33 Chilliwack District 33 33 Advisory Council

SD33 DPAC GENERAL MEETING AGENDA For February 27th, 2025, at 7 pm

In Person at the School Board Office and on ZOOM: <u>Join conversation</u>

Meeting ID: 690 3076 1946 / Passcode: 096903

1. CALL TO ORDER - WELCOME, LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT, and INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1. Housekeeping for Hybrid Meetings.docx
 - Link will expire on March 25, 2025.

2. DISTRICT PRESENTATION - FEEDING FUTURES / BOWLS OF HOPE

2.1. Rosanne James - SD33 Coordinator of Food Programs and Michelle Dennill Executive Director, Bowls of Hope, 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

3. AGENDA and MINUTES

- 3.1. Adoption of Agenda
 - THAT this agenda for February 27th, 2025, be adopted as circulated.
- 3.2. Adoption of Minutes
 - THAT the minutes of the January 30th, 2025, General Meeting be adopted as amended.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1. Chair Report
- 4.2. Trustee Report
- 4.3. Treasurer Report
- 4.4. BCCPAC Report
- 4.5. Committee Highlights
 - Budget Committee
 - ACIE
 - CHC
 - IDEA
 - SAGE

5. OLD BUSINESS

- 5.1. DPAC Advocacy Action Plan and Next Steps
 - PAC responses to signing the Anti-bullying and Anti-racism letter.
 - Next steps regarding anti-bullying and anti-racism advocacy.
 - Please come prepared with whether your PAC plans to add their name to this letter
- 5.2. Outside Agencies in Schools
- 5.3. December Newsletter Draw Do-Over LAST CHANCE! \$25 GC to Amble Coffee
 - See January general meeting agenda for details

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 6.1. Band Busing Updated infographic Band Instruments & Busing.jpg
 - Link will expire April 17th, 2025
 - Next steps

33 Siren Advisory Council

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6.2. EA Letter

- PACs are encouraged to share the letter with their membership and vote on whether or not to sign the letter.
- DPAC will be looking for signatory responses at the May 29th, 2025, AGM.
- 6.3. Vacant DPAC Member at Large (#1) Executive Position OPEN to current Reps/Alts
 - Click here to apply https://forms.office.com/r/jKBGRbbzNm
- 6.4. Strike a Constitution and Bylaw Review Committee
- 6.5. Strike a DPAC Executive Nomination Committee
 - Except for people who plan to run for a DPAC Executive position, this committee is open to everyone.
- 6.6. Round Table Emerging Concerns
 - Q&A please email any pressing issues ahead of time to dpacsecretary@sd33.bc.ca

7. DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- General Meeting April 24th, 2024, @ 7pm
 - In person at the School Board office and online hybrid
- March 6^{th -} LETS Disability Workshop 7pm online
 - https://sd33ca.zoom.us/j/68175050763?pwd=Nq285v3Yoq4P8aPFSeXxzLrByCBKf6.1
- April 7th A.I. Presentation Tentative Details Coming
- April 8th Indigenous Family Circle at NLC Details Coming

8. ADJOURNMENT

Info Items - Ongoing Strat Plan Engagement:

Indigenous Community Forum for Elders, parents, Education Coordinators and Mémiyelhtel students – March 13, 2025

Survey for Parents, Guardians and Caregivers Feb. 3 - 21

Online engagement is now open for Chilliwack parents, guardians and caregivers who want to share their input on the district's strategic plan for 2026 - 2029. Take the survey: https://tejoin.com/scroll/572957092.

For specific accessibility needs, email <u>communications@sd33.bc.ca</u> or call the district office at 604-792-1321. Paper copies are available at the district office.

Chilliwack District 33 Them Advisory Council

SD33 DPAC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES For January 30th, 2024, at 7 pm

In Person at the School Board Office and on TEAMS <u>Join conversation</u>
Meeting ID: 257 178 693 359 / Passcode: PxDY5k

Executive: A/ Chair & Vice Chair Deirdre O'Connor, Secretary Stacey Gould (Stitos DPAC Rep), Indigenous Liaison Gina Phillips (DPAC Rep Imagine), Member at Large 1 Vrushali Khot (DPAC Rep LME), Member at Large 2 Matt Stevenson (DPAC Rep McCammon)

DPAC Rep/Alt: Katie Bartel (DPAC Rep ADR), Rachel Swedgan (Robertson Rep), Jen Hooge (CSS Rep), Diana Heidinger (CMS Rep), Cary Moore (Strathcona Rep), Dana Drope (Cultus Rep), Angela Wilkinson (Vedder Elem Rep), Jaime Kampman (Yarrow Rep), Kendy Michaloski (Sardis Elem Rep), Kate Healey (Central Elem Rep), Agnie, Rosa Sages (DPAC Rep Leary), Sheryl Grater (DPAC Rep Cultus & Mt. Slesse), Alison Esau (Promontory DPAC Rep)

