

École Qayqayt Elementary PAC Meeting Minutes

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84262852710?pwd=xj3rAPIDVScY5Zc7W63nNkowOlaN2P.1>

Meeting Date: October 8, 7:00 pm
Location: Qayqayt Library/ VIRTUAL - Zoom

2025/2026 Executive

Co Chair	Shawn Sorensen Alison Ytsma	Secretary	Brett Griffiths
Vice Chair	Vacant	Treasurer	Eileen Tang
DPAC Rep	Laura Kwong	CPF Rep	Vacant
Members at Large	Elynn Chen, Jeff Yahton, Stephanie Nuno		

Invited Guest Attendees

Principal	Suzanne Cameron	Vice Principal	Carly Eirikson
Community Schools	Rick Bloudell	SD40 Trustee Rep	Maya Russell

Call to Order and Welcome | Shawn Sorensen

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Co-Chair Shawn Sorensen.

Shawn acknowledged the larger than usual attendance and requested respectful conversation throughout the meeting. He apologized for being underprepared due to work commitments at Massey Theatre.

Land Acknowledgement

Shawn delivered a thoughtful land acknowledgement, recognizing the unceded Qayqayt territory. He expressed gratitude for the school's practice of helping students understand where they are being educated and noted the importance of having these conversations at home with families.

Executive Introductions

Due to the large group size, only executive members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda | Shawn Sorensen September Minutes

- Minutes available on Hot Lunches website after sign-in
- Motion to accept: Shawn Sorensen
- Seconded by: Stephanie Nuno
- **Motion carried**

Agenda Amendments

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Voting in member at large (New Business)
- Movie night (New Business)
- Hot lunch update and Ski Club (New Business)

Motion to adopt agenda as amended: Brett Griffiths

Seconded by: Stephanie Nuno

Motion carried

School District Update | Maya Russell & Marc Davidson

Introduction

Maya Russell, School Board Chair and Trustee, introduced herself and Superintendent Marc Davidson. She acknowledged the importance of the items on the agenda for Qayqayt families.

French Immersion Program Review

Background and Rationale

The school district engaged a consultant who has done similar work with other districts. The consultant recommended consolidation of early French immersion programs. The district currently has three small early French immersion programs, with Qayqayt being the most challenged due to size constraints.

Proposed Changes

- **Recommendation:** Close early French immersion at Qayqayt in Fall 2026 and move the program to Herbert Spencer Elementary
- Herbert Spencer currently has 2 empty classrooms, expecting 2-3 more next year
- Every seat at Qayqayt will be available at Herbert Spencer - no student losses expected
- Late French immersion remains a quality alternative program

Enrollment Context

- Metro Vancouver and BC have seen a net loss of students since June of last year
- New Westminster enrollment is up 1% (projected was 2%)
- Temporary demographic lull connected to federal immigration policy changes

Program Quality Considerations

Consolidation would allow for stronger French programming including:

- French-speaking administration
- Librarian who speaks French
- Education Assistants who are fluent in French
- More robust support resources for French immersion students

The goal is to have students leaving Grade 12 French immersion able to conduct interviews and conversations in French, not a watered-down program.

Financial Considerations

Each portable classroom costs a significant amount to operate. The district must make strategic decisions while remaining optimistic about funding for new schools, but needs to address current capacity issues for students now.

Timeline and Process

- Decision will be brought to the Board at the end of November 2025
- Open house planned for families to meet with staff
- Survey will be sent to all families in early and late French immersion
- Communications will be sent to families and staff at all three elementary immersion schools

Questions and Discussion

Q: How will 125 students be accommodated at Herbert Spencer with only 2 extra classrooms?

A: Not all Qayqayt early French immersion students are in catchment. Many families chose Qayqayt specifically because it was the only early French immersion in catchment. Herbert Spencer has sufficient capacity, and additional space will be available.

Q: Will there be more portables at Herbert Spencer?

A: No additional portables are planned. The existing classroom space at Herbert Spencer is sufficient.

Q: What about before and after school care at Herbert Spencer?

A: The district does not yet know what fee structures would look like for additional childcare options.

Q: Why consolidate at Herbert Spencer when it's farther from where families with young children live?

A: Herbert Spencer has the available capacity. To keep immersion at Qayqayt, the district would have to change attendance boundaries and push other students out of their catchment schools, which creates different equity issues.

Q: What about late French immersion as an alternative?

A: Late French immersion is a strong program. There is evidence supporting late immersion for English-first-language students in terms of getting fundamentals in English first. However, the district recognizes this is disappointing for families committed to early French immersion.

