



CHEAM PAC Meeting

Date: March 10th 2025

Time: 7:10pm

Location: Cheam Elementary Staff Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Welcome & Acknowledgements

1.2 Attendance

- Shawn Gieselman, Iain Gardner, Emmy Kerr, Tanya Cannon, Melissa Graham, Laurel Thornton

1.3 Ensure Quorum quorum established

1.4 Approval of Agenda: Motion - Melissa Seconded - Laurel

1.5 Approval of Minutes from previous meeting: Motion – Melissa Seconded – Emmy

2. REPORTS

2.1 Principals Report

Lots of illness of students and staff.

We're going to need a bigger carnival. Lots of interest in the talent show meeting today. Permission slips went out today.

150 Celebration coming together nicely, Save the Date for May 10th. Chilliwack History Perspectives on the Facebook page.

2.2 Chair Report

2.3 Treasurers Report

- Year to date: total income has surpassed the budget. Still waiting for other expenses to roll in. Question around the meeting/travel fees for the BCCPAC meeting this year, being held in Prince George. It is a hybrid (online/in-person format), but there may still be a fee attached for someone who wishes to attend virtually.
- The PAC account currently has a surplus. Discussion around how funds could be distributed and what would happen to these funds if our PAC is separated. One option is to spend some of the money on a grill, as currently a grill is being supplied by parents when needed.
- Discussion around the Concession Stand at the 150 Celebration:
 - Will this be a PAC Fundraiser, or a Grade 5 Grad Fundraiser? If it is a grade 5 grad fundraiser we will need grade 5s to help manage the concession. Does the grade 5 grad committee require extra funding? To be discussed further at the next meeting.

2.4 DPAC Report

Meeting was February 27th, 2025.

There will be no DPAC meeting in March.

DPAC minutes are posted to their website: <https://www.sd33.bc.ca/20242025-meetings>

- School Food Infrastructure Grants Available:

- School Food Infrastructure Fund: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca. - closes March 31st
- United Way - School Food Infrastructure Grant or from the main Grant Page at United Way British Columbia Grants & Funding. Closes April 8'
- Bowls of Hope will be expanding their community garden on Wolfe Rd and starting a garden on the south side.
- Volunteers are always welcome. You can apply to join the volunteer team here - <https://form-can.keela.co/volunteer-application-form4>.

Bowls of Hope Presentation:

- Michelle Dennill Executive Director, Bowls of Hope (BoH), will join us to give us an update on the Feeding Futures Program and Initiatives in the District. <https://www.sd33.bc.ca/feeding-futures-program>
- BoH - 20 years in the district and currently feeds 1050 children are fed a day in this district.
- National School Food Program - the federal government committed to invest \$1 billion over the next 5 years by partnering with provinces and territories to deliver school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks. These monies are available to us now, but BC has yet to sign an agreement to access these funds.
- We encourage all parents/PACs to sign this 'letter' campaign asap! <https://www.ctf-fce.ca/take-action/schoolfoodprogramcanada/#take-action>

Chair Report: Earthquake preparedness – schools are reminded to review procedures and keep running drills

- 2025 BCCCPAC Conference and AGM: May 23-25th in Prince George (hybrid).
- ADHD/ADD for parents – information coming for parents due to these students having no category meaning they do not receive any extra support in the classroom
- Indigenous Family Circle at NLC April 8th – details to come.
- EA letter requesting more EAs in the school district – requesting PACs to sign the letter to enhance its impact. Cheam PAC to review the letter and decide to sign at next meeting. (Letter is attached to these minutes for parents to review)
- DPAC member at large has resigned. DPAC chair is coming back in.

Rosedale Traditional School boundary review meeting:

- Had about 40 in attendance
- Concerns around the EFI program being transferred to their school as it will take spaces away from students who are in catchment
- Concern around the intersection of Yale/McGarth (near the location of the new Rosedale Elementary School) and the safety of the students (no traffic light, no controlled way to cross the road) as well as the fact that there is a sidewalk on only one side of the road
- Concerns around their PAC splitting up as students are transferred to different schools
- They (Rosedale Traditional PAC) have taken initiative to reach out to the gaming grant authorities to ensure funds are not missed when the new Rosedale Elementary

site opens (since applying for funding happens in the Spring before the new school year)

- Cheam PAC will start posting the DPAC minutes on the Cheam Facebook page – lots of valuable information there

2.5 Committees Report(s)

Special Events:

Hot Lunches:

March 14 is the next one. Reminder that you can go on Munch-A-Lunch and sign up to volunteer for Hot Lunches.

Fundraising:

Upcoming: Purdy's (current), Neufelds, Summer Fun Day Concession, Break the Rules Day and possibly Concession at 150 Celebration

Yearbook:

send photos to the yearbook committee ASAP!