Parents: Brandy, Jessica Armstrong, Jessica Edwards, Kalena O'brien,

Special Guest: Rohan Arul-pragasam

- 1. ALL TO ORDER WELCOME, HOUSEKEEPING and INTRODUCTIONS
 - 1.1. Housekeeping for Hybrid Meetings.docx
- 2. DISTRICT PRESENTATION DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ROHAN ARUL-PRAGASAM
 - 2.1. Strategic Plan Refresh Update and Next Steps
 - Click <u>here</u> for the Strategic Plan Refresh Website
 - The Strategic Plan refresh was also featured on the cover page of our December Newsletter – here.
- 3. AGENDA and MINUTES (@ 7:39pm)
 - 3.1. Adoption of Agenda
 - Motion THAT this agenda for January 30th, 2025, be adopted as circulated.
 - MOTION Karine
 - Seconded Rachel
 - 3.2. Adoption of Minutes
 - Motion THAT the minutes of the November 28th, 2024, General Meeting be adopted as circulated.
 - Motion Diane
 - Seconded Rachel

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 4.1. Chair Report
 - Katie is now on a LOA.
 - District communication manager has been hired, Amy. Figuring out where the gaps are to identify focus areas.
 - Will work with DPAC to enhance communication with parents.
 - Deirdre was invited to a district AI presentation.
 - District is ahead of the game and will be bringing this presentation to parents.
- 4.2. Trustee Report

33 Sign Advisory Council

SD33 DPAC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES For January 30th, 2024, at 7 pm

In Person at the School Board Office and on TEAMS <u>Join conversation</u>
Meeting ID: 257 178 693 359 / Passcode: PxDY5k

- During the December board meeting, trustees held a chair and liaison election.
 trustee Swankey was acclaimed as chair and trustee Westerby was acclaimed as
 vice chair as well as Bcpsea representative, trustee Procee as alternate. Trustee
 Reid was acclaimed as BCSTA representative and trustee Bondar was acclaimed
 as alternate.
- The board cancelled our January 28th public board meeting because the business scheduled for the January meeting had to be postponed due to the provincial government's amended budget timelines for this fiscal year and there were no anticipated actions items on the agenda this month.
- The Chilliwack school trustees are part of a branch trustee member association, encompassing trustees from the Fraser Valley - Maple Ridge, Mission, Abbotsford, and Fraser Cascades (Hope area). Trustee Swankey served as the president over the past year and stepped aside this year. Trustee Gabriel Liosis from maple ridge was acclaimed from his role as vice president last year to the role of president this year. Trustee Margaret Reid was acclaimed as vice president.
- The board is actively working on our strategic plan and expect to have more to share in the coming few months. This work will actively inform our policy review and new policies in the future.
- There is a by-election being held with general voting day on March 1st to fill the vacant seat left by trustee Maahs. Details can be found in the city of Chilliwack and Chilliwack school districts website.

4.3. Treasurer Report

• Updates on Gaming Grant Application Process in BCCPAC Report (see page 7).



SD33 DPAC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES For January 30th, 2024, at 7 pm

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Meeting ID: 257 178 693 359 / Passcode: PxDY5k

