



## BEST PAC Meeting Agenda

Wed Feb 5, 2025 /6pm Library

bestpac2023@gmail.com

### I. Welcome/Call to Order/Attendance 6:05 pm start

Kim T	Jennifer G	Shea C	Ashley C	Ashley G
Becky M	Angel E	Nicole A	Amber L	Caroline M
Marlena E	Amber N			

### II. Principal Report- Kim E

#### a. School update and upcoming events

Staff review of projected costs for next school year 2025/26

Basketball is about midway through the season. Good to see the teamwork and growth.

March 7, grade 7 course selection, counselors will come in to talk to students, booklets to come home.

Indigenous poster competition

Secwepemc word of the day, grandfather teachings happening throughout the school.

Equity transformation cycle.

Discrimination, gender, race and culture.

How can we create a positive and safe learning environment?

Our words matter.

Staff attended classes at the beginning of the year, to be able to better support students. The Ministry of Education provides resources for teachers.

The Immigration Society visited the school to give the intermediate classes a presentation.

Parents and students are encouraged to participate in a survey to help gather more perspectives regarding these issues.

Mr>s Edstrom has been working on sustaining a making a difference club within the school.

There is a diversity film festival.

Looking at adding more resources into our library.

All of this will continue into next year.

If you are aware of a presenter, or more resources we can add into our school please reach out, we welcome all feedback.

### III. Finished Fundraisers:

- a. Moon Wok Report    *profit \$339.95*
- b. Panago Report                      *profit \$1,063.74*  
***lunch profit to date \$2,216.62***

### IV. Current and Upcoming Fundraisers:

- a. Fri Feb 14- BEST PAC Hot Lunch- Sushi                      *profit \$211.63*
- b. Movie Night: Fri Feb 21- The Wild Robot  
Volunteer Sign Up Sheet (enough volunteers signed up to run event)  
5:30pm door open  
6:00pm movie starts  
**Concession to include** : popcorn, chips, chocolate bars, candy bags, pop, juice boxes as well as pizza for our first time. Pre-orders will be sent out for pizza sales so we know how much to purchase, a few extra pizzas will be purchased as well to have some available for those who may not have pre-ordered.  
***candy bag night to be determined***
- c. Mom's Night Out? (Yoga, Wellness/Meditation, healthy snack, mocktail, spa hand massage-any estheticians, yoga teachers in the school/friends?)  
***Moms wellness night out/session was chosen***  
*pre registration will be sent out, form to include parent name and phone #, will open drop in spots a few days prior.*  
*\$20 per person or bring a friend, 2 for \$30*  
*will include a water bar ( selection of infused waters), charcuterie and a 45 min yoga session. Doors will open at 6:30, yoga from 7-7:45, then time for socializing until 8:30. Volunteers will be needed for cleanup after. Looking to see if some companies will donate things for our charcuterie set up.*
  - i. 2 Day Track and Field Concession (Dates? ) possible dates are May 8/9  
pre-orders will be done for the primary side again this year. Calling on all our volunteers to make this a successful event.
- d. June- Hot Lunch: Hot Dog Day/ Family "BBQ"- Friday June 6
  - i. Outdoor Movie Night? - looking into the logistics of running this event.  
Will have to look into rental fees. Also will have to remind grounds to turn off the sprinkler system that night, or at least delay it.
- e. April we will be running our Senor Froggy pasta lunch, options will include alfredo, meat, and butter noodles as well as breadsticks and cinnamon crisps.

### V. DPAC Update:

- DPAC wrote a letter to SD73 regarding their concerns with the budget cuts (CEA/responsible adults etc.) Please see DPAC letter and SD 73 Response Letter below.

