, Como Lake, Hillcrest, Kwayhquitlum, Maillard, Maple Creek, Minnehada, Montgomery, Moody, Pitt River, Summit.

Secondary: Centennial, Dr. Charles Best, Gleneagle, Heritage Woods, Inquiry Hub, Pinetree, Riverside, Terry Fox.

DPAC Executive in attendance: Rosey Manhas – President, Zainab Alkassab – Vice President, Marcela de la Pena – Secretary, Jamie Manchester – Treasurer, Melody Watkins – PAC Communications Liaison, Mariam Alkassab – Member at Large, Corrie Noble – Member at Large, Amy Jaeggle – Member at Large, Diane MacSporran – Member at Large, Laura Code – DPAC Administrative Assistant.

Regrets: Judith Obatusa – Parent Education Coordinator, Ernest Wu – Health & Safety Coordinator.

Special Guests: Trustee Chuck Denison, Trustee Craig Woods, Assistant Superintendent Gerald Shong, Josh Keller, Administrative Co-Ordinator from Post-Secondary BC.

Minutes taken by: Marcela de la Pena

- **Please send in contact info from your school** to Laura office@dpac43.ca

Territorial Acknowledgement – Melody Watkins

1. Approval of Agenda

MOTION moved by *Baker Drive Elementary*, seconded by *Centennial Secondary*, to accept the Agenda. **CARRIED**

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION moved by *Mary Hill Elementary*, seconded by *Coquitlam River Elementary*, to accept the minutes from the November 30, 2022 General Meeting. **CARRIED**

3. Treasurer's Report

- **Jamie Manchester**

- Website update \$1,475.00
- Expenses for November & December 2022 - \$3,664.28 (payroll, telephone & name tag)
- General funds \$26,197.39
- Gaming \$4,274.79

4. Assistant Superintendent's Report

- Gerald Shong

- Responsible for Snow Removal, along with Facilities.
- Leading the enrollment process & registration to schools. This year +800 kids for September. On a typical year, the growth is 200 students a year. Larger immigration will impact the lower mainland schools.
- Enrollment for Kindergarten and cross-catchment will happen Jan 31 – Feb 2. In the event that the school cannot accommodate all students, if registered by Feb 2, the children will be accepted if there is capacity, if not, random draws (siblings in the same school will get priority), anyone that cannot be accommodated they will be kept in a list to join the school the following year. Happens rarely. If registration for Kindergarten is done after Feb 2, accommodation is based on availability.
- Parents send documents during application process. Documents are verified for residency and funding eligibility. There are other ways to have the documents brought to school for verification. Recognize a more inclusive language in the documents, the use of language and gender identification.
- Cross catchment – when you prefer a school that is not your catchment school. For Kindergarten, register at your catchment school then apply for cross-catchment from Feb 3 - Feb 8. This allows students to go to a school where siblings are enrolled (if cross-catchment) as long as the siblings are enrolled for the next school year.
- Purpose of the process: to allow students to attend a school other than their catchment school; to allow students to attend a school with their siblings, to allow SD43 to manage school enrollment and school capacity.
- Registration application priorities: catchment area; non-catchment area; non-school district.
- International students do not apply to move schools through cross-catchment.
- Enrollment team at SD43 has to plan space and number of kids not only for one year, but for the next years ahead.
- When moving from one level to another, home address determines catchment school.
- Appeal process. Unsuccessful applicants can write an appeal letter to the Assistant Superintendent in charge of enrollment stating reasonable rationale for the appeal. Successful appeals, are successful only when space becomes available.

5. Preparing Our Children for Post-Secondary Education

- Josh Keller

<https://www.postsecondarybc.ca>

- Preparing kids for post-secondary is a challenge. Important to understand the system. In BC is highly integrated, most institutes offer credit and you can move among institutes. There are post-secondary institutes where you start your program and then transfer to a university. Post-secondary is an option, not the only option.
- Public & private options.
- Three basic program entry process: Competitive (selective), Limited (# spaces in a program) and Open (many applicants).
Limited: First qualified, first admitted based on program spaces. Open: minimal requirements, opportunities to discover.
Important to understand the differences on entry process, and to know which one takes place for a program(s) that the student may be considering.
Importance of the right students in the right place for the right reason.
- Pre-requisites; for competitive, the minimum is normally not enough. In a limited; if meet pre-requisites you are admitted if not, you are not. Not much flexibility.
- In school, counsellors are generalists not specialists, they are not expected to know everything. Parents and students need to take responsibility. Understand the specifics of their course and school requirements.
- Start talking with your children when they are in middle school. Grade 11 & 12 will mark the course of your options. It's not that you can't take them, it might be harder or you will need to take a detour.
- Conversations: interests/hobbies, activities, do they like to read, watch, participate, are they extrovert or introvert. What skills they have, knowledge, confidence (on skills and knowledge), working, using skills, What do you not like doing or not good at. Lack of skills/no aptitude, lack of skills/knowledge.
- Narrow the options, to career fields, what environment to work in, place never want to work in, people you don't want to work with. Ask your kids.
Next level – what kind of careers allow you to do what you like to do, and what you do best? What kind of careers should you eliminate because of what you don't like doing, are not good at.

- Post-secondary becomes a part of a process for exploring what you like, what you're good at and reduce the options that you don't like.
- What can a parent do to help?
Identify how do they learn the best. Do they know differences between University and College, what have they heard about university and college?
Sometimes students can handle 200-300 people lectures, some students cannot. It doesn't work for all students. Look for smaller groups. You can start university in place with smaller groups.

Post-secondary is about exploring, students can change their minds.

Start in middle school: start a diary, track the things that the students have done, work, volunteer, sports, travel (experiences), another language. Experience can become an important factor.

Once they are in Post-Secondary Institute, take advantage of all experiences, co-ops, associations, get involved.

Normally students don't finish in 4 years, normally its 5.5 years. Only if they take full load. Tuition is the least expensive part of education. Most expensive is cost of living. \$8-10 K per year if students live at home. Could go to \$25K per year if student lives elsewhere.

Look into bursaries, scholarships, students that works and helps with their costs.

Gap year – application is the same, they will look at your grade 11 & 12, it can be beneficial if it's a deliberate attempt to build on your knowledge or skills, not if they are just taking time to think about it.

6. Executive Member Reports

- DPAC Executive

- Thank you, Mariam Alkassab, Melody Watkins and Nipa Bhalla (former DPAC executive member), for the new website. Friendlier version of our website. All agendas, minutes, reports, links to articles. We can translate the website to any language. 15 languages on it. Please give us feedback.
With permission from presenters, we will be able to share their presentations as well.
To visit the new website, please go to www.dpac43.ca

7. Looking Ahead

- Rosey Manhas

- Budget process, get in touch with Rosey Manhas for consultations. Creative solutions for our communities. The goal would be to prioritize based on overall needs. Get in touch with our office.
- Next meeting Feb 22, Pink Shirt Day.

8. Adjournment

MOTION moved by *Gleneagle Secondary*, seconded by *Coquitlam River Elementary*, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

CARRIED