		Gaming Account 1465970		Ge	General Account 1465954	
		Budget	Actual		udget	Actual
Bank Balance as at July 1st, 2024		342.69			5,989.22	6,191.82
2024/25 Province of BC DPAC Grant		2,500.00		'	3,505.22	0,151.02
Donation		2,500.00	2,500.00			
DPAC Summit Mileage Reimbursement						
BCCPAC Conference Mileage Reimbursement						
beer Ac conference whicage hermbursement						
SD33 Funding				:	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total Funds Available		2,842.69	2,842.69	10	0,989.22	11,191.82
Expenditures Paid		,			,	,
BCCPAC Membership Fees		200				
Katie Bartel - BCCPAC Membership	e-transfer		200			
Miscellaneous Office Supplies & Printing Costs		500				
Katie Bartel - Cardstock	chq#111		19.63			
e-transfer service fee	bank		1.25			
BCCPAC Conference					2,000.00	
(23/24) Gena Phillips - BCCPAC Mileage	chq#80					152.6
BCCPAC Conference Travel Expenses		500				
BCCPAC DPAC Summit					500	
(23/24) Vrushali Khot - Per Diem DPAC Summit	chq#83					50
Guest Speakers and Guest Speaker Recordings		1,000.00			3,000.00	
Katie Bartel - Sue Robins Nov 21 2024 Presentation	chq#111	_,	525		,	
Safeteen: Powerful Alternative to Violence Corp	Chq#112		420			
Workshops/Training Seminars for DPAC/PACs		500			1,000.00	
Update DPAC Logo					1,000.00	
Honorariums for Indigenous Elders and Knowledge	e Keepers				500	
Katie Bartel - Honorarium - Peggy Janicki	chq#82					100
Katie Bartel - Honorarium - Shawnee Kruger	chq#82					150
Refreshments for Meetings					500	
Bursaries/Gifts					300	
Social Media Marketing					100	
Katie Bartel - Facebook Ads Sep 15	chq#82					6.3
Katie Bartel - Facebook Ads Sep 16	chq#82					6.3
Total Expenditures		2,700.00	1,165.88		3,900.00	465.2
Closing Bank Balance December 31, 2024			\$1,676.81			\$10,726.62
,						
Expenditures Committed:						
Gina Phillips - Sep 2024 Meeting Refreshments	Chq#81					18.8
Total Commitments on Account	54/102		_			18.8
						25.0
NET Adjusted Bank Balance			\$1,676.81			\$10,707.82
HET Adjusted bank balance			71,070.01			910,707.02

4.4. BCCPAC Report

33 Signal Advisory Council

SD33 DPAC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES For January 30th, 2024, at 7 pm

In Person at the School Board Office and on TEAMS <u>Join conversation</u>
Meeting ID: 257 178 693 359 / Passcode: PxDY5k

- Community Gaming Grants Branch How to Apply Webinar Feb 4th 2-3:30pm Important changes this year please advise your PAC Exec/Treasurer to attend!
- See BCCPAC report Appendix I
- 4.5. Committee Highlights
 - Budget Committee
 - ACIE
 - Katie stepped down during her LOA as the ACIE DPAC Exec Rep but remains on the committee in the parent seat.
 - Deirdre attended the January meeting to fill the DPAC Exec Rep role.
 - ASSAI district can apply for funding to support students
 - ASSAI, alone, funds up to grade 8. District has put their own fund into this so that the program could be expanded up to grade 12.
 - o Principals are aware of this program.
 - In and after school programming support.
 - Limited funding need to use it and demonstrate value.
 - IDEA
 - Priority focus is anti-racism right now.
 - CHC
 - Food resource cards will be handed out.
 - CYC:
 - Parent events coming up for kids. ADR and Slesse schools will be host.
 February 20th for Slesse and February 27th for ADR.
 - SAGE
 - Resource cards are done and will be shared with people who would like to distribute them within schools and community.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- 5.1. DPAC Logo
 - Short an executive so the DPAC logo committee is on pause.
- 5.2. DPAC Advocacy Action Plan and Next Steps
 - Anti-bullying and racism letter.
 - PACS are encouraged to discuss this letter with their membership to consider signing. DPAC will firm up this letter in our February 27th general meeting.
 - Please let us know if your PAC is interested in signing by the end of the February 27th meeting.
 - Signing can be conditional. Ex: specific amendments required.
 - Feedback to date largely rests on: the increase of incidents and lack of consequences.
 - People want more accountability in the letter.

33 Chilliwack District 33 33 Advisory Council

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- Once the letter is sent then we can consider what the next step is.
- Survey developed drop down list is bullying your family yes or no. Happening inside or outside of school.
- EA letter has been drafted and is being reviewed by DPAC executive before sending out to PACs for review and signing consideration.
 - The process will follow what we used for the anti-bullying and racism letter.
 - Anticipate sharing the draft with PACs by February 9th.
 - Check-in on PAC membership engagement at February 27th meeting.
 - DPAC will firm up this letter in our April 24th general meeting and will be looking for PACs' decision to sign or not.
 - Signing can be conditional. Ex: specific amendments required.
- 5.3. Outside Agencies in Schools
 - Following up with District Principal of Learning Services. Update will be provided next month.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- 6.1.2025 School Trustee By-Election | Chilliwack School District #33
- 6.2. Band Busing
 - Next steps:
 - Deirdre will bring this information to Rohan to review.
 - Survey will be reopened to continue to collect feedback.
- 6.3. December Newsletter Feedback and Discussion Draw! \$25 GC to Amble Coffee
 - No significant feedback.

7. Round Table - Emerging Concerns

- Constitution and bylaw concerns
- Strathcona has concerns about traffic safety and crosswalks.
 - Contact transportation through the city.
 - PACs can also invite the district transportation staff to PAC a PAC meeting to hear concerns.

