

MINUTES



DPAC
DISTRICT PARENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

Executives in Attendance: Shannon Rose, Chair
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer
Winsome Rauch, Secretary
Kara Dickson, Director
Amy MacKenzie, Director

Attendance: See Zoom Attendance attached.

Special Guests: Michelle Gehring, Acting Director of Instruction and Learning Support Services and Trustee Jared White

1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. A quorum was met.

2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

3 Presentation from Michelle Gehring, Acting Director of Instruction and Learning Support Services

Michelle Gehring gave an overview of school-based learning support services (LSS), including learning support teachers, Youth Care Workers (YCW), educational assistants (EA), counselors, and district resource room programs. She explained the two branches of the District Learning Support Services: Inclusive Education and Safe Schools branches. Inclusive Education services were discussed, including LSS Helping Teachers, intensive intervention teachers, and other specialized roles. Safe Schools services were outlined, involving elementary school counselors and Student Engagement & Safety Helping Teacher. She explained Tiers 1, 2, and 3 in the Accessing Learning Supports Pyramid. Emphasis on the importance of Tier 1 in mitigating the need for further intervention and providing universal strategies for the classroom. Tier 2 is Targeted Teaching / Intervention; Tier 3 is Intensive Support.

3.1 Ms. Gehring addressed common myths related to special education and learning support.

Myth #1 My child has a designation so they automatically get an EA. Discussion: Designation does not automatically result in an Educational Assistant (EA).

Myth #2: The school gets funding for my child with special needs, so they should have a 1:1 EA. Discussion: Clarification on funding and the misconception of a 1:1 EA for special needs students.

Myth #3: Pull out groups are the best way to support my child's learning. Discussion: Evaluation on the effectiveness of pull-out groups versus collaborative teaching methods.

Myth #4: There are no consequences for students with behaviour problems. Discussion: Clarification on consequences for students with behavior problems and the focus on interventions.

Myth #5: My child needs to be designated in order to get help. Discussion: Emphasis on the fact that every student qualifies for help and support, not requiring a specific designation.

3.2 Ms. Gehring provided the steps for addressing questions or concerns:

1. Talk to the teacher.
2. Talk to the case manager.
3. Talk to the principal.
4. Contact the LSS department via email at LSS.Department@abbyschools.ca for additional support.

4 Q&A with Michelle Gehring, Acting Director of Instruction and Learning Support Services and Trustee Jared White

4.1 How to address constant disruption in the classroom?

It's important to acknowledge the disruptions affecting learning and prioritize creating safe, caring, and inclusive schools. The focus is on equipping students to handle stress and ensuring support is available. Strategies are being developed to mitigate disruptions, with a team effort to help students avoid engaging in disruptive behaviors.

4.2 Ensuring consistency in IEPs and consequences across schools?

In developing Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), there are district expectations, and the process is currently in its third year. Consequences for conduct also follow district expectations, but there are special considerations for each case due to nuanced situations and varied information about students' lives, making consistency challenging.

4.3 Information on School Psychologists and their role?

There are seven educational psychologists who work with school-based teams, focusing on district screenings and transitioning students to adulthood and community living. They are not clinical psychologists and have limited annual assessments. Assessments are more beneficial in certain situations, such as identifying conditions like dyslexia.

4.4 Inclusion of liaison officers in safe schools, and their accessibility?

Every school has a liaison officer, part of the safe schools initiative, working closely with youth squad officers. They are visible, on-site, and have abbyschools email addresses, ensuring accessibility.

4.5 When are trustees contacted and their role?

Trustees represent parents and the community, and they operate independently of day-to-day school operations, focusing on student success.

4.6 Noon hour supervisors training and eligibility?

There is upcoming training for noon hour supervisors. Some schools might not have been included initially due to space limitations, but those individuals will be prioritized for the next training. Those who missed the November training can approach their principals for eligibility in the upcoming session.

5 Approval of the Minutes from November 23, 2023

5.1 Approving the minutes

Secretary Winsome Rauch read the minutes of the November 23, 2023 meeting.

It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Marc Vella – Abby Senior THAT the minutes of the November 23, 2023 General Meeting be approved as presented.
CARRIED

6 Treasurer report

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances as of January 25, 2024

6.1 DPAC Gaming Account

Opening as Nov 23, 2023	\$ 4,490.37
Add	
Less	
Closing Balance Jan 25, 2024	<u>\$ 4,490.37</u>

6.2 DPAC General Account

Opening as of Nov 23, 2023	\$ 3662.62
Add	
Less	
Closing Balance Jan 25, 2024	<u>\$ 3,662.62</u>

7 New Business

7.1 Joint Partnership Meeting

Date and Time: February 5, 6:30 pm

Location: Clarion (Invite Only)

Participants: Senior management, PAC chairs, principals, vice principals

Focus: Brainstorming for the 4-year plan

7.2 Parent Night Series - The Evolution of Inclusion

Date and Time: February 15, 6-8:30 pm

Location: Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

Event Highlights:

6-7 pm: Parent fair

7-8 pm: Keynote by Shelley Moore

8-8:30 pm: Parent fair

Registration: Free but please register, check your school's website for a registration link.

7.3 SD 34 Public Board Meeting

Date and Time: February 13, 7 pm

Location: School Board Office

7.4 Public Budget Info Night

Date and Time: March 6, 6 pm

Location: School Board Office with Ray Velestuk

7.5 Safer Schools Together

Social Media Awareness Family Sessions

Dates and Time: February 7, 28, 7-8 pm

Registration: Visit saferschoolstogether.com

7.6 Teaching Opportunities

Deadline: February 4

Details: Abby schools have openings for Teachers on Call. A university degree in a teachable subject is required. Submit your CV by February 4.

8 Open Floor

There were no questions from the floor.

9 Next Meeting

The next DPAC meeting will be held February 22, 2024 at 7pm.

10 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM

Zoom Attendance Report

Name (Original Name)
Shannon Rose
Winsome Rauch DPAC Secretary (Winsome Rauch)
Michelle Gehring
Jared White Trustee (Jared.White)
tracey
jas b ats dpac (SD34 DPAC Zoom #1)
Amanda-Terry Fox
Amy MacKenzie - Dr. TA Swift Rep & DPAC Director
parampreet kaur grewal
Dee Sekhon Fraser Middle
Marc - Abby Sr
Josephine Leonard Chief Dan George Middle/WJ Mouat Secondary (Josephine Leonard)
Melissa
Kara Dickson-DPAC Director/Rep @ IKT
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair
Tracey Lamoureux - DPAC/Bateman
Deanna - Terry Fox PAC