



DPAC

District Parent Advisory Council
School District 46 - Sunshine Coast

April 2024 DPAC Minutes

Date: April 25, 2024 | Time: 7pm

Location: (In person and via zoom at CSS Library)

7:00 PM Greetings, Introductions + Land Acknowledgement

Meeting was taken place in unceded traditional land and sea of Squamish Nation and Sechelt Nation.

In Attendance: Scott Davis (Chair), Matt Carpenter (Vice Chair/ RCCE), Miyuki Shinkai (Secretary & BCCPAC Rep/ ESS), Jana Curl (Director at Large/DBE/CSS), Rachael Eastman (Treasurer/ PHSS/MPE), Simon Croack (CGE), Emily Doyle (GES), Karla Shields (LES), Ayren Drebbett (KES), Tracy, Stacia Leech (Trustee Rep), Nic Weswick (SD46 Secretary-Treasurer).

Regrets: Liz Hills (WSE), Sandy Buck (Spider), Tamara Hedden (CGE), Clayton Klein (HMBE), Kate Kerr (Superintendent).

7:05 PM Approvals:

- February 22, 2024 Meeting minutes available on (SD46 website)
Moved by Miyuki, Seconded by Matt. All in favour. m/s/c
- April 25, 2024 Agenda Approval Moved by Rachael, Seconded by Matt.
All in favour. m/s/c

7:05 -7:40 PM Guest Speaker: Kerry Mahlman “First Peoples Principles of Learning”

<https://indigenous-education.sd46.bc.ca/>

<https://www.fnesc.ca/first-peoples-principles-of-learning/>

- DPAC is working on recommendation to PAC holding ‘Listening Circle’ and ‘Active Listening Practice’ after the well attended Truth & Reconciliation Blanket Exercise hosted by DPAC in Feb 28.

7:40 PM Regular Reports:

- **Chair report: Scott Davis (Chair’s Report attached)**

Scott Davis - sdavisarch@gmail.com

Since my last report, my chair duties were primarily, communicating with presenters for our meetings, receiving email, newsletters on seven topics.

1) DPAC – Signatures at Bank.

March 15- April 16 Letter submitted and all signatures were done by DPAC executives.

2) SOGI Trauma in our schools.

March 28 Patri Janyk of SOGI sent a link to the presentation. The topic was Right to enter Female only safe spaces.

3) May 6-10 Mental Health Awareness week.

April 2 Debbie Pearman sent me a message to announce the event.

4) CAPU Education Assistant Program.

April 2 Debbie Mah sent me a message to announce the event on April 9th.

I will remind her to send it a month ahead next year. April 19th Debbie Mah sent me a message to announce an event on May 19th. The poster was added to DPAC resources.

5) French Language Fluency.

April 8 Valerie Tremblay sent me a message to announce an event on May 4th. She asked to be on the April agenda. Due to limited time, I invited her to the May meeting to update us on her French language program.

6) BCCPAC – Parent Education Conference & AGM May 4-5 2024.

April 13 Proxy voting forms completed. Matt and I are registered to attend the Conference & AGM. Miyuki and Rachael will join a group of DPAC / PAC reps to attend meetings May 5th.

7) Gender Inclusive Bathrooms.

April 22 Tracy Uchida sent me a message that was addressed to SD46 superintendent and Trustees, ECC Minister, BCSTA. April 24 – Tess Strauss sent a copy of a letter sent to a few of the same people. Today I read an email message asking to be on our DPAC April agenda and a Trustee meeting on May 8th. Miyuki responded from DPAC and invited her to join the Zoom call to ask a question during other reports. I want to give a reminder that DPAC is not an advocacy group. The focus of our meetings is supporting parents with information.

* Addition: Co-Ed Sports Team discussion was brought up. DPAC and PACs would like to take part in the upcoming consultation process in new school year.

• **Treasurer report by Rachael Eastman**

Gaming Account – Reconciled balance as of April 25th, 2024 - \$3,166.49. (after committed funds approved - \$0.94)

Operating Account – Balance \$ 416.16 (\$27 Thank you bouquet for Tracey Thompson was approved by executive via email on April 23rd)

* NEW* After one year of correspondence with Community Grant Gaming Branch, Gaming Grant Program amended the DPAC expense allowance to be up to \$1,000

instead of up to \$500 in order to send delegates to BCCPAC function in Richmond.
* Additional Funding Support - In response to DPAC's funding support request started in June 2023, Superintendent Kerr confirmed to endorse SD46 DPAC delegation to BCCPAC Conference and AGM in May by sponsoring \$500.

