



# DPAC

District Parent Advisory Council  
School District 46 - Sunshine Coast

## February 2026 DPAC Minutes

Date: February 26, 2026 | Time: 7 pm

Location: (In person and via Microsoft Teams at the Sechelt Early Learning Centre)

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### 7:00 PM Greetings, Introductions + Land Acknowledgement

The meeting took place in unceded traditional land and sea of the Squamish Nation and Sechelt Nation.

**In Attendance:** Tamara Hedden (Chair), Miyuki Shinkai (Secretary & BCCPAC Rep/ESS), Devika Naidu (Vice-Chair/CGE), Jude Pelletier (GES), Ayren Debrett (KES), Shannon Rody (CSS), Melissa Lennox (Treasurer/GES), Jana Curl (Director at Large/CSS), Scott Davis (Past-Chair), Jeniffer Roberts (SD46 Assistant Superintendent), Pamela Kaatz (SD46 Inclusion Technology Coordinator), Statia Leach (Trustee Rep), Marissa Fisher (Director-at-Large/CGE).

### Regrets:

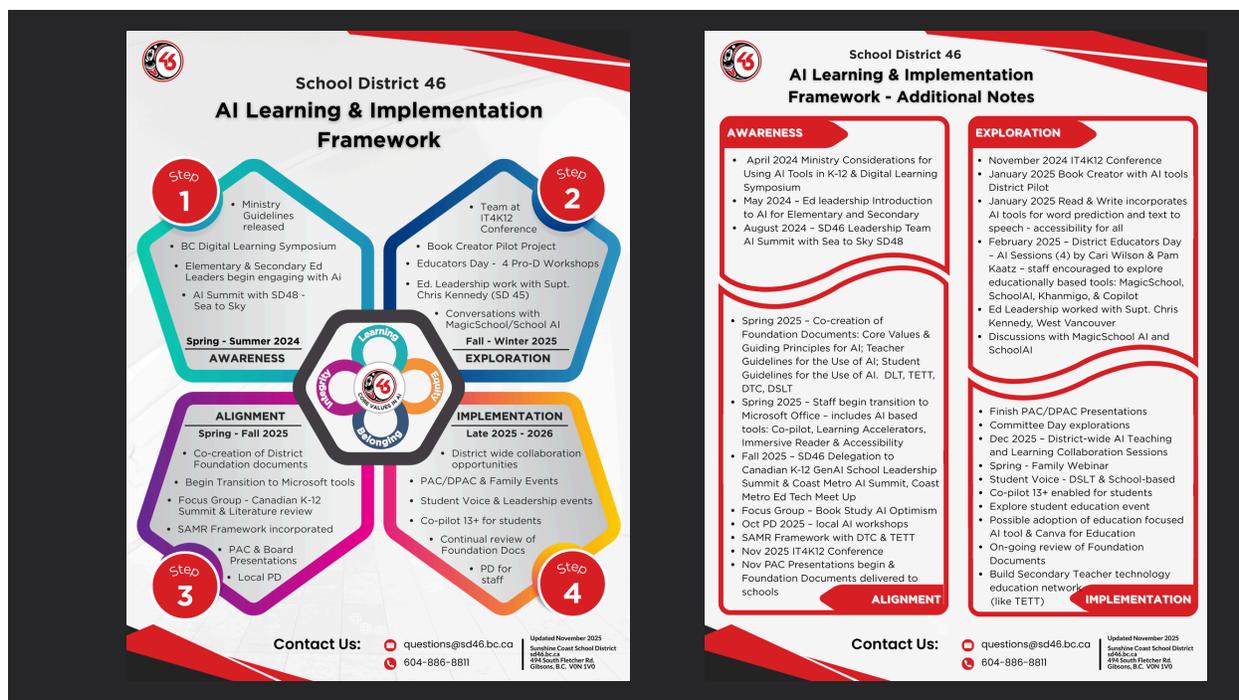
**Absent:** Rep (WSE), Rep (Spider), Rep (SCAS), Rep (RCCS), Rep (PHSS), Rep (MPES), Rep (HMBE), Brair Teal (DBE),

### 7:05 PM Approvals:

- November 27, 2025, Meeting minutes available on the SD46 website (Miyuki/Melissa) m/s/c.
- January 22, 2026 Agenda Approval (Miyuki, Jude) m/s/c.

