

Douglas Road Elementary PAC Meeting

Jan 20 2026/ 6:30 PM / IN-PERSON & ONLINE

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Attendees

Nadia Volpe - Principal

Abby Pond - Chairperson / Munch-A-Lunch & Events Coordinator / Social Media Support / Bottle Recycling Assistant

Nicole Sprauer - Chairperson / Bottle Recycling Assistant

Jenny Wong - Vice Chair / Treasurer

Nicole Jappy - Vice Chair

Rachel Burch – Secretary / Social Media Support

CJ Liu - DPAC Representative

Absent

Bee Yiu - Head Teacher

Christina Yee - Munch-A-Lunch & Events Coordinator

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 9339954814833

Passcode: Qv4agkgKzfT24Gm3E8

Agenda

Land Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the land on which we live, work, and play is the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam),

Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓íl̓wətaʔ/Selilwiltulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Principal's Update - Nadia Volpe

- Thanked PAC for all of our work on Winterfest
- Salmon project - salmon have arrived
 - Kids get to see the life cycle of the salmon, starting as eggs all the way to release
 - Kids will get to see day-to-day progress and then will be taken to Burnaby Lake where they can release salmon back into the water
- Welcome to new staff
 - Today was the last day for the previous new secretary, Sabrina Bharaj
 - Eliza Haight will begin training as the new secretary tomorrow (Jan. 21)
 - Danielle Paat is a new music teacher, job sharing with Sydney Clarke. They will currently both be here until April

- Ordered two new carpets, which will be ready in about 4-6 weeks
 - One for the entrance & the front door
 - Firebird logos are actually inlaid into the carpet
 - Grade 7 will do a bit of fundraising to raise the remaining funds for these
- Upcoming movie nights - sent the email to confirm date with the district
- Afro-dance coming up in February
- Student learning surveys will be coming soon for grade 4 and 7 parents and students
- Upcoming newsletter will include:
 - A reminder regarding walking to and from school at the intersection of Sprott and Canada Way. We want to encourage parents and students to walk down to the cross walk for safety reasons
 - 17 new students started at Douglas Road in January. That makes us full in 5 divisions. There is 1 spot open for K and a couple spots open for the intermediary classes. Otherwise completely full and any overflow will be directed to a neighboring school
 - Invitation for new K families with children with disabilities or diverse abilities starting in Sept
 - Proposed calendar for the next 3 years has been sent out in a previous email
 - A reminder of some recently released information regarding E-scooters - you have to be 16+ to ride them, they are not permitted on school grounds or even sidewalks.
- Indigenous Garden (update from Ms. Cummings & Ms. Carlyle)
 - Presentation Link: <https://www.canva.com/design/DAG-1fcboBo/42EperF2aleW3mzQ--0uNg/edit>
 - Ms. Cummings, Ms. Carlyle, and Ms. Mattu have spearheaded the idea to beautify school grounds by putting a garden in the front (the area in front of the staff room windows)
 - Benefits of this:
 - Supports student well-being
 - Improves engagement and learning
 - Strengthens connection to place
 - Supports Indigenous ways of knowing
 - Builds Community
 - Accessibility and inclusion
 - Enhances school culture
 - Authentic learning
 - Bring the 3 unused bins from the back into the front and buy 3 more
 - Have a rounded bench put near front stairs, as well as a picnic-style bench put near big stones
 - These would be both to help with student learning and gathering, as well as for those who gather after school hours
 - Want an Indigenous artist to come in and paint a mural on the side of the front stairs
 - Considering have a grade 7 legacy project to also be have Indigenous murals painted on the blank window panels

- The grass will have to be removed and replaced with crushed gravel
 - With the silver bins, this could make the area look very sterile, so we'd like to add a lot of foliage in the area
 - This would be another reason for the window panel murals
- Looking into some grants options:
 - Playground grant, with the help from the PAC
 - "Nutrients for Life" grant for \$1000
 - "Beedie Luminaries"
 - "ArtStarts"
- Budget:
 - Currently have \$4900 from Outdoor Learning and \$1000 from Indigenous Inquiry from the school
 - Estimated budget for this year is \$13,000 (gravel, bench, bins, soil, plants)
- Timeline:
 - This could be a 2-3 year project
 - The hope is to have the bins and the rounded bench in place by June
 - Perhaps working on the artwork and picnic-style bench in the 2026/2027 school year