### VI. Treasurer Report:

- a. Current balances  
***General Account \$13,371.22***  
***Gaming Account \$8,000.67***
- b. Request for Funds
- c. Primary Field Trip Update

We're looking at options for sending classes on their second field trip.  
*bring in big little science center?*  
*bring in wild life park?*  
*eureka science?*  
*Yukon Dan?*

**Next school year we are thinking about giving teachers \$200 for their classrooms to choose science and tech-based field trips.**

**VII. Date of next meeting** (First Wednesday of the month- Wed March 5,2025- 6 p.m.- library)

**VIII. Agenda items for next meeting**

- a. Recap of fundraisers and events
- b. Upcoming Events-

**IX. Adjournment**

**7:30pm**



January 23, 2025

SD73 Board of Education  
1383 9th Ave, Kamloops, BC V2C 3X7  
Via Email:

Dear Chair Grieve and Trustees,

At our January DPAC meeting, our membership voted unanimously to request a meeting to share our concerns with you regarding the amendments the Board has made to the district operating budget over the last five months. Our PAC representatives and parents shared concerns and instances of challenges they face as a result of the continually shrinking resources afforded to schools and district programs. These challenges relate directly to the measures implemented by the Board to correct the overspending that occurred in the previous fiscal period. Our Executive is hoping you will meet with us so we can share these concerns and stories of student and family experiences with you in advance of any further decisions and amendments, and before the presentation of the 2025/2026 operational budget.

At the request of our membership, we have four areas of concern to be addressed:

- Parents and caregivers expect a stable annual operational spending plan that does not require constant reassessment and immediate redirection of assets that create inconsistency and anxiety for students, families, and staff.
- The Board of Trustees should publicly acknowledge that the errors and the subsequent decisions by the Board have affected students and family experiences and opportunities in schools across the district.
- Our parent body would like the Board to consider a more conservative plan to pay back the overspending error that occurred in 2023/2024. This plan would emphasize the need

to lessen the impact on our most at-risk learners and would not create additional workforce pressures. We feel not placing the well-being of our students and staff ahead of budgetary policy concerns increases risk to the quality of our school experiences. The compounding effects of short-term decisions that place fiduciary obligations to policy over commitment to creating meaningful and fulfilling settings for children and the adults that teach and care about them will create long-term, systemic deficits that future Boards will struggle to correct.

- That, moving forward, the Board commit to meaningful consultation with district families and make future decisions in a transparent fashion so as to create a sense of security among caregivers that our education programs are stable, thriving, current, innovative, and progressive as a foundational aspect of the budgetary process.

Our Executive is eager to work with you collaboratively in the best interest of our students and their families. Our commitment to public education is solid, and we would welcome the opportunity to advocate to the Ministry alongside you to press for funding to address relief costs and other monetary pressures that the Board cannot control.

Regards,

Bonnie McBride  
SD73 DPAC Chair



January 28, 2025

Bonnie McBride, Chair  
District Parent Advisory Council

via email: [beans6@telus.net](mailto:beans6@telus.net)

Dear Bonnie McBride:

On behalf of the Kamloops-Thompson Board of Education, I am glad that we met you and Melissa on Friday, January 24, 2025 to discuss the letter written by DPAC to the Board of Education. Our Board reviewed the letter as well as listened to what we had discussed in terms of the context you provided to points raised in the letter at our meeting. Trustees worked together to provide a response to the points that DPAC had raised.

**The first point that you raised is: *Parents and caregivers expect a stable annual operational spending plan that does not require constant reassessment and immediate redirection of assets that create inconsistency and anxiety for students, families, and staff.***

We agree that a stable, financial position that does not require constant reassessment and reaction is a priority of the Board of Education. Starting the year with an accounting error that depleted reserves meant that we were positioned to recover this year in a way that will not be repeated in future years. Therefore, it is important to replenish reserves to be proactive and not reactive with the changes that have necessarily been made this year.