### 7:05 -7:45 PM Guest Speaker: AI Use in Schools presented by Jennifer Roberts (SD46 Assistant Superintendent) & Pamela Kaatz (SD46 Inclusion Technology Coordinator)

- Parents' Webinar is planned near future to receive parents' feedback and comments. The SD46 website will have more information on this subject soon.
- If your PAC is interested in the district's team presenting at your meeting, please contact: [pkaatz@sd46.bc.ca](mailto:pkaatz@sd46.bc.ca)  
(PowerPoint presentation attached)



## Regular Reports:

### • Chair report: Tamara Hedden

- Banking - Working on BMO signers change, still working on progress.
- No Gaming Grant for 2025/2026 yet, due to a late application.
- SD46 DPAC – PAC 101 Survey on its way.
- Jessica Wollen’s correspondence, Sexual Health educator – more education for high school curriculum, Jessica can come to the DPAC to speak. Two more DPAC meetings to go, and speakers are already booked up. Perhaps a free online parents’ engagement session that DPAC could host.

**Motion:** Budget Consultation Feedback Letter – Motion to send the most updated DPAC letter (attached) to the board and Secretary-Treasurer. (Miyuki/Marrisa) All in favour. m/s/c

2026-2027 Budget Consultation from January 2026 Operation Committee meeting:  
<https://sd46.community-ca.diligentoneplatform.com/document/193e954a-66ca-4c3e-9357-aefcc67e9813/>

- The Board Committee meeting is beneficial to attend and watch on YouTube.
- The BCCPAC Conference and Annual General Meeting will take place April 24–26. On behalf of the SD46 DPAC Board, a recommendation was presented that SD46 DPAC fund up to three delegates to attend the BCCPAC AGM on April 25 (one day only).

**Motion:** That SD46 DPAC fund up to three delegates to attend the April 25 BCCPAC AGM at \$75 per delegate, to a maximum of \$225.

Moved/Seconded (Miyuki/Scott). All in favour. Motion carried. m/s/c

- Chair Tamara is available to attend. Director Marissa is willing to attend all three days Conference & AGM with her own funds. The executive will follow up on the registration.
- Food Safety 5-year Certificate. A course taker from the WSE PAC is waiting for reimbursement from the DPAC. DPAC has no more funds left to support this program

for this year. It could be opened up after receiving a gaming grant in the new school year.

Here is a 20% off group discount code for the registrants. PACs- please consider funding your own members who are involved in your site's food program.

[www.foodsafety.ca](http://www.foodsafety.ca)

**20% off Partnership code: PAR-CHECOA-020P**

And this is the link to the course

[Food Safety Training | Online Food Handler Courses Available | CIFS](#)  
[foodsafety.ca](http://foodsafety.ca)

• **Treasurer Report: Melissa Lennox**

\$482.65 Gaming Account

\$195.20 Operating Chequing account as of Feb 26.

- Melissa will talk to BMO about whether they can waive the \$2 monthly charges.
- Melissa has a suggestion about a possibility of charitable donation to SD 46. Once a year, a full-page ad on Coast Reporter about asking community donations to the School District. A tax-free receipt will be issued to the large donors. Concerns about sustainable public-funded education vs privatization were raised. Other district examples will be explored. Sunshine Coast Community Foundation's existence was brought up. A question on the Online School Cash Service is hosting a monetary donation, \$5 - \$500, to MPES' students' activities. Melissa will follow up with Jennifer.

The report was adapted. (Melissa/Miyuki) m/s/c.

**8:00 PM**

• **Trustees Report: Stacia Leach**

Trustee's Newsletter available online:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?hl=en#inbox/FMfcgzQfCDMGfNPchrzGTjhXFJrzqBSJ>

- 2026/2027 New School Calendar released.
- Municipal Candidates Campaign School registration opened for Feb 28.
- To MoTT, the Active Travel letter was sent.
- Look back on their term, the orientation plan for the new board
- Enrollment declined by about 50; the future of demographics and population will see a change.

