



Executive Committee

Sheri L: Chair, **Brad G:** Vice-Chair, **Heather A:** Secretary, **Erin M:** Treasurer/Zoom Coordinator, **Chris P:** Member-at-Large, **Valerie N:** Member-at-Large.

September 21th 2021 General Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome/Call to Order: 6:32 pm

- a) **In Attendance:** Heather A., Sheri L., Chris P., Erin M., Linda, Brandy, Alana, Michelle, Nicole, Katie, Elisa, Barb, Shauna, Elwood, Melinda, Loni, Michelle Q., Erica, Jordan, Sara, Dr. Rhonda N (Superintendent), Laurel M. (President KTTA), Darcy (KTTA), Rhonda K. (Board Chair),

2. Review of the Agenda: Add- DPAC positions -- New business H upcoming, add comment/question regarding hot lunch Chris 1st Erin 2nd

Carried

3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Chris 1st Melinda 2nd

Carried

4. Old Business:

- a) **School PAC Email Addresses:** Communication is very important. We do not get representative lists until much later in the school year (often December). We suggest each school create a generic Gmail or email account that can be given to future representatives so we do not have to wait for their contact information.

What exactly is DPAC?

- DPAC stands for District Parent Advisory Council. We are the official parent voice for school District 73 (Kamloops/Thompson).
- Each PAC is encouraged to elect 2 DPAC reps to attend our monthly meetings.
- We elect an executive to conduct business between meetings, but our direction is determined by our members, just like at PACs.

What is the role of DPAC?

- Our mandate, according to the *School Act*, is to advise the Board of Education on any matter relating to education in the school district. We funnel parent input to decision-makers in our district.
- We facilitate communication — we send a lot of information out to the PACs on upcoming events and programs that might interest them.
- We provide training and education for parents, as well as opportunities for exchanging ideas. We host speakers as well as workshops and networking events.
- We function as a resource for individual parents and PACs as they do their work at the school level.



b) FoodSafe (Erin):

- Erin proposes that we again put forward 10 FoodSafe certificates (will voted and motioned when Erin discusses this year's proposed budget.
- **Popcorn and hot lunches** – Principals were given authority to dictate if parents were needed/able to enter schools. There is no blanket statement regarding this mandate. Questions regarding parent volunteers entering the school should be directed to the school principals.

c) SD 73 Indigenous Education Family Voices (Valerie):

- Val Not present to present news regarding IEFV
- IEFV works with the school district to strengthen the Indigenous authentic voice. Created last year.
- For More information – Mike Bowden the District Principal and Aboriginal Education.

5. New Business:

a) Dress Code:

- New dress code has been implemented now. Last March/April A group of stakeholders (DPAC, KTTA, Cupe, students and many more) worked hard to create an updated inclusive dress code. Dress code was reviewed in detail with administrators and staffing of SD 73. Parents will be made aware of the dress code changes by allowing in available in the student handbooks but also it is available publicly on school board website. Administrators were also introduced and received training regarding new dress code and no known concerns were made by them.

b) DPAC Bylaws:

- Tabled until next meeting because we were awaiting information regarding Val and the IEFV wishes.

c) School Capacity/Capitol Funding:

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



- There was a letter that went out from DPAC, Advocates group and PAC from Westmount. Stemmed from a call from a parent that yet another portable has been added. Westmount 167% last year, this year 182%. Chris P. was bombarded with questions regarding “how full is too full?” “when will the new portables be delivered?” Chris does not have the answers but has agreed to submit a letter to the Minister of Education
- Rhonda Kershaw: Portable was not ready on the first day of school at Westmount because of extenuating circumstances out of their control (production concerns) not because of poor planning. As to the question of how full is too full? This has been a known concern for a long time. Westmount has been near top of the list for Capital funding for nearing 12 years. Chris Asks: what capacity is considered unsafe in a school? Is there a percentage?
Rhonda: this has not been defined.
Chris: when will you stop accepting kids in the school?
Rhonda: we have had this conversation at the board level and started a process (“future of schools”) and unfortunately due to a number of unforeseen circumstances was given up. This committee that Chris P. was part of is hopefully restarting again soon to better define capacity concerns in our schools. Looking towards 2030, it is predicted that 7 of our in-town schools will be 175% capacity. Not really an option to stop accepting students. The only alternative would be to start bussing kids to unopened schools or further rural schools in the district (example Barrier has an unopened school, Westwold and Heffley have spaces. This is also not an ideal solution as these schools are well outside the city limits. Chris: have you considered a boundary change for Westmount? Rhonda: we have but not yet initiated that process but is in the back of our minds. Chat question if the district has plans for new schools? Rhonda: in August we received notification