Cheamsyearbook@gmail.com

Please send photos from different events in separate emails and include the name of that event in the subject line

Grade 5 Grad:

Bulletin Board:

Constitution Committee:

First rough draft is done. Will get input from other committee members. PAC will get an emailed copy.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/CARRIED OVER FROM LAST MEETING

4. NEW BUSINESS

- Review from District's Preliminary Meeting with Parents at Cheam Elementary
 - Meeting was held on March 3rd – Melissa, Tanya and Shawn were in attendance
 - Currently in the "gathering information" stage – lots of boundary reviews happening with schools across the district.
 - Meeting participants were split off into groups to discuss their thoughts and ask questions.
 - Where will the EFI program be? Federal funding is to maintain the program, not start a new program.
 - How do you guarantee the French Immersion Program will be successful? If EFI were to move to Rosedale, accessibility concerns would need to be addressed (improved bussing)
 - Concern from the English stream around students being potentially split up. It also will change the trajectory of middle school for the students that do not get into Rosedale's catchment boundary
 - Did you know SD33 has a communication portal?
 - Send your questions here: <https://www.letstalksd33.ca/> (including questions and concerns about the boundary review)

- We can use this as opportunity for parents to advocate for the French immersion program
- Formation of a Nomination Committee for PAC 2025/2026:
 - New constitution has guidelines for how to form a Nomination committee.
 - Melissa will head the committee
 - Roles: counts votes, confirms with the nominees
 - Prior to AGM (June, exact date TBA) – nominations need to be put in.
 - Will be further addressed at the next PAC meeting

5. OPEN DISCUSSION

6. BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING

- EA Letter – decision to add our PACs name to the letter
- Decision for the 150 Celebration Concession Stand
- PAC Nomination Committee
- Budget Committee

7. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING: April 14th 7:00pm

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Motioned –Laurel Seconded - Tanya
Time: 8:25pm

May XX, 2025

Rohan Arul-pragasm Superintendent
Chilliwack School District 33 Email: rohan_arul@sd33.bc.ca

Dear Rohan Arul-pragasam:

We are reaching out to highlight the pressing need for additional educational assistants (EAs) in School District 33 (SD33). The District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) is receiving an increased amount of feedback from Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) and individual parents about significant challenges that must be addressed to help all students succeed.

EAs are vital in providing support to students with disabilities, behavioural issues, and language difficulties. The existing resources are lacking, which can result in problems such as emotional distress, overburdening teachers and increased bullying and racism that may worsen without appropriate intervention. All of which are explored in this letter.

Supporting Social and Emotional Well-Being

Students who experience discrimination or learning differences can overcome emotional and academic challenges with the right support. With the help of caring individuals, they can build self-esteem and connection, transforming feelings of isolation into a strong sense of belonging. This positive environment can significantly enhance their engagement with peers and the learning process, turning school into a place of growth and enjoyment.

EAs play a crucial role in this journey by providing personalized support tailored to each student's unique needs. They create inclusive spaces where every student feels valued, ensuring that those who may have faced challenges receive the encouragement they need. Through one-on-one guidance, EAs help students develop emotional resilience and confidence, empowering them to recognise and embrace their potential.

Overburden Teachers

Teachers often manage large, diverse classrooms while balancing the demands of curriculum delivery and various student needs. Despite their dedication, the volume of responsibilities leaves them stretched too thin to provide the individualised attention many students require, especially those facing significant challenges.

At-risk students are particularly vulnerable to being overlooked without adequate support. Teachers may lack the time or resources to intervene effectively in situations where students struggle academically or emotionally, leading to feelings of invisibility and disengagement. This lack of attention can exacerbate issues like bullying and racism, creating an environment where harmful behaviours are tolerated.

EAs are essential in bridging this gap by providing dedicated support to students, allowing teachers to focus on quality instruction without leaving any student behind. EAs can address specific needs, whether academic support or conflict mediation, ensuring that vulnerable students receive necessary attention.

Bullying and Racism

Bullying and racism significantly impact students' well-being and learning. EAs help by monitoring interactions and intervening when necessary. Without an adequate number of EAs these troubling behaviours often go unnoticed, allowing a toxic atmosphere to persist.

By collaborating with teachers to encourage mutual respect, EAs can significantly contribute to creating a safe and supportive environment where all students feel valued and accepted for who they are. This synergistic approach not only helps to mitigate instances of bullying and racism but also cultivates a positive school culture that benefits everyone.

Summary and Requested Action

Increasing the number of EAs in SD33 schools requires a multifaceted approach involving funding, recruitment, training, and systemic solutions. DPAC seeks to understand what steps SD33 is taking to address these challenges. We kindly ask for your full attention regarding these important issues and would greatly appreciate a written response outlining the actions that have been taken as well as those that are planned for the future.

If there is an opportunity for collaboration, please feel free to reach out. DPAC has some ideas for next steps, particularly around the retention of EAs. DPAC is also open to providing SD33 space at a general meeting to share your thoughts and plans and to address questions from parents in the SD33 school community.

Thank you for your consideration, DPAC

Add PACs who would like to sign.

Ec: David Swankey, Chair of School District 33, david_swankey@sd33.bc.ca

Teri Westerby, Trustee Liaison for DPAC, teri_westerby@sd33.bc.ca

Reid Clark, Chilliwack Teacher's Association, President, president@chilliwackteachers.com