• **Assistant Superintendent Report: Jennifer Roberts**

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/8HmNORK517vuHyPI?ref=Link>

-The possibility of hosting a Summer School was asked, online enrollment of students was piloted and worked before, but no formal in-person learning during the summer break.

**8:20 PM Committee reports:**

• **Healthy Schools**– February Healthy Schools Committee Report was shared by the DPAC representative, Jessica Wollen.

• **Family Engagement by Miyuki Shinkai**

- Referred item from the Board of Education Committee of the Whole meeting on Feb 24 –‘Trustee PAC Participation.’ ESS PAC has sent their feedback to the board. If your PAC has anything to provide regarding the Trustee’s engagement with parents and PAC, please send your email to [questions@sd46.bc.ca](mailto:questions@sd46.bc.ca) or send your comments to the DPAC to consolidate recommendations. Here is a meeting link, you can watch on YouTube:

<https://sd46.community-ca.diligentoneplatform.com/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=471>

- The following PACs (CGE, CSS, ESS, GES, LES, and PHS) purchased BCCPAC membership for 2025/2026. These PACs have access to attend the conference and AGM on April 24- 26 in Richmond. BCCPAC has a seat at the provincial table to consult with the Ministry of Education and advocate for better funding in public schools, and provide educational resources and workshops for parents and caregivers. DPAC recommends that the PACs send a delegate or two to attend the AGM to vote. The resolution application is accepted. Miyuki is in the BCCPAC Resolution Committee. If you need more information on how to write and submit your PAC’s resolution, please reach out to Miyuki. [elphinstonepac@gmail.com](mailto:elphinstonepac@gmail.com)

• **Active School Travel by Miyuki Shinkai / Tamara Hedden**

Active Travel Kids Committee meeting at 9:15 am on March 12, hosted by VCH.

• **School Board’s Education, Operations, Committee of the Whole - 4th Tuesdays.**

Typically, there are three separate committee meetings from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm at the SBO, each lasting an hour and a half. If you can attend one of these meetings, please don't hesitate to contact Miyuki or Tamara for more information. PAC reps and DPAC members are welcome to attend. No March meet, next one is on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

– **Lifeguard Scholarship Proposal:** Melissa Lennox, GES PAC Chair, proposed that DPAC create a scholarship program to help cover the cost of Lifeguard Certification (\$500 plus) for students aged 16 and up.

- Suggested contribution: \$40–\$80 from each PAC
- Goal: Support four high school students (one each from ESS, CSS, PHSS, and SCAS)
- Melissa is currently in contact with the SCRD course provider regarding certification details and costs.

**Discussion and Concerns** - The following Concerns were raised regarding whether the proposal is intended to address the shortage of lifeguards in the aquatic program (e.g., swimming lessons for young children).

- There are already certified and qualified students within local high schools.
- Some students choose not to work at the pool.
- Students may view lifeguarding as a high-responsibility role.
- Many students already have busy academic schedules and may not want to commit to such a demanding position.

- Positive response - Lifeguarding is such an important skill to have for kids' career development.

It was noted that funding certification alone may not resolve the staffing shortage if interest in employment remains low.

**School District Input** - Miyuki spoke with Mrs. Cheryl Wilson, District Career Coordinator. There is currently no dedicated Lifeguard program within the district. However, students may earn two credits through the high school curriculum related to certification.

Miyuki also contacted Mr. Scott Bruce, ESS Guidance Counsellor. She is connecting Melissa with both Mr. Bruce and Mrs. Wilson to gather further information about:

- Existing opportunities within the secondary school system
- Current student interest in lifeguard certification
- The overall situation regarding training and employment

### **Next Steps**

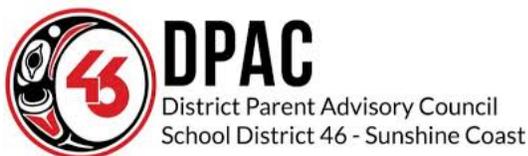
Melissa will follow up on this proposal and provide an update at the April DPAC meeting.