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



that we have moved to the “project development stage” for the Pineview area. which is great but still no dollar amounts attached to this project/proposal. Project development report due by the end of February – in depth report including catchments, and cost. Hoping to hear a funding announcement shortly after report is submitted. Best guess for the arrival of Westmount’s portable is ‘October’. But no official announcement. Orders for portables are often submitted well in advance of the following school year, it is a long process. Erin: what is happening now to those students in Westmount who are waiting? Are they still sitting in the gym without desks, teachers etc.? Katie: that class is still in the gym does not have confirmation that they have desks, but it is assumed so.

- Chris is also in process to invite the minister of education to visit our district to understand the expanse of it.

d) Safety Tips:

- <https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/news/kamloops-mounties-offer-street-proofing-tips-following-suspicious-incidents-1.24358716>

This topic was suggested that we can bring this discussion to new business point ‘F’.

e) Newsletter(s) and Social Media

- Allison Tremblay has volunteered to help DPAC with social media and keep communication as fluid as possible
- If there is something you would like on the website or have any suggestions please email DPAC at: sd73dpac@gmail.com
- Website: <https://dpac.sd73.bc.ca>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DPAC-73-Kamloops-Thompson-102187408678963>
(DPAC 73 Kamloops-Thompson)

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM

- Newsletter was sent out to all PACs – Bill Hamblett has said he will sent to all principals to ensure the Schools (PACs) receive DPAC communication:

SD73 DPAC

A WELCOME BACK to PACs

SD73 DPAC

sd73dpac@gmail.com



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

The DPAC Executive group would like to welcome all our families and PACs back. We hope you had a great summer. While we are still uncertain on exactly how this year will unfold and what our roles in the school will look like, we are sure that DPAC will continue to work and advocate on behalf of parents and students throughout the district.

Sincerely,
SD73 DPAC Executive Group

Chair- Sheri Lakusta
Vice-Chair- Brad Gerow
Treasurer- Erin Mitchell
Secretary- Heather Asselstine

Members at Large:
Val Newbreast
Chris Ponti

WHAT IS THE DPAC?

DPAC is NOT that new rap artist your kids are listening to! 😊
DPAC is a collection of PAC representatives that support, encourage, and improve the quality of education and the well being of students in School District No. 73 by:

1. Exchanging ideas and information among Parent Advisory Councils in the School District
2. Providing information regarding educational and community matters to parents and Parent Advisory Councils

3. Providing the parental voice to education decision-making organizations affecting the School District

Really, the DPAC are just people like you who care about the school, the students, and our community. Like your PAC we meet once per month and while your PAC sits at a table with school admin, DPAC sits at a table with district admin including trustees, superintendent, and the KTTA. All parents, not just your school's elected DPAC Reps, are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings



UPCOMING EVENTS

DPAC General Meeting
September 21st 6:30 -Zoom

DPAC AGM
October 19th 6:30 -Zoom

DPAC General Meeting
November 16th 6:30 -Zoom

**“Education is
the most
powerful
weapon which
you can use to
change the
world”**

- Nelson Mandela

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM

WELCOME BACK to PACS



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

While last year was not exactly what we had planned for, we still managed to arrange some good parent-focused educational speakers that we delivered via Zoom. These included:

- Kim Mangan from the Kamloops Music Collective;
- Cole Levitt on Depths of Comfort;
- Vessy Mochikas from SD73 on SOGI in our District;
- Andrea Sinclair from BCCPAC;
- SKSS Students on the District Dress Code.

However this new year shapes up we will strive to continue providing great education information.

NEW WEBSITE

We also developed and launched a new website & Facebook page, <https://dpac.sd73.bc.ca> & DPAC 73 Kamloops-Thompson on Facebook.

