

## **BCSD Parent Consultative Committee (PCC) Meeting Minutes**

February 5, 2026, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, virtual meeting via Zoom

### **Attendees**

#### Committee:

Brianne Braun – Administrator, Matthew Kalenuik – Facilitator, Nora Maldonado – Secretary, and Emily Watts - Liaison to the PAC (South Slope Elementary)

#### Parents:

Leigh Chan, Serwaa Donkor, Genevieve Hohnadel, Elizabeth Ko, Sulekha Sharma, and Gwen Wong

#### BCSD Administrators:

Cathy Bennett – Principal, Jennifer Zuvic - Vice Principal

#### Burnaby School District:

Kathryn Yamamoto - Director of Instruction

## **Minutes**

### **PCC Updates – Brianne**

- Joy graciously stayed on as the liaison to the Burnaby South PAC, even though her daughter has now graduated BCSD. If any current BCSD Secondary parents are interested in taking on that position, please reach out to the PCC.

### **BCSD Updates – Cathy/Jennifer**

- **Secondary – Cathy**
  - Sadly, Mike Kellet, BCSD’s science teacher passed away over winter break. We are looking for a new science teacher.
  - Leigh asked how science instruction was being managed during this time. Cathy said there has been a TOC filling the position until a replacement is found, and Cathy is providing additional guidance and support.
  - New student teacher, Cameron Epp, is teaching Social Studies. Cameron is Deaf.
  - Provincial assessments for literacy 12 and numeracy 10 have been completed.
  - Mini science fair for all grades is coming up on Feb 17.
  - The leadership class will be welcoming Deaf seniors on Feb 18.
  - Three ongoing monthly programs:

- Well-Being Program – counselors are coming in (topics include friendships, boundaries, self-regulation, etc.)
  - Indigenous person comes in to work with Indigenous students
  - Monthly newsletter
- **Elementary** – Jennifer
    - Three new students (gr. K, 2, 4).
    - Kindergarten Open House was yesterday, an opportunity for parents to learn about BCSD. Two families attended.
    - Indigenous cultural outreach worker from the Well-Being Program, Seraphine Acosta Charleson, will be coming in monthly to support Indigenous students
    - POPDHH DHH Proud: April 13 Showcase (presentations) and April 14 Friendship Day (bowling event). Students may also provide submissions in the DHH Art and ASL Poetry categories.
    - Flying Hands ASL Literature Competition will be in April 22-25. A total of 11 students will participate this year. Staff is currently working to finalize plans.
    - Matthew asked why the District is not providing Indigenous education support. Cathy said they had an Indigenous worker who was coming to BCSD last spring, but that that person left the District. They have posted the position, but it has not been filled. Kathryn added that there is an Indigenous Literacy Inquiry Teacher, Katy Deo, at South Slope.

#### **South Slope PAC** – Emily

- Last few PAC meetings have discussed affordability funding and fund raising.
- A quote for a new projector system for the gym was \$5000 - \$7000. South Slope Principal looking into that now.
- District PAC update, discussed three-year plan, the main issue discussed was the redistribution of District funds. Parents encouraged to reach out to representatives to ensure funds are being fairly distributed.
- BCSD has started Green Team Club (environmental club) with South Slope
- Playground grant, PAC team is working on proposal for playground updates, including an in-ground trampoline. PAC is open to ideas from parents, parents can reach out to Emily with ideas for the playground.
- Next PAC meeting is Feb 17. Please sent any agenda items to Emily.

#### **BCSD Website Updates** – Cathy

- Cathy provided an update on website improvements, including the addition of info under the PCC section: description of the PCC, previous meeting minutes, etc.)

- Further curriculum and assessment content is planned.
- PCC members expressed interest in also adding historical PCC minutes.

### **Provincial Resource Program Review - Kathryn**

- BCSD is awaiting clarity from the Ministry regarding the timing and scope of the Provincial Resource Program quality review. The last review was in 2019.
- Matthew raised questions of whether information would be shared with parents regarding what is being assessed as part of the review, and the potential impact of the results (e.g. funding, services delivered). Kathryn said she has no experience of review results being tied directly to budget, but that it could not be ruled out.
- Leigh asked if it was normal to go six of seven years without a review, Kathryn said it was not abnormal, and not specific to BCSD. Covid may have further delayed things.
- Cathy added that the Ministry has been interviewing some staff (Cathy, Jennifer, some teachers), with questions focusing on supports and services (e.g. what is being provided, and what is needed). It looks like others (e.g. POPDHH, Dorm staff) have also been interviewed/will be interviewed. It is unclear if these interviews are tied to the formal review or are something different.
- If it becomes clear that these interviews are part of the formal review, Brianne requested that parents be notified, so that they can also provide input, if possible. Kathryn agreed to communicate more information once she receives clarification on the purpose and impact of these interviews.