****** If your PAC member is interested in taking a food safe certification, please contact to Rachael for more info about DPAC reimbursement process. So far only used by 2 applicants, DPAC could fund 6 more takers.**

8:00 PM Old Business: None

8:20 PM · **Trustee report: Board Vice-Chair Stacia Leech** (attached separately)

Next Public Board Meeting: May 8th at 7pm -

Parents are invited to attend the Board of Education meetings.

Meetings are held in person at the School Board Office, 494 South Fletcher Road, Gibsons and live streamed to YouTube Live stream.

*PAC Survey for the new communication procedure with Trustees was brought up. DPAC will be in touch with trustee chair before year ends.

- **Board reports: Superintendent Kate Kerr - presented by Nic Weswick**

REPORT TO DPAC

SCHOOL DISTRICT 46 – SUNSHINE COAST

Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Superintendent Kate Kerr

April 25, 2024

1. Circle of Care: Students

a. **Welcoming you to Kindergarten – KinderSPARK! & SPARK! to Kindergarten**

Upcoming Programs: Registration is now open for families with children entering kindergarten next fall to join these two wonderful and supportive transition programs kicking off this April. (1b)

b. **April is Earth Month and April 22nd is Earth Day!** The Environmental Education and Climate Action Committee and school level Environmental Leads have prepared many offerings, resources, and supports for staff and students this April. Annually, the SOS Students on Shorelines Clean-up is an opportunity for students and staff to make a

difference in our community during Earth Month. The committee has also created an Earth Day Resource Kit: Going Green Menu of Ideas for staff and an E3 Online Atlas with shared lessons outside on the Sunshine Coast to help students and staff to get outside. (1i)

C. Careers Updates:

- **Firefighter Academy:** Twelve students recently graduated from the Firefighter Academy after an intensive two-week training program during spring break, where they honed valuable job and life skills. This year's session, the third of its kind, was a collaborative effort by local fire departments, and hosted by the Sechelt Fire Department. The training drew applications from 29 students, vying for 12 spots, and included a comprehensive selection process based on applications, physical tests, and interviews.

Volunteer instructors from the Gibsons, Roberts Creek, Pender Harbour and Sechelt Fire Departments supported the program, with students utilizing Turnout Gear from the Vancouver Fire Department for practical training in a controlled burn building.

The academy was a resounding success, highlighted by the return of two alumni as instructors for the wildfire training segment. The Gibsons and Halfmoon Bay departments now include former students among their ranks. This program continues to be a source of pride and a significant achievement for our district, demonstrating a strong partnership with local fire services and a commitment to hands-on, impactful learning experiences for our students.

- **Train in Trades** courses continue to demonstrate robust interest and participation. In particular, the Carpentry program has attracted significant attention, with 19 applicants vying for 16 available positions. Meanwhile, the Automotive program is engaging 9 students, and the Cook program includes 4 students.

Additionally, we are in the process of developing a Dual Credit Early Childhood Education cohort slated for the upcoming year. We anticipate the enrollment of approximately 5 students in the second term, although this initiative is still in the planning phase.

- The district has secured a \$50,000 government grant aimed at enhancing **Work Experience placements**, specifically in the fields of medicine and technology.
- **Elementary Opportunities:** In a collaborative effort with Rene from Construction Ready, we have focused on providing Grade 4/5 students with

practical experience in trades. Over a span of three days, Rene and Cathy Gordon visited nine classrooms where students constructed a Mason Bee house or an aluminum ring bowl. This initiative not only offered students hands-on experience but also facilitated discussions about careers in trades, underscoring the value of vocational education in our district's curriculum. (1l)