We still have some tweaks to make so please check it out and send suggestions for improvements to sd73dpac@gmail.com

We hope to have a dedicated media person to help update and maintain the site as well as increase our social media presence. If you have any experience in this area, we would love to have your help!

WE NEED YOU

Much like in your PACs, many hands make light work. Our Executive Group has shrunk due to graduations and changes in work and we are looking to infuse the group with new faces and ideas. There is no experience necessary and the only prereq is that you are your PACs DPAC Rep. Time commitments are very light and with a large executive group, our combined intelligence & experience helps us make better and more informed decisions.

THANK YOU BRAD GEROW

Brad was our Vice-Chair and has spent 4 years on the DPAC Executive Team. A change in work has limited his availability and forced him to step back.

We would like to thank Brad for his dedication and commitment. Your intelligence, experience, and humor will be missed!



CONTACTS:

General Inquiries
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Members at Large
Val Newbreast
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Chris Ponti
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Facebook
DPAC 73 Kamloops-Thompson

ZOOM!!!

DPAC has purchased a Zoom Account that is free for all our PACs to use. For information contact Erin Mitchell at sd73dpaczoom@gmail.com



OUR NEXT AREA OF FOCUS

DPAC is actively involved in supporting SD73 on the desperate need for Capital Funding throughout our District. Recently DPAC partnered with the Facebook group ADVOCATES FOR SD73 and made a presentation to Ministry staff. Currently we are drafting another letter to the Minister of Education inviting her to take a tour of our District. We hope to show them that their suggestion to bus excess south shore students to Heffley is not a viable option.

f) Parent/Guardian Education (ideas):

- Vaping and Drug Awareness
- Navigating the talk
- Inclusive Education – is
- Mental Health

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



- Is there anything else out there that parents would like to see? We would like to also join forces with the school district as they also offer
- Andrea Sinclair (BCCPAC) has been invited to present – PAC 101 and is hoping to present at our next general meeting on October 19th.
- Parent Advocacy presented by John (CEO with BCCPAC) has been invited to present.
- Vessy Mochikas for inclusive education. She was doing work with student and parent groups last year and hopefully she will come and speak to us at DPAC as well.
- Unfortunately, our next October meeting we were inviting Andrea Sinclair for PAC 101 but it unfortunately in conflicts with the Boards first education session so will likely divide the parent population. It is possible we may be able to record this presentation. We will try and touch base with the district so that their parent engagement sessions in the future will not coincide with the DPAC meetings so to no divide the parent population between these invaluable parent engagements.
- Rhonda Nixon has been in conversation with the team and they have said they know this has been a problem in the past, and will definitely be in better coordination with the DPAC to prevent further conflicts.
- Erin asks membership if it agreed to ask Andrea to be at the next October 19th meeting to present PAC 101 It is asked if we can record this PAC 101 and posted on the DPAC webpage as it is very helpful information for PACs. Answer: It is actually already posted on the BCCPAC page. We can also record it and try to distribute with consideration to only include Andrea and/or just slidedeck so as to ensure privacy of other participants of the meeting. Also, we want to make sure that everyone knows, we welcome ALL parents

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



to DPAC meetings. There is always valuable information for all. However, on matters which require a vote need to be voted on only by the PAC's elected DPAC members. There are up to 2 members per school and the school can reflect one vote per school.

- Erin to reach out with our current education ideas and slot them in based on their time and schedule.
- Please let DPAC know if there are other suggestions.
- ****Safety tips supposed to be added here missed in meeting****

g) McGregor/Wilson Report:

- https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/reports-and-publications/special_advisors_report_on_school_district_57.pdf

This was a special advisor report in SD 57 – has to do with discrimination and racism in Prince George. A good comparison showing our School Board is doing a great job with inclusive education. If there is anything to learn from this report into our district.

-Rhonda Kershaw – we definitely have put in effort to analyze systemic racism and pilot district to create Aboriginal enhancement agreement.

-Assistant Superintendent for Inclusive Education position created this year, Vessy Mochikas. Ensuring all learners feel safe at school.

-Erin asks: Can you please answer how you think we are doing as a district creating parity between Indigenous students and those who don't identify as Indigenous?