### **BCSD Transportation – Kathryn**

- Lynch and Wheels have both been asked to manage routes for maximum efficiency. Traffic continues to be a challenge.
- Cathy, Jennifer, and Kathryn are working with Wheels and Lynch to try and balance efficiency with reasonable van times for students.
- There are fewer parents doing their own driving this year compared to last year.
- As more students are added to the school, keeping costs and van times down becomes increasingly difficult.
- Brianne raised the question of implementing guidelines/policies around maximum van times, as increasing van times are negatively impacting some students. Furthermore, guidelines/policies like this would be helpful for parents wanting to advocate for more funding, as they could be used as a tool to identify gaps or challenges. This is difficult now as there is no standard guideline or benchmark. Kathryn committed to sitting down with Wheels and Lynch to discuss van times, and identify any students who are especially impacted by longer travel times.

- Brianne noted that both the Pattullo Bridge and the new stalled Wasem (Riverview) Bridge will be closed next week, and this will impact students living in Surrey in particular. Cathy shared that Greg (Wheels) already reached out to the school regarding the bridge closures. BCSD is aware that some students may arrive late and will support students as needed.
- Gwen added that the long travel times is impacting her daughter's learning as she is often too tired to do homework after a long day (e.g. earlier pick up and more time in the van overall).
- **Wheels Safety and Tracking System**
  - Matthew raised questions regarding the email sent by Wheels today that outlined a new safety and tracking system that will be implemented on some of the vans. Matthew asked whether Wheels could share their privacy policy with parents, since they are recording children. Kathryn said they spoke to Greg about this and he said parents could reach out to him, and he would share all the information he could, his email address is in the email.
  - Brianne spoke with Greg and he clarified that the camera would be pointed at the driver, not the kids. Kids might be captured getting in and out of the vehicle, but the focus will be on the driver.
  - Brianne also asked about the data storage, and whether it would be stored on a Canadian server. Greg said it was currently stored in the US, but he would inquire about having it stored in Canada. Matthew spoke about the "Cloud Act". US companies can request data from any server if it's operated by a US company.
  - Nora said that communication should not be dependent on parents reaching out individually to Greg, as this is inefficient and does not give all parents equal access to information. Kathryn suggested the PCC speak to Greg and then email all parents.
  - Brianne clarified that the PCC does not have a list/contact info of all BCSD parents nor only of parents whose children use transportation services. All info needs to go through BCSD, but the PCC can bring questions raised by parents to BCSD admin.
  - It was also noted that Wheels does not have parents' email addresses, and that most communication comes to parents via drivers.
  - Matthew asked about an email from Wheels earlier this year telling parents that Wheels was stopping all service, effect immediately. Kathryn said they spoke with Wheels after that email, and they were able to resolve matters. Kathryn agreed that communication needs to be improved.

- Matthew highlighted that the district is still responsible for communicating with parents, if Wheels is not contractually obligated to.
- Parents can expect to soon receive an email from BCSD asking for permission for BCSD to share families' contact information with Wheels, in order to facilitate better communication.
- Genevieve asked if parents will have access to the tracking system, to be able to see where their child's van is en route. Kathryn made note of the question and also said that when the permission request is sent out families, they can also ask if parents have any questions, and then that those questions could be relayed to Greg.

### **New Business**

- Gwen raised a question about parent-teacher meetings at the high school. She noted they used to happen in November, but that they didn't happen this year. Cathy clarified that there are five types of reports required by the District (two written report cards, two informal learning updates (which can be an IEP, email, phone call, parent-teacher conference, or video call), and one final report card in June). Previously there was low turnout for the parent-teacher night, and it was a lot of effort to organize. Cathy highlighted that they are in regular contact with parents to touch base, and have found that those informal check ins work better. Cathy emphasized that they are open to scheduling one-on-one discussions even if there isn't a dedicated "parent-teacher night". Gwen requested that more communication be shared outlining the different ways parents can communicate with teachers, especially if formal parent-teacher nights won't be happening in the future. Cathy mentioned that that information was shared in the newsletter.
- Regarding the PAC Grant, Brienne said that Melinda, a District staff person, contacted the PCC to see about transferring PAC Grant funding directly to the PCC, but the PCC doesn't administer funding and there remains confusion about how funds are divvied up when BCSD is a school within a school, but with only one PAC. Kathryn works with Melinda and is happy to follow up with Brienne to get this matter figured out.
- Jennifer asked if it would be possible for PCC meeting agendas to be sent out earlier and if PCC meeting minutes could be completed and shared in a timelier manner. It was noted that meeting minutes should also be posted to BCSD's website as soon as possible. As the meeting was at an end, the PCC team committed to following up on this conversation via email.

Next PCC meeting: May 7, 2026