

DRAFT

New Westminster DPAC

School District 40

Date: February 19, 2026

Location: Queen Elizabeth Elementary and online

Time: 7-9 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Laura Kwong (Chair, Qayqayt)

Minute Taker: Heather Kamitakahara (Secretary, Connaught)

DPAC Executive: Shawn Sorensen (Vice-chair, Qayqayt), Krista Macaulay (Treasurer, Tweedsmuir), Cyrus Sy (MAL, NWSS DPAC Rep), Sue Kenny (MAL, QMS), Alison Ytsma (MAL, Qayqayt)

Guests: Superintendent Mark Davidson, Trustee Russell

Regrets: Krista Macaulay (DPAC treasurer), Sue Kenny (DPAC MAL), Cyrus Sy (DPAC MAL), Shawn Sorensen (DPAC MAL)

Attendees: Shawn Riberdy (Howay), Alison Ytsma (Qayqayt), Joana Bettocchi-Henrey, Jenn Pistor (Tweeds), Anu Sharma (QEE), Sarah Siegel (Qayqayt), Paul Romain (Skwoweche), Sarah Phelan (Principal QEE) Tammy Dewar (Vice-Principal QEE), James Plett, Gita Harris

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm

Time	Item	Owner
7:04	Welcome, Call to Order & Territory Acknowledgement, Attendance	Laura
	Adoption of February 2026 Agenda MOTION TO APPROVE by Laura SECONDED by Anu CARRIED	Laura
	Approval of November 2025 Meeting Minutes MOTION TO APPROVE Laura K SECONDED by Paul CARRIED	Laura
	Approval of January 2026 Meeting Minutes MOTION TO APPROVE Laura K SECONDED by Heather CARRIED	Laura
7:10	Superintendent Update - Acknowledged the tragedy at Tumbler Ridge. Discussed how we might offer support to families affected and children and staff. - There is a sense of insecurity when a place like a school is targeted. - School safety plan. Have been impressed with how seriously the staff take them and how respectful young people are. Have been a teacher for a long time, including at middle school. - The plans align with best practices. - The day before the shooting, Mark entered into an agreement with a company called Hour Zero. Have worked with them as a principal and	Mark Davidson