Rhonda Nixon: when discussing a comparison of Indigenous students in SD 73 compared to Indigenous students in the province, we exceed in all areas (graduation, literacy, numeracy, etc.) but we would like to achieve parity between Indigenous students and non-indigenous. Rhonda K. says the difference is really about 2%, it is very close, we do not want

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



to lose site of parity but we want to ensure these students are graduating with a sense of purpose and with success.

h) Upcoming DPAC positions: AGM will be the beginning of the next general meeting.

-Vice-Chair, 5 members at Large positions criteria is you must be a PAC representative for DPAC to be part of the executive of DPAC.

6. Reports

a) Treasurer's Report:

-DPAC only gets \$2500 from government each year (gaming funds) not per student like PACs. Some DPACs receive money from their school board, we do not. We usually put all of this money into education related matters. Things like website, parent engagement, zoom, and other parent/guardians supports.

- we purchased website design, zoom account, bursary account has finally found a recipient which we have been trying to find a home for the last 3 years. Will talk a bit about that later.

KAMLOOPS DPAC FINANCIAL REPORT – YEAR-END, 2021

Gaming Account	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
Opening Balance – Sept 1, 2020				\$277.84
September 2, 2020	BCCPAC Membership	\$150.00		\$127.84
October 2020	Gaming Grant Revenue		\$2500.00	\$2,627.84
December 2020	Outreach/Greeting/Thank You cards to PACs	\$189.23		\$2,438.61
February 2021	½ Cost of Website Redesign for DPAC	\$504.00		\$1,934.61
February 2021	"Navigating the Talk" – Early Years (Education)	\$425.00		\$1,509.61
February 2021	Foodsafe education – Haldane and Dallas	\$189.00		\$1,320.61
March 2021	"Navigating the Talk" – Middle Years (Education)	\$425.00		\$895.61
March 2021	"Navigating the Talk" – Highschool Years (Education)	\$425.00		\$470.61
June 2021	Website Hosting Fee (annual)	\$136.50		\$334.11
June 2021	Zoom License for 2021/22 fiscal year	\$200.00		\$134.11
Bank Fees	\$1.95 x 12	\$23.40		\$110.71
Est. Balance – June 30, 2021				\$110.71

**Italics indicate that debit has not yet appeared on monthly bank statement/cheque still has not been cashed by payee.*

General Account	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
Opening Balance – Sept 1, 2020				\$4,371.53
May 11, 2021	Other half of Website design from Trilogy Solutions.	\$504.00		\$3,867.53
Bank Fees	\$1.95 x 12	\$23.40		\$3,844.13
Est. Balance – June 30, 2021				\$3,844.13

**Italics indicate that debit has not yet appeared on monthly bank statement/cheque still has not been cashed by payee.*

Bursary Account	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
Opening Balance – Sept 1, 2020				\$1,035.50
Bank Statements		\$6.00		\$1,029.50
Bank Interest			Approx \$1.50	\$1,031.00
Est. Balance - June 30, 2021				\$1,031.00

**Italics indicate that debit has not yet appeared on monthly bank statement/cheque still has not been cashed by payee.*

GIC Accounts	Details	Debit	Revenue	Balance
Original 12-month GIC of \$1500 earned \$15.04 in interest in Nov 2020 and was reinvested	1 year GIC of \$1,015.04 principal, Matures November 18, 2021 – 0.25% or \$2.53 at maturity			\$1,015.04 (investment w/o interest)
Original 18 month GIC of \$3500 earned \$102.56 in interest in May 2021 and was reinvested	18 month GIC of \$3602.56 principal, Mature November 13, 2022 – 0.50% at or \$26.94 at maturity			\$3,602.56 (investment w/o interest)
Balance - June 30, 2021				\$4,617.60

Est. Balance June, 2021 (after disbursement of committed funds)				\$9,603.44
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Proposed (DRAFT) SD#73 DPAC Budget
Projected Revenue and Expenses for year ending June 30, 2022