8. DATES OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

- General Meeting February 27th, 2024 @ 7pm
 - In person at the School Board office and online via TEAMS
- General Meeting April 24th, 2024 @ 7pm
 - In person at the School Board office and online via TEAMS

9. ADJOURNMENT (9:17pm)

APPENDIX I - BCCPAC Report

Nov Online Summit - "One Step at a Time: Strengthening Connections, Shaping Our Path"

Chilliwack District 33 33 34 Advisory Council

SD33 DPAC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES For January 30th, 2024, at 7 pm

In Person at the School Board Office and on TEAMS <u>Join conversation</u>
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Held online this year, and was opened to not just DPAC Execs, but any parent from a school that was a BCCPAC paid member. Thank you to the Rep from Cheam, who attended alongside Katie, Matt, and Deirdre. They have released the Summit Guides, as well as copies of the slide decks, and presentations, for those of you that are interested in following along! https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/events/summit/summit-resources

(I particularly enjoyed the presentation from Susan Wilson, on starting a DPAC Advocacy group, if you are looking for a recommendation.)

BCCPAC AGM AND CONFERENCE will be held May 23-25th. As of now, that is the only information that we have been given. No updates on pricing, location, speakers etc. yet. We will update when we have more info. If your school is a paid member in good standing (membership dues were paid before Dec 31st), you are likely eligible to attend! We will update sooner to that date to see if you or someone from your PAC may be interested, if not, we will be in touch with info on Proxy Voting when that info is released also.

By-Election Results – Congrats!

- 1st Vice-President: Alicia Rempel, SD35 (Langley)
- 2nd Vice-President: Jennifer Rak, SD37 (Delta)
- Treasurer: Chase Leushner, SD8 (Kootenay Lake)
- Director: Tisha Krafte, SD35 (Langley)
- Secretary: unfilled

Regarding the unfilled position - The Board will be reviewing the next steps and further updates will be provided as decisions are made.

AGM Elections

Nominations for the Annual General Meeting Board Elections open January 24th – if you are interested in seeking a position, make sure you are signed up for their <u>mailing list</u> to stay utd directly for the most current info.

Language Matters!

Language Modernization of the Inclusive Education Policy Manual

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has updated terminology in policies and guidelines to reflect inclusive language for students with disabilities or diverse abilities. The updated <u>Inclusive Education Services Manual</u> and a <u>Language Modernization Guide</u> for school districts are now available.

Chilliwack District 33 Tarent Advisory Council

SD33 DPAC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES For January 30th, 2024, at 7 pm

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ERASE – Online Family Info Sessions – Only 5 Sessions Remaining!
Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities
- February 4 - February 26 - March 12 - April 8 - May 7 *Register now!

 Recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up as a way to facilitate the conversation of safe and caring use of technology at home and in the community. (60-minute session) More Info

New Mandate Letter - MOECC

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/government/ministries-organizations/premier-cabinet-mlas/minister-letter/mandate_letter_lisa_beare.pdf

From BCCPAC - "We are pleased to see several areas of focus that reflect the resolutions passed by our members, advocacy concerns raised by parents connecting with us for support, and our strategic goals. Some examples include:

- Increasing classroom supports, such as education assistants and counseling resources.
- Addressing equity in education, with a focus on continuing to improve Indigenous graduation rates.
- Improving foundational learning through enhanced literacy and numeracy interventions.
- Accelerating school construction to meet growing needs in communities.

... Thank you for your ongoing dedication to strengthening public education in BC."

Gaming Grant Application – Changes to Process!

Community Gaming Grants Branch - Program Grants - How to Apply Webinar Feb 4th 2-3:30pm**

You will now require a Business BCeID or Basic BCeID to access the application. Please be aware of this, and let your PAC Executive, especially Treasurer know of this in advance. We have been advised the <u>application</u> itself is quick, but that it can take a few weeks to process, so don't delay. Information on the new process, and guidelines can be found <u>here.</u>

**We strongly recommend someone from your PAC to attend this webinar, to prevent delays or issues with Gaming Grant Fund Applications or payments.