Contact Information

- Superintendent Marc Davidson: mdavidson@sd40.bc.ca
- Trustee Maya Russell: mrussell@sd40.bc.ca

Community Schools Report | Rick Bloudell

- See previous section

Principal & Vice-Principal Report | Suzanne Cameron & Carly Eirikson

- Spirit wear is now available for purchase
- Art project supplies have been sent home - projects created by students (Alison Ytsma provided additional information)

French Immersion Program Quality

Principal Suzanne Cameron shared her background as a former French immersion teacher who has taught every grade except kindergarten. She started the French immersion program in New Westminster at Tweedsmere in Grade 1. She emphasized the importance of program quality

and hiring qualified French immersion teachers, with the goal of students being functionally bilingual by Grade 12.

Appreciation for PAC

The administration commended PAC for keeping school spaces tidy and returning them in good condition for janitorial staff.

Chair Report | Shawn Sorensen

- Shawn thanked everyone for the large turnout and encouraged continued participation at monthly meetings. He expressed appreciation for the respectful dialogue maintained throughout the evening.
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DPAC Report | Laura Kwong

Recent Activities

- First DPAC meeting of the year held a couple weeks ago
- One-on-one conversations scheduled with Superintendent Marc Davidson
- Planning data gathering process for families to share struggles and identify gaps
- Inclusive education review completed in 2019/2020 - recommendations will be brought forward

Upcoming Events

- **PAC Workshop Night:** October 16, 2025, 6:30 PM (for PAC executives)
 - **Regular DPAC Meetings:** Third Thursday of every month
 - **Screenagers Film Showing:** November 4, 2025 - Film about kids, media, screens, and creating boundaries (recommended for grades 5 and up)
 - **Coordinating Committee Meeting:** October 9, 2025 - French immersion consolidation on agenda
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CPF Report | Grace Steyn

- Grace attended to hear concerns from Qayqayt families and will take information back to Canadian Parents for French organization. CPF is leading questions and advocacy around French immersion consolidation.
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Treasurer Report | Eileen Tang/Shawn Sorensen

- Shawn - Gaming grant was approved
 - Eileen - Financial reports reviewed (links available on Hot Lunches website)
 - [General Account Review](#)
 - [Gaming Account Review](#)
 - [2025-26 DRAFT BUDGET](#)
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Old Business

- **School Purchases for Next Year**

PAC will meet with Principal Suzanne Cameron to discuss and determine fundraising priorities for this year.

- **Last Year:** Raised and spent approximately \$7,000 on outdoor education equipment including wagons and supplies for outdoor learning. Equipment being used extensively by students and teachers in the park and field.
- **This Year:** Considering math-related materials/equipment (not yet finalized).
- **NWSS Budget Discussion**
Stephanie Nuno requested to revisit budget allocation for New Westminster Secondary School. Shawn suggested bringing a formal motion to next meeting.
- **Staff Appreciation Day**
Looking for replacement for Little Miss Coffee Co., which has moved to Alberta. Previously provided monthly fundraiser and year-end staff appreciation. Seeking similar mobile coffee services - please share suggestions with PAC.

New Business

Voting in Member at Large

Executive appointed Demetria Michelin to Social Media role. This is a vacant position, so executive has authority to appoint without motion. PAC has not had a dedicated social media coordinator for a couple years.

Movie Night (K-2)

- **Date:** October 16, 2025
- **Audience:** Kindergarten through Grade 2
- **Organizer:** Stephanie Nuno
- **Dress Code:** Comfy and cozy attire (costumes welcome but not required)
- **IMPORTANT:** This is NOT a drop-off event - parents/guardians must stay
- **Concession:** Cash only - no card payments available
- **Registration:** Reserve spots through Hot Lunches website
- Volunteers needed for setup, concession shifts, and cleanup

Hot Lunch Update | Alison Ytsma

First hot lunch was Subway order two weeks ago. Some labels didn't print out, but vendor has resolved the problem. No issues anticipated for future hot lunches.

Ski Club | Alison Ytsma

- **Grade Eligibility:** Limited to Grades 4 and 5
- **Schedule:** Wednesdays in February 2026
- **Logistics:** Students board bus immediately after school, travel to Mount Seymour, receive ski lesson, return approximately 7:30 PM
- **Cost:** Approximately \$350 for lessons and bus (comparison: regular mountain lessons typically cost \$500+)
- **Teachers:** Two teachers have volunteered to sponsor
- **Next Steps:** Express interest in survey by Friday to secure spots before another school takes the lesson slots

Open Forum & Questions

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Adjournment at 8:26 pm

Next Meeting November 12, 2025

