

BCSD Parent Consultative Committee (PCC) Meeting Minutes

May 7, 2026, 7:00 pm - 8:09 pm. Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees

Committee Members:

Brianne Braun – Administrator, Nora Maldonado – Secretary, and Emily Watts - South Slope PAC Liaison

Parents/Guardians:

Leigh Chan, Serwaa Donkor, Genevieve Hohnadel, Elizabeth Ko, Shanna O'Coin, and Gwen Wong

BCSD Administrators:

Cathy Bennett – Principal, Jennifer Zuvic - Vice Principal

Burnaby School District:

Kathryn Yamamoto - Director of Instruction

Guest:

Kristiana Powell - Deetken Insight

Minutes

PCC Updates - Brianne

- This is the last meeting for Joy Santos, the PCC's Burnaby South PAC Liaison. We thank Joy for her years of service to the BCSD school community! We would like to encourage a BCSD high school parent to consider joining the PCC in the Burnaby South PAC Liaison position. If anyone is interested or knows someone who would be a good fit, please contact the PCC.

BCSD Updates

Secondary - Cathy

- School Plan 2025 - 2026. Previously, this goal setting was done every three years, now we've moved into a yearly model. We work with faculty and identify goals for the year.
 - Goal 1: Developing Linguistically Accessible and Inclusive Assessments
Inclusive assessments with literacy and numeracy. Added ASL expressive and receptive skills test as one of our assessments. Successfully satisfied this goal with bilingual classrooms, student supports, and access to communication supports/devices. Still researching appropriate numeracy assessment for Deaf students. Kindergarten readiness assessment is being reviewed and reassessed for Deaf students.

- Goal 2: Providing Professional Development to Educators
Attended workshops (Autism in Deaf Education; AI and STEM in Deaf Education; Language Deprivation Syndrome; Teachers' Collaboration), supporting the skillsets of staff.
- School Plan 2026 – 2027 is still in development
Goal 1: Rationale for Developing Social Emotional Learning
Goal 2: Rationale for Individual Student Data
- Website is now 80% complete. Reviewing student services and working on putting them up onto the website

Elementary - Jennifer

- BCSD students participated in the POPDHH-hosted DHH Proud events: April 13 Showcase and April 14 Friendship Day - it was very successful, featuring Spotlight (public speaking) and ASL Poetry at the Michael J. Fox (MJF) Theatre, and bowling.
- A group of students participated in the Flying Hands ASL Literature Competition in Washington in April. It was a great experience for our students, and some parents joined as well.
- Student-Led Conferences earlier this month had a great turnout.
- Lots of exciting events are happening towards the end of the year. Keep an eye out for emails regarding specifics.
- Grad celebrations are coming up (nine students graduating this year). Evening of May 20 for the ceremony, and June 6, BCSD staff and family celebration.
- Grade 7 leaving ceremony, for two students, in June. Will confirm date via email.
- June 4 HOY: Honour Our Youth Awards, to recognize graduating Indigenous students.

South Slope PAC - Emily

- There were only two PAC meetings since the last PCC meeting, as we didn't meet in March.
- The last few fundraisers have gone well, particularly Hi Five, which raised over \$400. No fundraisers for May and undecided on the upcoming fundraiser for June.
- Discussion following Tumbler Ridge tragedy revolving around updating security measures within the school. Scheduling lockdown drills, locking exterior doors and installing doorbell/lights system, discussion of district and emergency services response specific to our school's unique needs.
- The playground update grant was declined by the school board, citing safety concerns for an in-ground trampoline. They have redirected and will be refreshing the basketball courts and likely installing gaga ball courts instead.
- There were concerns about the budget for next school year. There was a drafted letter from parents being circulated with a call to action to get the province to cover a significant gap in the new budget. Update – The Ministry of Education and Child Care stepped in to cover the funding gap.
- The official quote for the updated AV system came in at around \$15,000. We are looking at planning the upgrade over several years to spread out the cost.

- We are wanting to look into hosting a block-party style welcome back to school event in the fall. Planning to select dates at the next PAC meeting, but a suggestion was made for an early dismissal day so that the BCSD students who take transport could attend for at least 1 hour if their parents are unable to attend.
- Next PAC meeting on May 19 will be the AGM and open positions are Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Burnaby South PAC – Joy's report shared by Brianne

- The last PAC meeting was held in April. DPAC update not shared and there was nothing specific to BCSD students.
- Final PAC meeting May 27, in person. If anyone is interested, Joy is happy to go and make introductions.
- Dance recital May 25 at MJF theatre, BCSD dance class performing.