2024-2025 DPAC Priorities

DPAC aims to be flexible and responsive to membership concerns, while having strategic goals for the year to help guide focus and priorities. Based on feedback these are the priorities your DPAC Executive is proposing we focus on this year:

DPAC Goals	Advocacy Focuses	
Complete PAC/DPAC Admin Procedure with District	Anti-Bullying/Anti-Racism - Education plan for students, parents and teachers - District Plan of Action to address bullying and racism - Standard Code of Conduct across the	
Complete full C&B review and update	District EA Support - Continue to monitor the impact of the "Jackson Award" on class composition and support. - Advocate for more inclusive student supports	
Complete DPAC Operating Norms document - ON HOLD	Other Areas of Advocacy Focus as Capacity Allows: - Bussing and Traffic Infrastructure - Classroom Temperatures - Infrastructure and School Capacities	
Update DPAC Logo – ON HOLD Measurably engage more parent participation compared to 2023/24 school year		



2024-2025 Proposed DPAC Event Calendar

DPAC aims to provide relevant parent workshops and training. Based on feedback and requests, these are the presentations and events your DPAC Executive is focusing on booking for parents. They are subject to change.

SEPTEMBER	FEBRUARY		
• 19 th PAC 101/Teams Training	• 27 th DPAC General (CRJ)		
• 26 th DPAC General (Peggy)	 Anti-Bullying Presentation (TBD) 		
OCTOBER	MARCH		
• 23 rd Halkomelem Language Class @ 7pm	• 6 th Let's - Disability Awareness		
• 24 th DPAC General (Family Smart)	Presentation		
NOVEMBER	APRIL		
• 21st Advocacy Presentation by Sue Robins	• 24 th DPAC General (Early		
@ 7pm	Learning/Literacy)		
• 28 th DPAC General (Garrison Bike Bus)	 Substance and Addiction Presentation 		
	(TBD)		
DECEMBER	MAY		
• 5 th Safe Teen Violence Prevention	• 2-4 th BCCCPAC Conference		
Presentation	• 29 th DPAC AGM + Dinner		
	Anti-Racism Presentation (TBD)		
JANUARY	JUNE		
• 30 th DPAC General (District)	 PAC Cafe/Planning Event (TBD) 		
Online Gaming Presentation (TBD)			



2024-2025 DPAC Budget – Approved Sept 26th

BUDGET 2024/2025	GAMING	GENERAL				
Opening Balances	342.69	5,989.22				
Income						
Gaming Grant Income	2,500.00					
Donation						
SD33 Funding		5000.00				
Total Income	2,500.00	5000.00				
Total Funds to be Allocated in 2024/2025	2,842.69	10,989.22				
Expenditures						
BCCPAC Membership	200.00					
Miscellaneous Office Supplies, Printing Costs,	500.00					
Software						
BCCPAC Conference		2,000.00				
BCCPAC Conference Travel Expenses	500.00					
BCCPAC DPAC Summit		500.00				
Guest Speakers and Guest Speaker Recordings	1,000.00	3,000.00				
Workshops/Training Seminars for DPAC/PACs	500.00	1,000.00				
Update DPAC Logo		1,000.00				
Honorariums for Indigenous Elders and Knowledge		500.00				
Keepers						
Refreshments for Meetings		500.00				
Bursaries/Gifts		300.00				
Social Media Marketing		100.00				
Total Expenditures	2,700.00	8,900.00				
Excess to be held for Contingency Fund	142.69	2,089.22				

Subject: Urgent Call for Enhanced Anti-Bullying and Anti-Racism Initiatives

Dear Trustees of the Chilliwack School District,

On behalf of the Chilliwack District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), we are writing to express our concerns regarding the growing and pervasive issues of bullying and racism in our schools. These challenges undermine the emotional well-being, safety, and success of our students, as well as the broader school community. It is imperative that the district adopt comprehensive measures to create an inclusive, respectful, and safe learning environment for all.

We respectfully urge the Chilliwack Board of Education to prioritize the following initiatives:

- Establish an actionable, and measurable plan to combat bullying and racism. This Action Plan should be regularly reviewed with progress reported on, incorporating feedback from parents, students, and community partners.
- Develop and enforce a comprehensive standard Code of Conduct across the district. This Code of Conduct should set clear expectations for behavior, promote respect and inclusion, and provide consistent consequences for violations.
- Provide enhanced Anti-Bullying and Anti-Racism education, workshops, resources and
 professional development for students, parents, and staff. Teaching empathy, cultural
 understandings, and restorative conflict resolution to the broader school community will empower
 individuals to reinforce anti-bullying and anti-racism principles.

Our membership believes these steps are critical to fostering a safe and respectful school community. By working collaboratively, we can equip our students with the skills and values they need to thrive in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world. The Chilliwack DPAC is committed to supporting the district in these efforts.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We trust that the Board will act decisively to address these critical issues for the benefit of all students in the Chilliwack School District.

Sincerely,

dpac@sd33.bc.ca

SD33 School Parent Advisory Councils who have also opted to sign this letter are:

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