

Adopted February 12, 2026



Minutes of the District Parent Advisory Council
in the Library, Silver Creek Elementary School
on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:31 p.m.

Voting Members: Jen Riley, Coquihalla Elementary School (Chair)
Robyn Bodnar, Kent Elementary School (Vice-Chair)
Diana Stromquist, Aboriginal Education Council (Treasurer)
Clair Gill, Agassiz Elementary Secondary School (Secretary)
Leah Beck, Silver Creek Elementary School
Bruce Bostwick, Harrison Hot Springs Elementary School (online)
Emily Jaic, Spirit of Hope Secondary School

Others: Balan Moorthy, Superintendent
Anita Swinford, Principal, Silver Creek Elementary School
Sheila Stewart, Coquihalla Elementary School (Alternate)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Jen called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement and Host School Update

Anita provided the land acknowledgement and highlighted that she is in her second week as the Principal. She appreciated the welcoming environment from the school as well as the close-knit community.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Prior to the approval of the Agenda, Robyn requested to add: 7.c) DPAC Communications – *Parent Education Priorities*.

Moved by Jen and seconded by Robyn that the Agenda of the Fraser Cascade Parent Advisory Council of January 15, 2026 be approved as amended and all items be accepted for discussion.

4. Delegation

None

5. Adoption of the Minutes

Jen noted a typo in the draft minutes – “Lisa” should be “Leah”.

Moved by Jen and seconded by Robyn that the Minutes of the Fraser Cascade District Parent Advisory Council of November 20, 2025 be adopted as amended.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Peace Circle Project

Jen advised that Coquihalla was quite pleased with the Peace Circle sessions, and based on feedback from the two classes, the facilitator provided two additional sessions at no charge. A testimonial from Phoebe Nickerson, who was covering for Wendy Young’s class, was read aloud.

Cost of the ten-week program is \$600, and the two sessions completed at Coquihalla were covered by the DPAC. Balan agreed that the School District will cover two classes at Silver Creek.

Discussion related to the availability of the sessions at the high schools, specifically the grade 7s, as well as the resurgence of restorative action.

Follow-up:

- Meeting on Tuesday at Silver Creek
- Submit one page information sheets for the Kent (February 4 at 6 p.m.) and Harrison Hot Springs (February 5 at 6:30 p.m.) PACs

7. Reports

a) Superintendent

Balan spoke to the differences between policy and administrative procedure as detailed in the handout (attached as Appendix ‘A’). In particular, he noted that the Policy Committee consists of various representatives including DPAC, and that once policies are passed, they can still be reviewed again.

b) Chair

- Proposed Budget – Input for use of Gaming Funds
(see *Use of Funds for District Parent Advisory Councils*)

Jen reported that Gaming Summary Reports need to be completed for the missing years, even if there were no expenditures, to be in good standing for future applications.

Jen noted that the recent policies circulated requesting feedback from PACs and DPACs provided insufficient timelines for PACs to individually review and then submit their comments to the DPAC. In addition, there were several policies that were circulated near the winter break. The DPAC starts up in October, and we have lost communications with our DPAC representative for the Policy Committee.

Balan suggested that the DPAC may submit their feedback at any time and does not have to be within the Policy Committee timelines.

Discussion related to policies missing from the new website, existing policies in place until new ones emerge, and how to stimulate feedback from the PACs to DPAC.

Further comments on the evolving definition of inclusion and challenges in the classroom, as well recent Human Rights violations.

Jen tabled the discussion on creating and approving a budget for the gaming funds, so that the DPAC can collect additional information (personal experiences) of students who have been impacted by classroom experience, and whether parents' experience is that there is a trend of aggression in their children's classroom.

c) Treasurer

Diana reported the following:

General	\$36,125.10
Gaming	\$ 3,072.55

d) External Committees

i. Administrative Standing

- Inclusive / Enrichment Education – January 12 @ 3:30 pm (Robyn)
Reported on behavioural assessments with team involvement. There is a high percentage of designations.

Balan commented on EA training, ICY team along with increased summer opportunities in recreation and reading, and a focus on music next year.

- Careers & Transitions – February 5 @ 3:30 pm (Emily)
- Accessibility – January 19 @ 3:30 pm (Robyn)
- Pro-D – January 5 @ 3:30 pm (Jen)

The keynote will be on Truth and Reconciliation. Perhaps parents may be interested in receiving information on AI.

ii. Board Standing (dates shown below @ 4:30 pm via Zoom)

- Education – January 27 (Jacqueline/Jen)
- Policy – February 3
- Finance & Facilities – January 5 (Diana)

Discussion in areas of increased spending as well as EA absences, daycares at Kent and Silver Creek are expected to be completed at the end of March, and the differing cost of extracurricular sports at the two high schools.

8. New Business/Other Business

a) Ideas to Increase PAC Engagement

Jen noted that she has contacted the UFV Business Centre to see if there is a trainer available on Facebook meta business suite.

Discussion on maintaining a consistent meeting date and time, using catchy poster, offering food and babysitting, drawing for a gift card (\$10 Starbucks) at each meeting, noticing success with an earlier start time (before dinner), and handing out magnets with all the meeting dates at a welcome barbecue.

Jen suggested that PACs follow each other on Facebook.

b) Draft Policies for Review (Response deadline: January 30, 2026)

- i. Policy 4.20 Respectful Working Environment
- ii. Policy 2.10 Truth & Reconciliation

In response to Jen, Balan noted there is no deadline set yet on receiving feedback for the Strategic Plan.

No comments received on the circulated policies.

c) DPAC Communication – Parent Education Priorities/Delivery Methods

Discussion on creating a poll/survey (Jenn/Robyn) on what our parents want and delivery method. Some topics included AI, inclusive education, vaping, sleep hygiene for teens (dry technology).

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Future Meeting Dates:

- February 12, 2026 – Kent
- March 12, 2026 – Spirit of Hope Secondary
- April 23, 2026 – District Parent Event & Pro-D
- May 21, 2026 – District Office