**The second point raised: *The Board of Trustees should publicly acknowledge that the errors and the subsequent decisions by the Board have affected students and family experiences and opportunities in schools across the district.***

We agree that every decision made impacts students, and it is important to state that clearly and to confirm that decisions made with respect to budget have been made to stay as far away from the classroom as possible. This will be clarified publicly continuously as we are aware that some statements made have not been clear on that point. Related to this point, you mentioned that you are hearing from parents that some PACs are being asked to buy basic supplies like paper, as an example, and we confirmed that this is not reasonable and that schools have supply budgets based on their enrollment. The Finance Department will continue to do a thorough review of each school's and department's budget and if someone is in trouble financially, it will be rectified. It is not for PACs to buy basic supplies for the school. You also mentioned that school administration may communicate differently regarding the budget and that creates different understandings. We will work with school administration to have a clear message to bring back to PACs to avoid confusion.

**The third point raised: *Our parent body would like the Board to consider a more conservative plan to pay back the overspending error that occurred in 2023/2024.***

As of November 30th, 2024, we are forecasting an operating surplus of approximately \$562,000 for the current fiscal year and an Accumulated Surplus of \$2.015 M or 0.96% of the Operating Budget, which is a conservative approach to reaching the acceptable surplus required of 3%. We discussed how when this was stated in the public meeting, it was to reflect the feedback from DPAC even though we did not state that directly. In fact, it is DPAC's feedback that had confirmed that we are taking a slow, conservative approach. Although we wish that none of the changes we have had to make were necessary, we have aimed to be as thoughtful as possible and not make any unnecessary changes.

If we were to go slower and not replenish reserves at all and stretch out the replenishment of reserves in the budget over several years as suggested by DPAC, it would undermine DPAC's first request, which is the need to avoid constant reassessment and reaction to budgetary changes. We believe, in consultation with an external Secretary-Treasurer, that we are taking a conservative approach possible to replenish reserves and to prepare for a budget that enables us to be proactive next year.

**As part of your third point, DPAC raised: *This plan would emphasize the need to lessen the impact on our most at-risk learners and would not create additional workforce pressures. We feel not placing the wellbeing of our students and staff ahead of budgetary policy concerns increases risk to the quality of our school experiences. The compounding effects of short-term decisions that place fiduciary obligations to policy over commitment to creating meaningful and fulfilling settings for children and the adults that teach them and will create long-term, systemic deficits that future Boards will struggle to correct.***

We agree that both students and staff need to thrive in order to have a vibrant, positive culture. We value the importance of having supports and services in place for all learners and especially for our most vulnerable learners. In September and October, the Board approved additional funds for CEA, LART, and teacher time. Recently, we asked for funds from the Accessibility Committee to provide additional contingency for CEAs in case there is a need. We respect that this is also an example of having to make a reactive request, but the request was made to place the most vulnerable students first.

**The last point raised was: *That, moving forward, the Board commit to meaningful consultation with district families and make future decisions in a transparent fashion so as to create a sense of security among caregivers that our education programs are stable, thriving, current, innovative, and progressive as a foundational aspect of the budgetary process.***

We will set a time to begin ongoing consultation with DPAC about these points raised and about setting priorities and strategies for the 2025-2026 budget starting now. We value parents and

your concerns raised reflect that we need a regular way to interact with parents, especially now, around the points raised in your letter and about any matter that comes up related to budget and other items connected to the education of students.

Executive Manager, Dana Heyman, will be reaching out to you to ask for parent representatives to join a DPAC-District Committee to start this ongoing meeting and consultation process for the 2025-2026 budget as well as other matters of importance that arise for parents.

To conclude the letter, you noted that DPAC is seeking a collaborative effort to support students and families. We sincerely hope to collaboratively advocate for increased funding in education for complex needs students and for the staff who support them. We have already met with Minister Beare and are meeting MLAs in the next two weeks. We are working together to advance motions in the British Columbia Trustees' Association to the same ends. We appreciate the time that you and Melissa provided to us on Friday, and we look forward to continuing the conversation in coming weeks.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Grieve". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "G".

Heather Grieve, Board Chair  
School District No.73 (Kamloops-Thompson) Board of Education

cc: Board of Trustees; Superintendent; Acting Secretary-Treasurer; Communications Director and Board Administrator