	General Fund	Gaming Fund	Total
Revenue:			
Balance Forward (Aug 31, 2021)	3,844.13	110.71	\$ 3,598.84
Community Gaming grant (Oct 2021)		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
	\$ 3,488.13	\$ 2,610.71	\$ 6,098.84
Expenses:			
Monthly Plan Fee (TD Bank) (12mos x 2 accts)		\$ 46.80	\$ 46.80
BCCPAC membership		\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
BCCPAC travel expenses for 2 people	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,200.00
External Speakers/presentations (ex. KELLI)	\$500.00	\$ 175.00	\$ 675.00
Food Safe Course (10 people @ \$90/person)		\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
Other Parent Ed costs supplies/outreach etc		\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Website Hosting Fee		\$ 136.50	\$ 136.50
Zoom Plan for meetings		\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
	\$ 2,388.13	\$2.41	\$ 2,390.51

Bursary Fund
- Currently has **\$1,031.00**

GIC Accounts

November 18, 2021 Mature date of 1-year GIC. Will earn 0.25% at maturity. **\$1,015.04**
November 13, 2022 Mature date of 18 month GIC. Will earn 0.50% at maturity. **\$3,602.56**

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



- Erin's proposes \$1200 to (hopefully) send 2 dpac members to attend the BCCPAC meetings
- Asking for 10 foodsafe tuitions certificates
- Zoom licenses again – this will also allow if in person meetings are allowed, we can still offer an online link
- Have a GIC maturing this year, will need to decide later in the year if we want to reinvest or place in bursary.
- External speakers (parent education)
- Proposing a budget of \$6098.84 for:
 - Website hosting
 - FoodSafe
 - Outreach
 - Parent engagement
 - Zoom Licence.
- Erin proposes to accept the budget as presented. 2nd by Katie C. If there are any changes to this broadly presented budget we need to bring this back to DPAC to be voted on.

Approved

b) Superintendent Report (Rhonda Nixon)

- Updates to district communicable disease prevention plan. Approval to have spectators at secondary schools up to 50 people. Will have one card per family. Right now elementary schools will not be moving towards this initiative. This plan will be published in the near future.
- Multi district strategic refresh plan created. From 2017 there was a plan in place, this is the last year. There will be a public consultation for this also with PCG Canada who is the same company that has worked with sd73 in the past. Strategic plan is every districts mandated to have "outcomes, measures and priorities that they share" and have input from the community so it is shaped to reflect the desires of the community and would ensure that members would choose SD 73 over any other school district. So it has Foundation pieces as well as outcomes and measures.

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



-Rhonda Nixon came from Alberta and their covid response in the school system was not successful as BC. BC was very structured on how they handled their protocols.

-Schools stayed open in BC. SD 73 remained open 99% of the days since the beginning of pandemic.

- Absentee rates between Indigenous students and Non-Indigenous before and during covid demonstrated the largest equity challenge. non-Indigenous students attended school at a higher commitment rate during covid (opposed to prior), however there was an increase in absenteeism among the Indigenous population.

-SD 73 showed participation in grade 4 FSA top 15 percent compared to all other districts in BC. Results demonstrated covid-19 did not slow down SD 73 compared to the rest of the province. Reading Comprehension 1% increase among district peers from 2019/2020 to 2020/2021 and 1% above Province peers in same time period. All demonstrated a substantial increase for Gr 4 students with diverse needs (20 % increase among district peers and 9.5 % increase among province peers. Hence the importance to inclusive education. Overall, there is a focus on equity among students that have diverse learning needs -- SD 73 scored lower in this area compared to ALL students in the province. But not so far off that it becomes clear that equity can be achievable. When comparing scores from 2017/2018 to the most recent 2020/2021 there is over a 20% increase when comparing district peers and only 4% below ALL students in the province (compared to 23% below Province in 2017/2018). So very close to parity. Indigenous learners have always outpaced the province Indigenous learners. This is not good enough as you compare Indigenous learners against ALL students in the province. Aim to do as well or better than anywhere else in the province. Focus on equity.

- c) **Trustee Report (Rhonda Kershaw)** National truth and Reconciliation Day SD 73 (September 30th). Aboriginal educational department has approved to lower the flags on September 29th in preparation of September 30. These are important steps to recognize the tragedies and truths of residential schools and the treatment of Aboriginal peoples.