Updates from PAC:

- WinterFest Debrief
 - Money raised: \$1,234.28
 - Want to do a pizza party for student volunteers who worked the event, courtesy of PAC
 - Abby will email Ms. Bromley to schedule a day
- Recycling - Every 3 weeks - Investigate Burnaby Regional Recycling as an option
 - Abby and Jenny did recycling before holiday break, and it was very dirty, smelly, and gross (for them and for Abby's car). We need a new solution
 - Nadia is normally the one emptying out and cleaning the milk containers, though students are supposed to be rinsing them out; Nadia will remind students of this
 - Having Burnaby Regional Recycling pick up:
 - With this option, the money would go to school, not necessarily to PAC
 - Can call them and schedule a specific date and time for pickup; someone would need to be here for that and we would need 2 of the larger bins (per previous experience)
 - Would have to phone them in order for them to come in, and they would need two of the large bins.
 - When they did this before, one bin wasn't enough, and in the end, it didn't solve the issues
 - Another option is to have other PAC volunteers in a rotation to help with this
 - However, the main issue still comes down to needing the containers to be rinsed out (not full of curdled milk)
 - Talked about the idea of getting bins (one for dirty cartons, one for clean) for each class and getting kids to wash cartons each day

- For now, Nicole S. will try to do it on a bi-weekly basis for the time being due to her work schedule change and see how it goes
- Rescheduling movie night to Feb. 26
 - PAC will figure out which movie and send out notices
- Upcoming PAC events
 - See Upcoming Dates below

Additional Discussions:

- Talked about the possibility of fixing the hazardous concrete hill out front (some parents have expressed concern over this)
 - This would be a health and safety concern
- Talked about fixing the puddle by the wheelchair ramp at the gym
- End of Year trip:
 - Nicole J. has reached out to Otter Co-Op, but there is concern about that many kids around water and the time it will take to get to and from location
 - Robert Burnaby new outdoor pool (but same concern about water)
 - Edmonds Playground was chosen as the End of Year Trip location, due to it having a playground and splashpad, along with its closer location
- Upcoming PAC meeting dates:
 - February 10
 - March 10
 - April 21
 - May 26 (AGM)
- The idea was brought up about having someone come in and talk/present to parents about tools for inclusion of neurodivergent kids
- Discussion about adding something to the playground
- DPAC Meeting Update from CJ Liu
 - Please see CJ's notes at the end of minutes

Upcoming Dates:

Valentine's Treat Sale - February 13, 2026

Movie Nights: February 26 and April 10, 2026

Walkathon and Treat Sale - May 29, 2026

Sports Day: June 13, 2026

School Wide Field Trip: June 19, 2026

Year End Assembly: June 23, 2026

Leaving Ceremony: June 24, 2026

DPAC Meeting - Jan. 19

- Presentation on how SD budget is determined and what funding sources exist
 - June 30 is the end of budget cycle for the year.
- Growth has slowed because of reduced immigration and people leaving Burnaby due to cost but LT trend (15+) is to prepare for continued growth
- Reserve is up to 2.5m from 50k; target is 3.2m
- Themes from Parent survey:
 - 236 responses, 80% from parents/guardians
 - insufficient provincial funding, including recent reductions and loss of programs (i.e. band); concerned funding isn't matching inflationary pressures
 - staffing support and retention; loss of EAs support staff
 - facilities space and portables, loss of play space, overcrowding, hygiene, ventilation
 - program losses, gr. 7 band, Mandarin, macc/beta, strongstart
 - parent advocacy; 71% of respondents have not reached out to sd, mla, mp or knew how to
 - general sentiment that PACs are taking over needs that are not being met by provincial funding
- Q&A
 - gr. 7 band program seems important
 - DPAC to work on increasing parent advocacy
 - suggestions: press release, form letter + contacts for parents to express their concern to MLAs, MPs
 - MP for New West was present and an assistant for an MLA