Transportation - Cathy/Jennifer/Kathryn

- Last meeting, there were questions about the amount of time spent in the Wheels' vans. Have now taken a look at how long students are spending in the vans compared to a direct route. Time varies from 20 minutes to 100 minutes, depending on the location of their home. Most students spend about 40 to 60 minutes and most vans have two to four students, to maximize service without creating hardship.
- Factors like traffic have increased driving times recently, still working with the company to continue improvements.
- Do not have drive times from Lynch, more students on Lynch than on Wheels.
- Two or three parents are driving students and claiming mileage. Down from seven to 10 parents previously.
- A handful of high school students are using transit
- Working with finance to get a prediction for next year, but costs are continuing to increase.
- The age of students being encouraged to take public transit has been changed from primarily grade 11 and 12, to now grade 9 and up. This is purely encouragement for students to build independence, and has been a result of increased student interest. Vans and busses will remain an option for students of all ages.
- Trying to arrange travel goals by working backwards from the expected arrival time and trying to make it as efficient as possible with increasing traffic.
- Concerns about next year. Transportation services have already been reconfigured for maximum efficiency, but fuel costs continue to rise. Transportation previously had its own line item in the budget. The Ministry has now lumped all funding together, leaving BCSD administrators to pull funds from other areas to support transportation.
- Having data is important for parents advocating for appropriate funding and resources.

New Business

BCSD Review Info - Kristiana Powell, Deetken Insight

- Deetken Insight is the firm tasked by the Ministry to review BCSD. Provincial Resource Program (PRP) reviews like this typically happen every five years.
- Deetken Insight is a strategic advisory firm reviewing an independent 3rd party. They will look at the information and collect perspectives through surveys.
- Timing. Review started in December and is expected to be completed by the end of June. Surveys were delayed due to accessibility considerations, so timeline may be extended.
- PRP reviews look at key strengths, challenges, and opportunities for improvement, how students are being supported, identify district and provincial systemic issues and areas of improvement.
- Deetken Insight will review BCSD's mandate and how it's going, programs and supports, and also look at how other districts in BC are supporting DHH students, best practices, resource allocation data about how it is used and relevance.
- BCSD and the Transition Program for Gifted Students are unique among other PRPs and require a deeper look and more time.
- The results will inform the larger PRP review, looking at governance and PRP model, program supports and improvement areas, to guide future planning.
- Surveys will be sent out to three key groups: current BCSD students/families, BCSD alumni, and DHH students/families throughout BC (those not attending BCSD).
- The surveys were delayed due to recommendations to have the surveys available in both English and ASL, to make the review inclusive and accessible.
- Once available, the surveys will be open for about 2.5 weeks. Deetken Insight will inform BCSD and the PCC when the surveys are available, sometime after May 26, but likely early June.
- Question: Will the final report be circulated to respondents and the community?
Answer: Deetken Insight don't know what the Ministry plans to do with the final report. Previously, some reports have been made available, and some haven't. Those with questions can contact the Ministry, Kristiana will provide the PCC with the contact info.
- Contact Information:
 - If there are questions about the survey, please reach out to Deetken (Tricia and Kristiana) at tbarfoot@deetken.com and kpowell@deetken.com
 - For other inquiries about the review, please email the Ministry at PRPAdmin@gov.bc.ca

Announcements/Questions - Brianne

- PCC Meeting dates for next school year. Always 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month in Nov, Feb, and May.
- Nov 5 2026, Feb 4 2027, May 6 2027.
- Note from Gwen, parent of a graduating BCSD student, in her final meeting. Thanks so much to BCSD admin and the PCC. It's been wonderful to see so much growth at the school, programs and everything. Cathy, as BCSD's first Deaf principal, it's been amazing to see your advocacy. So happy to see more CODAs, BCSD alum, and EAs

becoming teachers, raising the academic standards. Gwen's advice to parents is to stay involved, communicate, and advocate.

This will be the last PCC meeting for the school year.