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



- Looking forward to a great start to a new year, has great team of new board members, New Superintendent (Rhonda Nixon), Secretary/treasurer (Trina Cassidy), and the 2 new assistant superintendent(Vessy Mochikas for inclusive education and Grant Reilly for Early Learning and Elementary), Secondary Assistant Superintendent Bill Hamblett.
- with the addition of September 30th (truth and reconciliation day) will September 27th still be the Professional development days as planned – Yes it will
- With Spring break being increased to the two weeks off, how does this affect the times of instruction within the school year? Secondary schools increased their days by 8 mins and elementary students increased instructional times by 11 to accommodate the two weeks for spring break.
- With the Hold and secure that happened in Salmon arm, will there be additional restrictions with the school vaccination clinics? Superintendent Nixon: we did not have to go into a hold and secure like Salmon Arm, but we did take the additional precautions to lock all outside doors to discourage outside visitors.
- Erin: Contact tracing notifications questions? Superintendent Nixon – there was enhanced notification at the beginning of Covid, the de-coupling of notifications was why the district was advised to no longer make public announcements so the district continues to follow the advice of interior Health.
- are you able to share the numbers of Covid-19 positive cases since the beginning of this year? Rhonda Nixon: at this time, it was explicitly stated that this information is not shared and that all relevant information will come from interior health.
- sanitizing will resume as it was last year (team comes in overnight to sanitize in evenings after a known Covid-19 case
- Last year there was an enhanced budget to include additional custodians, is this still applicable? Rhonda Kershaw: yes, that budget was voted to continue to approve this additions in the budget.
- There was additional funding for upgraded HVAC systems. The facilities plan has definitely had increased funding. The

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



exact numbers and schools was unavailable at the time of this general meeting. The whole facilities plan was not available but can be in the future if requested. Rhonda Kershaw: Does know that all the schools in our district have met the standards laid out by provincial guidelines.

-Chris : if Parents are unhappy with the decreased reporting where do they take complaints? Rhonda Nixon: overall, we take our direction from our Provincial health officer so I suppose complaints end up having to go there.

- Question Martha S.: "So there is no way of currently knowing the amount of positive cases to date?" Rhonda Nixon: At this time, when we asked the chief medical officer she stated that unless there was a change of direction from the Provincial Health Minister, this would not be happening.

d) KTTA Report: (Laurel and Darcy):

- Pleased that the bargaining happened to increase spring break from the 1 week to 2 weeks.

-working on class size and composition making sure class sizes are manageable and supportive to all students. Really brings to light the capacity issues and lack of capital funding.

- KTTA is committed to advocating for capital funding.

-KTTA organizing a rally Sept. 29 3:30- 4:15pm, meeting at overlanders bridge asking everyone interested to show support for T'kemlups Secwepemc with signs and hashtags to show support after the discovery of the 215 students on the former residential school grounds.

e) BCCPAC Report: This update can be found on the twitter page or website. Summary: We have heard from parents the desire to hear about positive cases in the schools in a timely and less intrusive and more sustainable way and parents will have access to the information rapidly. BCCPAC wants to ensure parents that they are working tirelessly to advocate for the parent voice.

- When we left in the spring the DPAC executive attended the BCCPAC AGM and at that time there were 9 resolutions on the table to be discussed. Resolutions guide BCCPAC advocacy for us. This is how we get our voice regarding our district voice. We will again our opportunity in the spring to present resolutions. We appeal to you, if you have

Next Meeting: October 19th, 2021 at 6:30 PM



something you wish to bring forward to the table at the province, and you are passionate about it, bring it to the executive and we can help you craft it.

- Can we bring forward a resolution that states if a school becomes over this percentage over capacity we need to have more schools this fighting for provincial mandate? (piggy backing on the letter of "how full is too full")

Simple answer, yes, we can do that.

7. **Other Correspondence:** Bursary fund update: the original idea of the bursary fund was to help adult learners in order to complete their education. DPAC has come to an agreement with TREC – Twin Rivers Education Centre (name may have changed, Sheri will update) program, these funds may be used for adult learners who may need a bus pass, or supplies, etc. We will receive receipts with what they used funds for.
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8. **Adjournment:** 8:20pm
-