



Parent Advisory Council Minutes

Date	Thursday, February 19, 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) Grade 9/10 Rep John Surabathula Grade 9/10 Rep Phong Hoang (zoom) Grade 11/12 Rep Stacey Parson Grade 11/12 Rep Barbara Landa McAuliffe

1 Welcome and Introductions

Chair Andy Capesinio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and read a Land Acknowledgement. Quorum was met.

2 Two minutes of Silence for Tumbler Ridge

A moment of silence was observed for 2 minutes for the lives lost in the Tumbler Ridge School tragedy.

3 Principal's Report – Jennie Bell

The school community is grieving the passing of a student. Condolences were shared, and appreciation was expressed for district post-tragedy response process.

Grade 9 enrollment is projected at approximately 260 students, while next year's Grade 12 class will be the largest to date (378 graduates). Despite short-term fluctuations, long-term growth continues. Ongoing space limitations are impacting program delivery, including Physical Education. A meeting is scheduled to discuss space needs. Course offerings continue to expand based on teacher expertise and student interest.

The Snowball Tournament was successful, with discussions about adding a Senior Girls division next year. The school is also working with Abby Middle to address field space and strengthen partnerships.

The IB program is shifting toward a more inclusive "IB for All" approach, allowing students to take individual IB courses rather than committing to the full diploma program. The Global Connections program for grade 9 and 10 was explained. At this time, a waitlist is not anticipated, and there may be space for out-of-catchment students. An information evening and video presentation on Global Connections and IB will be held next Thursday at 6:00 pm for Abby Middle Grade 8 parents in the gym.

4 Principal Q&A

Discussion followed regarding balancing in-catchment and out-of-catchment access, the number of international students (currently 76), and the potential for Global Connections to evolve into a district-wide initiative. The importance of engaging district students early to sustain enrollment in upper grades was discussed.

5 Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes

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

6 President's Report

Andy attended the Annual Joint Partner Budget Meeting with the Abbotsford School District. Discussions focused on student well-being, the strategic plan, and declining literacy and numeracy results. There was conversation about encouraging creative teaching approaches and the responsible use of social media as a learning tool, alongside the importance of mentorship and guidance.

A nomination for Winsome Rauch for the George Matthew Award for Excellence was submitted to BCCPAC January 31 and acknowledged February 2.

Andy also participated in a BCCPAC Executive Director Zoom meeting to hear information about BCCPAC's role and PAC engagement supports.

7 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Brigitte reported no new funding requests from the school. January ending balances were:

General Account: \$4,275.31

Gaming Account: \$28,007.50

The report was received and filed. Winsome will review the PAC email setup and test e-transfer capability.

8 DPAC Report – Winsome Rauch

Winsome Rauch reported that DPAC is currently reviewing its Constitution and Bylaws.

Registration is open at abbotsforddpac.ca for upcoming events:

- “Supporting Children Through Bullying” – February 23
- A Parent Volunteer Networking Evening will be held March 5 at Abby Senior.
- “Study Smarter, Not Harder” – April 8
- The April meeting will feature Education Counsellor Michelle Robertson presenting on Helping Teenagers Plan Their Post-Secondary Path.
- Book exploration of Feel Better – May 11 (early registration by March 1 required to receive a complimentary book)

9 Dry Grad

Eight volunteers raised \$800 at a recent Rogers Arena event. A previous donut sale raised \$630. While fundraising is ongoing, additional funds are still needed. Ticket sales are progressing slowly.

Information was shared about a BC Liquor fundraising initiative that directs March proceeds to school districts. Application would occur in March, with funds supporting next year's Dry Grad. Follow-up with the Superintendent is required to confirm distribution details.

Plans are underway to improve organization for future years, including setting up a procedural binder, creating shared digital files, and exploring auto-deposit for e-transfers.

10 Staff Appreciation

Staff Appreciation Lunch will be held tomorrow at 11:25 am. Samosas and gluten-free buns will be served, noting that the cost had increased to \$1.25 per samosa from Punjab Sweet House and did not honor a \$0.05 discount quoted to Dry Grad. The school has negotiated a deal with Super Punjab Sweet for Dry Grad for \$1 each.

11 Open Floor

The need for a **nomination committee** for upcoming elections was raised. Stacey Parson volunteered and there were no further volunteers.

At the Grade 8 parent night on February 26, Andy will speak to new parents to invite them to join the PAC.

Andy will find out the details of the funeral for the student.

MOTION to send a card of condolence to the family on behalf of the PAC

MOVED Winsome, SECONDED Stacey, CARRIED.

12 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 7 pm