



Parent Advisory Council Minutes

Date	Thursday, January 15, 2026
Time	7:00– 8:30 PM
Location	Library Learning Commons
Details	General Meeting
Executives in Attendance	President Andy Capesinio Secretary Winsome Rauch Secretary Karen Murphy-Corr (zoom) Treasurer Rehan Siddiqui Grade 9/10 Rep Phong Hoang Grade 11/12 Rep Stacey Parson Grade 11/12 Rep Barbara Landa McAuliffe
Parents and Guests	Student Violin R Muhammad Imran Minhas (zoom) Jasmeen Kaur (zoom) Maria Capesinio Hamida Ahmadi Ali Ahmadi

1 Welcome and Introductions

Chair Andy Capesinio called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM, read a Land Acknowledgement and welcomed special guests. Quorum was met.

2 Abbotsford Secondary School Math and Science Programs Overview

2.1 Abbotsford Science Department Overview

Grade 12 student Violin presented a video overview of the science department.

<https://youtu.be/9SWj78jiqLQ> The department offers a range of science courses, including IB programs, with an emphasis on laboratory and experiential learning. Students in the IB programme reported receiving instructional support, including access to laboratory facilities and feedback on projects. The department also supports student participation in activities such as the Fraser Valley Regional Science Fair and school-based clubs.

That Math video is available here https://abbyschools-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/codyf470259_abbyschools_ca/IQAVFRDToyfPSIo9_umLA5D_Afn9TrLBYgBHGwmtWdWsjUA?e=hpcAkV

2.2 Math and Science Programs Q&A

Questions addressed the IB Diploma Programme's science offerings, including access to laboratory facilities and materials. Information was also shared about science-related clubs, including a medical club focused on first aid and CPR.

3 Principal's Report – Jennie Bell

Attached at the end

4 Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November general meeting were approved as posted.

5 President's Report

The President reported no updates.

6 Treasurer's Report

Secretary Winsome Rauch read the summaries prepared by Treasurer Brigette of account transactions and reported ending December account balances as follows:

General Account: \$4,275.31

Gaming Account: \$28,007.50

The reports were received and filed.

MOTION: That the PAC resend the October 12, 2025 letter to ISP with the phrases “for the entrance fees” and “to Fort Langley” removed.

Furthermore, that the deadline to spend the fees be extended from April 30, 2026 to June 8, 2026 because the ISP Grade 9 planned field trip to Burnaby Village is set for June 5, 2026.

MOVED Winsome, SECONDED Stacey, CARRIED.

Action: Stacey Parson will resend the revised letter stating, “We are pleased to inform you that your request has been approved, and we are prepared to allocate up to \$553.04 for the ISP Grade 9 and 10 field trip,” and will notify Ms. Harrop of the extended deadline.

7 DPAC Report – Winsome Rauch

Winsome Rauch reported the following

- DPAC is doing a Constitution and Bylaw review
- Fraser Health Nurse presentation on vaping is posted online
- Next week's DPAC meeting will feature Michael Pearson, District Vice Principal to give an overview of what Career Programs are offered in the Abbotsford School District.
- The April meeting will feature Education Counselor Michelle Robertson who will discuss Helping Teenagers Plan Their Post-Secondary Path
- Register for the following events on abbotsforddpac.ca
 - Online “Bullying” presentation Monday, February 23 with Dr. Deborah MacNamara
 - “Study Smarter, Not Harder” Wednesday, April 8 with Terry Small
 - Book Exploration of “Feel Better” May 11 with Dr. Shahana Alibhai; register before January 15 to receive a free copy of the book.

8 Dry Grad

The group discussed Dry Grad planning, including communication, volunteers, and sponsorship. Challenges with keeping consistent email and social media accounts from year to year were noted. An update was provided on plans for the April Dry Grad event. It was noted that information may be shared through PAC communication channels, and ways to improve visibility through school publications were discussed.

MOTION: Request the school to include PAC meetings and Dry Grad meetings on My School Day app.

MOVED: Stacey, SECONDED, CARRIED

Action Items

Winsome: Request school administration to add PAC and dry grad meeting dates to the My School Day app

Winsome: Request school administration to add PAC social media links to the Panther Press and other school communications

Barbara: Share dry grad updates and information through PAC social media channels.

9 Staff Appreciation

The group reviewed the November staff appreciation event, which had 136 staff members in attendance. The PAC decided to hold the next one on February 20th with samosas and drinks with potentially alternate date of February 9th.

Action

Check date with Jennie - Winsome

Samosas, check quantities from last year – Winsome

Purchase/coordinate gluten-free options (from Polyfox or similar) - Stacey

Pick up drinks (approximately 130) for February staff appreciation - Barbara

Violin/Grad Committee: Consider linking dry grad social media with grad committee and PAC for broader promotion

Send Barbara name of samosa vendor for dry grad - Winsome

10 Open Floor

No other business to discuss.

11 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 7 pm

12 Addendum - Principal's Report

1. New Course Offerings for 2026/27

Evolution of Music 12

Science for Citizens 11

Tourism 11/12

Marketing and Entrepreneurship 10

History of Mathematics 11

2. Incoming grade 8 numbers approx: 270

3. Enrollment is down across the district but this doesn't seem to impact our family of schools

4. Convocation date change to accommodate another high school's conflict: Convocation is now Monday June 22 @11:30am, this could change if the Abby Canucks go all the way to the finals again this year. Unlikely at this point

5. IB Changes

Pre-Dip 9 is returning

Pre-Dip 9 and 10, will now be called Global Connections 9 and 10 to reflect IB's philosophy of "IB for All"

this means that students are able to explore areas of passion, interest, and academic excellence as they see fit

Global Connections classes will have a variety of academic levels where the teacher will encourage students exploration of their passions, interest, and abilities

students in catchment are not required to take all of the Global Connections academic classes and are able to self-select which courses they take

proposal for non-catchment and out of district students to also have this flexibility; this is the ideal and goal, but is not sure how this will impact numbers in other classes

Global Connections courses include Math, Science, Socials, English and French

in catchment students will have priority of up to 60 seats at any one given time

non-catchment students will be waitlisted until catchment number are finalized and waitlists

will be reviewed in time stamped order in June, the last week of August and again in the second week of September if needed

all student progress will be report in grade 9 on the proficiency scale, and in grade 10 with a percentage as in the past. Comments on report cards will reflect progress in their Global Connections classes

I am working with Bruce as we work through the process and changes