2. Circle of Care: Staff

- a. **Spring Break Training Offerings:** CUPE staff were offered a variety of professional development opportunities during the second week of spring break. The offerings included Positive Discipline in the Classroom and Professional Learning for Supporting Students with ASD (2b)
- b. **Yellowknife Visit:** During the first week of April, District Principal of Indigenous Learning Kerry Mahlman and Pender Harbour Secondary Principal Chris Lekakis embarked on a journey to the Yellowknife area and the North Slave region, including Behchokò, to engage with the Education department of the Tłıchǝ Government. Their mission is to gain insights into the region's small educational institutions and to exchange knowledge with Tłıchǝ officials regarding our district's application of the updated British Columbia (BC) Curriculum and Assessment methodologies. This initiative is supported by the valuable contributions from our local team who have compiled critical information for this knowledge-sharing endeavor. This visit is timely, as the Northwest Territories transition from the Alberta to the BC curriculum, offering a prime opportunity to share our district's experiences and learnings. Among the highlights of their visit will be their participation in a cultural camp and a language immersion program. These experiences are anticipated to provide valuable perspectives on place-based learning, which we hope to integrate into our own educational practices.
- c. **The "SPARK! To Secondary"** program offered this April and May provides a valuable platform for parents and caregivers of students transitioning to high school. It offers in-person interactive classes at Elphinstone, Chatelech, or Pender Secondary, focusing on understanding adolescent brain changes, fostering healthy independence, maintaining open communication, establishing healthy routines, and employing effective parenting strategies for the teen years. Additionally, an online Zoom class is available, addressing the transition to high school, school logistics, and a unique Q&A session with Future Leader Students from each high school. Participants will also gain access to a curated list of resources to further support this transition. (2e)

3. Circle of Care: Community

- a. The "**Journeys to High School**" co-designed (*School's Out United Way, Sunshine Coast Community Schools and SD46*) initiative is designed to support the transition of

Indigenous Grade 7 students to secondary school. It aims to celebrate this important milestone, facilitate connections between students, families, and high school staff, and foster a sense of community among Indigenous students district-wide. Key upcoming events include a Gathering and Feast at shíshálh Nation Longhouse, orientation events at Chatelech and Elphinstone Secondary Schools, and a "Bring a Friend to High School" activity to help students transition to their new school. Special programming is also in development for students transitioning to Pender Harbour Secondary School. Registration is available online and through paper copies at elementary schools until April 12th. **(3a, 3c)**

8:25 PM Committee reports:

- **Healthy Schools**– No report. New representative from DPAC - Jessica Wollen
<https://sd46.bc.ca/families-and-students/health-supports-resources/>

- **Family Engagement by Miyuki Shinkai**

1. SD46 new Anti-Racism Working Group met on April 22nd
<https://decolonialfutures.net/beyond-thank-you-for-the-real-estate/>
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/erase/documents/k-12-anti-racism-strategy.pdf>
https://sd46.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/25_anti-racism.pdf

2. DPAC Workshop with Laura Barnes were well received - April 8 & April 22nd

3. DPAC Workshop - "How to Start the School Year in a Good Way" with Compassionate Systems Leadership for all parents and caregivers on May 30th, 7-9pm at Chatelech Secondary library - A gathering in May to prepare for September start-up! A joint offering from SD46 & DPAC. Registration: [SD46.bc.ca/CSLEVENT24](https://sd46.bc.ca/CSLEVENT24) Everyone is welcome to book your spot!

4. BCCPAC hosted Community Gaming Grant info session via zoom. Recording link will be shared with DPAC reps. PAC Gaming Grant Application deadline - June 30.

- **Active School Travel by Miyuki Shinkai**

SD46 Spring campaign will start soon. Inviting Johan to speak at the next meeting and emailing AT resources to reps in mid May.

- **Education, Operations, Committee of the whole - 4th Tues of month –Next meeting is on May 21st, 10-4pm.**

Typically from 10am – 3:30pm at the SBO for 3 separate committee meetings for an hour and half each. If you can make one of three meetings, please contact to Miyuki / Scott to receive more information. DPAC Executive highly recommends more parents to take part in. The meeting environment is welcoming and agenda covers many important topics to parents group as a stakeholder.

8:48 PM Meeting to Adjourn

Next meeting: May 23, 2024 7pm | Elphinstone Library & Zoom

Speakers: French to Go, SD46 Active Travel Campaign

New Business: How to start the School Year in a Good Way shared by PACs