	they are doing internal and external audits. Looking for lines of sight and locking doors etc. Looking for advice on increasing security. Will be revising school safety planning. Connects to the police department so they have access to building drawings etc. It is a simple but effective system. • When we get the recommendations, we will work through which of them will be implemented, and where. • We have to balance how we do this to align with how schools function day to day. • The collective agreement is set to go through the ratification process in the coming weeks. If ratified, all elements of the collective agreement have been budgeted for. We are already at the higher end of the expenditures compared to other districts. Some changes include more prep time for teachers. • It is a rough (provincial) budget. • The collective agreement - pleased they have budgeted for the increases. • There will be budget consultation. A survey has gone out. • The announced funding changes for children with neurodivergence. No implications for funding changes. What we learned - services be provided in school instead of at a clinic. MCFD will determine what that looks like. • It would be great to get those services in schools. • Today received a survey to draft policy to support a police partnership program. Want to have policy and clear direction around expectations for a partnership program. The admin procedure provides detail on the partnership program. We will take in the feedback received through the surveys. Continue to receive feedback after Board meeting and use that to consider revisions for presentation to the Board on March 10th and if passed, that policy will allow Mark to put those procedures into effect. • We want to have the policy and procedures cleared up. The goal wasn't necessarily to have resource officers in school but to make sure we have a relationship with the police so we were both trained in the things we work together on and we have a single point of contact. One challenge is if a young person presents with threatening behaviours in a way that causes concerns, we initiate that process. Particularly where they have said things online, the police are trained in the same trauma-informed process that the District staff are. Looking to work with a specific division so that every member of the division would be trained. They will then make sure someone who is trained is the one dealing with it. • Question on funding changes re disabilities: there is a concern about resources being taken away. Is there a sense that it might follow suit with the services being offered in school? • Mark - they spoke about means testing and level of need. There may be students who won't qualify at all and others who will qualify for more. The income threshold is quite high. They did say there would be a	
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	number of young people who had funding who will no longer be funding, and others who will receive funding. • The budget protects dollars to education. The costs of the collective agreement with teachers are budgeted for. We don't know what will happen with CUPE. We have been left to deal with salaries with folks who are not in the collective agreement. There are costs that are not recognized in the grants. Things like benefit costs, there are no separate grant amounts to help the District with that. Coming out of this year, we are not in deficit (the District). We will have a reasonable surplus, so we have the ability to respond. It is not going to be easy, we will be left to make hard decisions, but we will know more as we move along. • The Long Range Facilities Plan - we met with the committee to go through feedback a couple of days ago. • Interviews for Principal pool. Had great candidates. All of us were really impressed with all of the candidates. We will be working now on reference calls and decisions and reach out to people. • Laura - received comments on the police program policy. Feedback - they wished there was a warning on the letter - they were not expecting it and had a trauma response to reading the letter. They were wondering also if the policy would cover training and what sort of trauma-informed response could be expected when police are called in, and dealing with mental health and neurodiversity. • Mark - I never thought of that but will consider it for future. The MOU covers the direct relationship with the community policing unit and services in schools that are not related to 911 calls. It is really clear that the role that is defined in the police partnership program - their role is not to engage in law enforcement. However that will be involved in all of the training, and that will be defined in the MOU. Those things will be part of the training with the police department. We are protective about what we do in our delivery and relationships with police in schools. Board of Education Update • It is a heavy public engagement season. We appreciate DPAC's role and all of the PACs to get that information out. • Encourage parents to get involved and speak up. • Those are consultation around our next budget, open until February 27th, and the amended budget for the current year is coming to the board this coming Tuesday. • There is an opportunity for feedback on the police partnership memorandum and policy partnership procedures, until March 3rd and on an ongoing basis. • There will be public engagement on the long-range facilities plan. Want to ensure we have meaningful conversations. That survey is later on in May that that is going out. • There is consultation still open on the school calendar.	Maya Russell
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	• The Provincial budget - relieved to see funding is protected and there are some increases and continues to be capital spending on schools. But of course, not the increases we need at all. • The change from targeted autism funding to the new model is going to be of interest to parents. It definitely hits those impacted families. One thing families have worried about is that child needs assessment and designation to receive supports in schools, so if there isn't that targeted funding, and publicly available assessments have long wait lists how do we ensure those kids are identified. We really do resource according to need, but in order for the District to get funded, we need designations. As a parent of a child who accessed many services and supports but left without a diagnosis - without that funding, I really see the argument. There are many kids that are not supported as they aren't coming through the door with the right labels. We don't have a good record as a province of meeting the needs of children. I have concerns about that. • Encourage folks to read the documents around the police partnership. I am comfortable with where it has landed. There are principles in there that are important to Maya and important to people in the community. Yes we welcome the support, and also, children when they attend school should have the same fundamental rights as any person outside of school. There are real concerns where it's very easy to strip away fundamental human rights that we take for granted when we combine students and police. There are a lot of protections in place. It is very important to protect the privacy of children and their families. There has been a lot of work put in to get this right. Maya is comfortable with where it has landed. Welcome everyone's thoughts when they get a chance to look at it. The work will be in the implementation and we have an exceptional leader in Mark.	
7:41	Standing Reports • Chair Report ○ Acknowledged the Tumbler Ridge tragedy. Check in on your loved ones especially in the trans and gay community. ○ The PAC at Tumbler Ridge secondary and the DPAC have a go fund me and they also have an email address that has direct deposit to support the community. Last night on a call with SD59. They are feeling overwhelmed with the work to get set up with a new school space. They are volunteers and have a lot on their plate. Links are on the DPAC social media. ○ (Mark left, and Sarah, Tammy - 7:43 pm) ○ Lunar New Year, Ramadan, Black History Month. ○ Long Range Facilities Plan - asked to provide feedback on a more finalized plan. Hopefully we will have that opportunity with the public. The survey is going out, and that will inform the plan.	Laura Krista

