DPAC October General Meeting 2026/2027
Wednesday, October 7, 2026, 9:30 AM

Attendees: Bowen Island, Caulfeild, Chartwell. Cypress Park, Eagle Harbour, Cedardale. Pauline Johnson, Gleneagles, Hollyburn, Irwin Park, Lions Bay, Ridgeview, Rockridge, Sentinel, West Bay, Westcot, Tanja, Marisa, Lirica, Joy, Tonia, Emma, Chandy, Chris Kennedy, Felicia Zhu

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair reviewed DPAC's commitment to maintaining a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment. Members were reminded that meetings should focus on issues affecting schools, students, and families as a whole, rather than individual concerns about staff, parents, or community members.

2. Adoption of Minutes and Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda: Tanja, Seconded: Marisa
- Motion to approve previous meeting minutes: Tanja, Seconded: Joy

3. Chair's Report

- Welcome and events: The Chair welcomed members to the first general meeting of the year and thanked Trustee Nicole Brown for hosting the Welcome Luncheon and Kelly Richter for moderating the All Candidates Meeting for School Trustee.
- DPAC meetings: General meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the ILC. Agendas will be emailed in advance, and minutes will be distributed by email and posted on the DPAC website. The morning coffee meet-and-greet (8:45–9:15 a.m.), Monthly Mystery Guest, and district and PAC focused presentations will continue.
- PAC engagement and resources: Members were encouraged to use the DPAC website, join relevant WhatsApp channels, and keep PAC websites, agendas, minutes, constitutions, and bylaws up to date.
- District PAC email: PACs were encouraged to establish district email accounts to access OneDrive and Canva for Education. Members were reminded not to forward official district email to personal accounts for cybersecurity reasons.
- BCCPAC: DPAC remains a member of BCCPAC; individual PACs may also choose to join.
- West Vancouver Foundation: The Foundation is seeking additional committee members to review scholarship applications. Interested members may contact the Chair.
- Upcoming events:
    - October 7 – Treasurer 101: Training on PAC finances, budgeting, government grants, hot lunch, and large-scale fundraising, led by Alison Caruthers, WVSD Manager of Finance.
    - October 21 – Parent Education: *Future Ready: Growing Up in a Digital World*, featuring Dr. Alex Choi and Cari Wilson, focusing on technology and screen time. Registration is available through School Cash Online.

4. Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer presented the financial report as of October 1, 2026.
- The DPAC received its $2,500 gaming grant.
- General fund expenses included a subscription expense, with two outstanding cheques noted.
- The reported available balance was approximately $2,827.90.

5. Traffic and Safety Report

- The committee representative reported on two meetings:
    - West Vancouver School Mobility Advisory Roundtable
        - A more education focused approach to parking and traffic bylaws has been introduced.
        - Ten schools were visited during the first two weeks of the school year.
        - The district is coordinating school safety assessments for 2026.
        - Three traffic safety blitzes took place in September, including at Caulfeild, Irwin Park, and Gleneagles.
        - Concerns about children travelling to school before sunrise if daylight saving time changes are discontinued were discussed.
        - E-bike safety and public education remain areas of interest.
    - North Shore Safety Council.
        - The Council continues to support traffic safety education and community engagement.
        - A proposed caregiver survey relating to children and safety was discussed, with a potential launch in early 2027.
- Traffic safety grants. The District of West Vancouver offers grants of up to $300 for eligible school traffic safety initiatives, such as signs, safety vests, and walk-to-school or bike-to-school events. PACs were encouraged to apply early. https://westvancouver.ca/services/transportation/commuting-school/school-travel-mini-grant
- Please share any traffic safety concerns with the DPAC executive team.

6. Finance and Facilities Report

- The Finance and Facilities Committee met on September 15, 2026. The Director of Facilities provided updates on ongoing summer capital projects. The Secretary-Treasurer presented updated construction completion estimates for the indoor soccer bubble at West Vancouver Secondary School (WVSS), along with updates on enrollment and operations at the Early Childhood Education Centre.
- The committee also reviewed the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2026, covering the Capital, Special Purpose, and Operating funds.

7. Audit Report

- The committee meets twice annually and provides an additional level of financial oversight.
- The district's external auditor, KPMG, presented its audit report.

8. Human Resources

- Teacher recruitment
    - Approximately 60 teaching positions were posted for the 2026–2027 school year, compared with approximately 116 in the previous year.
    - All posted positions were reported as filled by the first day of school.
    - Recruitment pressures remain in specialized areas, including French immersion, secondary mathematics and science, and learning support.
    - The district will continue to prioritize teacher hiring and building its teacher-on-call pool.
- Support staff
    - 33 new employees joined the district during the spring and summer.
    - 24 temporary employees were rehired.
    - Four orientation sessions were held for new employees.
- The district also welcomed new leadership in facilities, finance, and office administration.
- The next committee meeting is scheduled for November 24.

9. Enhance West Van Report

- Community engagement: Increased participation was noted in community centre programs, including swimming lessons, the diving club, skiing, and fitness classes.
- Pumpkin Festival: Scheduled for October 4, 2026, and identified as West Vancouver's largest fundraising event.
- Youth Funding Opportunities: The District of West Vancouver Community Grants Program supports youth under 25 who represent West Vancouver in competitions, tournaments, festivals, workshops, or conferences, or lead local projects and community initiatives. Eligible youth may apply for up to $3,000.
    - Application deadline: Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.
    - Website: westvancouver.ca/youth
    - Inquiries: communitygrants@westvancouver.ca
- Next meeting: November 18, 2026.

10. Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Chris Kennedy provided an update on enrollment, district priorities, facilities, and upcoming initiatives.
- The district operates 18 schools and has approximately 7,200 students, based on the September 30 enrollment count.
- Enrolment is approximately 100 students lower than the previous year and remains relatively stable over the longer term.
- Approximately 18% of students live outside the district, including students from neighbouring communities.
- International enrollment is approximately 400 students, with the district monitoring global economic conditions and changes affecting international student recruitment.
- The district continues to plan for future registration, including entry to French immersion programs.
- Facilities and childcare
    - The indoor soccer facility project is awaiting BC Hydro work before subsequent construction and opening steps can proceed. The timeline remains dependent on completion of that work.
    - The Early Childhood Education Centre has experienced strong demand.
    - Access to childcare and affordable staff housing can help the district recruit and retain teachers who might otherwise leave for other communities.
- Parent education. The district is planning a three-part parent education series:
    - October: Screen time and technology, featuring a medical health officer from Vancouver Coastal Health.
    - January: Artificial intelligence and its implications for children and families.
    - Later in the year: A session with West Vancouver Police on related digital world and child safety topics.
- Provincial education and governance
    - Following the school board election, the district will orient incoming trustees and work with the board on its strategic priorities.
    - The district will also respond to changes in provincial education leadership and policy following the provincial election.

11. PAC Development Presentation: Building Strong PACs

- The Chair delivered a presentation on effective PAC governance, financial management, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and community engagement. The Chair confirmed that the full presentation materials would be available through the DPAC website.

Next Monthly Meeting: November 4.