**8:40 PM Meeting to Adjourn (Miyuki/Scott) m/s/c**

**Next meeting:** Microsoft Teams, April 23 @SBO – Jennifer Sinclair, 'Building confidence in the anxious child'

May 28th @ EYC is the last meeting for this school year.

Correspondence:



**February 25, 2026**

To:  
Mr. Nick Weswick, Secretary-Treasurer, SD46  
Ms. Amanda Amaral, Trustee Chair, SD46  
Ms. Kate Kerr, Superintendent, SD46

## **Subject: 2026–2027 SD46 Budget Consultation Feedback**

Dear Mr. Weswick, Ms. Amaral, and Ms. Kerr,

On behalf of the SD46 District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the 2026–2027 budget process. The Strategic Plan outlines the district's commitments. The Implementation Plan outlines the actions required to fulfil those commitments. The Budget must meaningfully resource them. Our recommendations are grounded in the Strategic Plan's nine strands and reflect the urgent priorities families across the district consistently identify.

### **1) Inclusive Education & Complex Needs**

Classroom complexity is increasing significantly. Students with trauma-related needs, behavioural regulation challenges, and complex IEPs require appropriate staffing to ensure safe and inclusive learning environments.

DPAC strongly advocates for:

- Increased Education Assistant (EA) hours, including moving from 30 to 35 hours per week
- Expanded Inclusion Support Teacher (IST) time
- Continued trauma-informed professional learning

The recent CUPE presentation, "*Beyond the Bell*," clearly demonstrated the positive impact expanded EA hours would have across the district. The Board discussion reflected strong engagement and shared recognition of this need. DPAC spoke in full support of increased EA hours, as this is a high-level and ongoing concern for parents.

Inclusion cannot be aspirational; it must be adequately resourced.

### **2) Mental Health & Attendance**

Student mental health challenges are directly impacting attendance and engagement. Expanded counselling services and targeted early interventions are critical supports.

Investment in mental health is not optional; it is foundational to student success, safety, and learning.

### **3) Technology & Future-Ready Learning**

If the district is committed to innovation, cybersecurity, sustainability, and responsible AI learning, students must have reliable and up-to-date devices.

Upgraded laptops and iPads are essential to equitable access. Technology gaps create learning gaps, and equity demands that all students have the tools required to participate fully in modern learning environments.

#### **4) Dedicated Music, Physical Education, Theatre & Arts**

DPAC strongly supports ensuring dedicated Music and Physical Education staff at every school in the district. Access to specialist teachers should not vary by site.

We also encourage explicit support for theatre and performing arts alongside music and visual arts. These programs foster belonging, confidence, creativity, and engagement — especially for students who may struggle in traditional academic settings.

Arts and physical literacy are not extras; they are core contributors to student well-being and competency development.

#### **5) Equity, Multiculturalism & SOGI**

Commitments to equity must include continued support for multiculturalism and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) initiatives. Programs such as SOGI are vital in fostering understanding, acceptance, and safe learning environments for all students.

At a time when inclusive spaces matter deeply to families, maintaining and strengthening these programs sends a clear message that all students belong.

#### **6) Capacity Building & Parent Engagement**

As staff capacity grows through professional learning in trauma-informed and inclusive practices, parents should be meaningfully included in learning opportunities. Alignment between school and home strengthens IEP implementation, regulation strategies, and student outcomes.

Shared understanding creates stronger support systems for students.

#### **7) Advocacy & Structural Pressures**

We recognize the district is navigating inflationary pressures and structural funding challenges. However, budget decisions must reflect the district's stated priorities.

DPAC supports strong, coordinated advocacy to the province for sustainable public education funding and stands ready to collaborate in these efforts.

In summary, meaningful implementation of the Strategic Plan requires:

- Increased EA hours and inclusive staffing
- Strong mental health and counselling support
- Upgraded student technology

- Dedicated Music and Physical Education staff
- Explicit support for the theatre and arts
- Sustained commitment to equity and SOGI initiatives
- Parent engagement in capacity building

These are not enhancements; they are essential supports for student learning and well-being.

We appreciate your leadership and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure the budget reflects the values and commitments outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

SD46 DPAC Board & Members-at-Large