	Share it with your school communities. It is a quick survey. It is not an onerous survey - complete it so they get good data. ○ The budget survey went out today as well. Our feedback is considered. It is a Ministry requirement that they must inform the public on their budget process. Share with your school communities. The budget survey is public - you don't have to be a member of the school - it is for anyone who lives in New West. ● Treasurer's Report ○ No update. Have had very little spending. Next month we have Misha Oak coming to present - parent education on supporting SOGI and SOGI-related information for parents and caregivers. That will be coming out next month in March, so we will give that update in April.	
8:20	School Reports ● FRMS (Laura) ○ Ran a readathon - raised \$4,500. Funds for ELL learning equipment. The librarian was fantastic. It was amazing to get support from the librarian. He had more books checked out and returned than during the same period the previous year. ○ Brought in a babysitter course on the Pro-d Day - we filled up and made a decent amount of money on that. Ordered lunch for the kids and included it in their registration. ○ There are a lot of questions about construction next year. That is an ongoing conversation with the principal. ○ Request for sending out information for those Grade 6 families deciding to stay at elementary. ● Queen Elizabeth (Anu) ○ Have just paid for Bollywood dance. Each class got to partake in a small dance and the parents come. ○ Pizza day. ○ Thank you for sharing the readathon! ● EGMS (Manisha) ○ Not in attendance ● Hume Park ○ No speaker. ● Lord Kelvin (Eryne) ○ Not in attendance ● Skwo:wech (Paul) ○ Spirit wear. ○ Bake sale for Valentines day. ○ Movie night tomorrow. ○ Readathon - super successful. ● QMS ○ Not in attendance. ● Connaught (Heather K) ○ Discussed Wills Jams, Saleema Noon, end of year event.	DPAC Reps

	○ We had a very successful readathon. ● Howay (Shawn) ○ Family Dance coming up on February 27th - glow in the dark theme. Last year, first 50/50 draw. This year, have decided to send the 50/50 draw so you can purchase before the dance and a week after and decided to encourage more people to come to the PAC meeting by revealing the winner at the next PAC meeting. Neufeld farms fundraiser. Working at having a yearbook for the school. The issue is we have a small school so a minimum amount of purchases. So if you don't hit the minimum you still have to pay for the amount of books. Just deciding on that. ● Tweedsmuir (Jen) ○ Did fun lunch - pizza day - going very well. ○ Funded a week-long hip-hop workshop. ○ Have been alternating ○ First-ever tweedsmuir twist dance. Raised \$600 for the PAC and it was a great community event. ○ Monday fundraiser after school for Tumbler Ridge. ○ Organizing Readathon. ○ Haven't been provided any additional information on the Grade 6 option. We have 4 days for parents to make their decision and they have til April 1st to change their mind. Wondering if any more information that we can share with our school community. ○ Laura - shared - at coordinating committee last week, asked for middle schools (particularly Fraser) - asked that they coordinate something for parents to understand what it will be like in Grade 6... making a decision about 2 unknowns. Asked if the schools could provide information about what Grade 6 is like - child experiences staying back vs. going to middle school. It is pretty clear that all those things like exploratories, intramurals - not possible. It's going to look different in those ways. Asked for a tour, a video. Principal Kwan at NWSS - volunteered those students to make a video that could be sent out to families. That was last week. ○ Jen - the concern is the timeline. As long as information comes in in a timely manner. ○ Laura - talked about the next year at the coordinating committee. Have a group of kids - a smaller group who are then going to join Grade 7 - how do you make them feel part of the school after the other kids have had a full year to form that identity. No answers but aware, going to have to put some energy into that. ○ Jen - questions about if there will be another choice. ○ Laura - the idea is that it will be permanent once there is space to keep Grade 6 at all elementary schools. Only a choice until it can be everybody. And then it will be the whole grade	
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	reconfiguration. This is a real immediate need because of the construction at Fraser where there are currently portables that have students in them. Those students need to be brought into the Fraser building - and that is a big driver for this. There is going to be a real need to hold kids back at the elementaries where there is space to do so. That is the big pressure right now. It is a big cohort. • Qayqayt (Alison) ○ McMillan Space Centre - mobile planetarium. ○ Ran 5th annual readathon and made over \$9,000. Very successful! ○ Have kits with chess, dominos, poppers, etc. Every class got stuff in it - helped purchase those. Able to fundraise so much through readathons that we were able to fund school pinnies. Last year Qayqayt was the only school without school pinnies. That was around \$2,000. ○ Had first ever dance, which was a good time. It was also a glow-theme. It was very cute. Feedback was that it was well-received by school admin and families. • NWSS (Cyrus S) ○ Not in attendance.	
8:35	Old Business • None New Business • SD40 Budget Consultation - DPAC requests discussion ○ Mentimeter.com ○ Code 41521428 ○ Rankings were: ■ 1. Arts program materials (band, musical, fine arts supplies) ■ 2. Playground and outdoor spaces ■ 3. Out of school care programs ■ 4. Athletics and sport program materials ■ 5. Child care programs ■ (12/13 responded) ○ Likely we are not going to get anything new. ○ Universally across the Province, and across other partner groups, classroom composition and classroom supports is the biggest budget issue for everyone. Learning support needs, smaller class sizes is the request around the Province. ○ Second rankings for priority investment: ■ 1. Indoor heating/cooling ■ 2. Indoor air quality ■ 3. Accessibility of play spaces	Laura Kwong

	■ 4. Accessibility of buildings ■ 5. Facility maintenance and custodial activities ■ 6. Classroom technology ■ 10/13 responded ○ Question on importance of the following issues in the school community. ○ Where does your school community see a need in increased resources? ■ Music ■ Inclusive education ■ Crossing guards ■ EAs ■ Staff ■ Transportation ■ Trees for more shading ■ OT ■ slp ■ cooling for portables ■ updated playground ■ adst teacher ■ traffic safety ■ arts education ■ og trained for dyslexia ■ sports ● BCCPAC Resolution - Policy for Recognition of DPACs as Primary Consultation Partners ○ BCCPAC recognizes DPACs as the main and most effective way to connect with parents and caregivers across the province; ○ and BCCPAC will make reasonable efforts to consult directly with DPACs when gathering input or developing provincial positions on education issues. ○ The policy does not prevent BCCPAC from also hearing directly from PACs, parents, caregivers, or other stakeholders when needed. ○ MOTION to submit this resolution in April to the BCCPAC AGM by Joana, SECOND by Paul, all in favour, CARRIED ● Climate Action Committee - request for advocacy ○ Have just had another meeting. ○ MOTION by Shawn for a resolution for DPAC to draft a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a comprehensive curriculum be developed around climate action education for Grades K-12 and that this letter be circulated to all the PACs in the District and for PACs to sign on, SECOND by Jen, all in favour,	
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	CARRIED. ● DPAC Inclusive Education Committee formation. ○ Laura and Joana have been raising the experiences of neurodivergent families with the District. We addressed the whole board. And then met with Mark and then with the VP of special education. We identified some areas of concern We have had a second meeting with them and we have a few propositions. One is creating focus groups for different needs with the District. It will take a bit of work to come up with these initiatives. Another parent and I propose that we have an Inclusive Education Committee formation so we can work together to guide the discussion and improve the communication between the District and neurodivergent families. ○ MOTION that DPAC form a DPAC Inclusive Education Committee by Laura, SECOND by Anu, all in favour, CARRIED.	
9:10	Adjournment: 9:10pm - MOTION by Paul, SECOND by Joana, CARRIED Next Meeting: April 16, 2026 at Ecole Herbert Spencer and Online	

Police Partnership Program feedback:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=A6INalQXNE6f6JdvA1PFKs4PRCosigNDgDUSdnquyRhURU9OWTRIRUISQUtETDIRNVhaRiBJVzU0WC4u&route=shorturl>

school calendar feedback:

<https://newwestschools.ca/blog/2026/02/09/community-feedback-on-the-2026-2027-school-calendar/>

District Budget Consultation to Feb 27

<https://newwestschools.ca/about-new-west-schools/budget-and-finance/>

<https://www.surreyteachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/How-teachers-can-support-students-during-Ramadan-March-2020-Teacher-Magazine.pdf>

<http://bcplanetarium.com/>

<https://newwestschools.ca/blog/2026/02/02/grade-6-transition-questions-and-answers/>