

Dorothy Peacock Elementary School Playground General Meeting

Thursday September 17, 2026 at library

DPE is honored to reside on the traditional territory of the Matsqui, Kwantlen, Katzie, and Semiahmoo First Nations.

1. Established quorum meeting started at: 6:33pm

A. In attendance: Shelby Calvert, Daryl Calvert, Heather Rodland, Jenn Cappendale, Kim Cline, Freya Choboter, Crystal Thai, Melissa Withers, Melissa Peremen, Micaela Carlson, Marcy Toth, Rebecca Jackson, & Ian Giroday

2. Playground Poll Results - Rebecca J/ Ian G

- A. 135 responses (majority of votes from Grade 4, 27.8 %)
- B. Top 3 Responses:
 - 1) Large climbing structure (57%)
 - 2) Balance structure (11.1%)
 - 3) Swings (10.4%)
- C. 2nd Preference: Swings & Large climbing structure tied (20% each)
- D. Preference Picnic tables and benches
(51.1%: favor tables/benches; 48.9% prefer other play equipment)
- E. Preference for shade
(57.8% want extensive shaded areas, 42.2% less shade & more equipment)
- F. Preference for poured rubber for the ground (refers to poured or rubber tiles)
(52% poured rubber, 48% wood chips)

3. Needs to be discussed & researched

- A. What ground type is better for longevity & determine care of each (wood chips vs. rubber). District tops up wood chips, need to discuss climate control with suppliers.
- B. Possible vandalism on picnic tables and insurance needs for difference structures.
PAC is only allowed to choose between 2 suppliers as per PAC district regulations.
- C. Playground built in phases and assess budget

(will need kids to vote again on specific items)

D. Phases need to be approved by the district.

E. Need to look into grants/family donations for the play ground.

4. Phased Implementation and District Approval Process

A. Plan to phase the project: Phase 1: Picnic tables

Phase 2: Climbing structure

Phase 3: Additional items

B. District approval requires robust documentation process: scope, sequence, justification, accessibility, maintenance, feasibility, and budgets.

- 1) Review path: maintenance managers → director/assistant director of maintenance → assistant superintendent and district leadership team → budget confirmation → timeline/deadline confirmation.
- 2) Smaller phased approvals may speed up approval process.
- 3) Thresholds: projects over 20,000 may include playground equipment, shade structures, tables, outdoor seating, etc.
- 4) Installation options: pay for vendor installation vs. district work orders to speed up timelines.

5. Funding Strategy and Cost Considerations

- A. Costs: picnic tables (e.g., octagon) approx. \$5,000 each plus installation; significant budget impact yet more accessible.
- B. Grants/sponsorship: Fortis, Telus, and others
- C. Aim to expand funding via grants, community and family donations, and sponsorships.

6. Shade Solutions and Placement of Seating

- A. Options: permanent rated structures (higher cost), retractable awnings, umbrellas in table mounts, and metal “leaf” shades (durable but pricey).
- B. Student involvement in setting up umbrellas requires district approval and specification compliance.
- C. Benches/tables preferred in shaded areas; shade creation methods to be evaluated.

7. Layout Ideas and Site Adjustments

- A. Suggested changes: relocate long jump runway to portables & concrete area to meet code and reduce injury risk.
- B. Move sandpit and fill grass nook to create a larger rectangular play area near swings and fence for a climbing structure.

- C. Tables potentially near concrete, Gaga ball pit area, and along edges to preserve play space.
- D. Need Professional site design and assess budget.

8. Picnic Tables: Quantity, Style, and Accessibility

- A. Desire to start with tables; lead times around 6–8 weeks post-approval.
- B. Styles: octagon/hexagon, rectangular, center-post (requires concrete fill) vs. drill-into-ground models; weather and installation implications.
- C. Colors discussed (green, purple, black); at least one accessible table.
- D. Unclear if prior motion approved a specific quantity; budget approved in previous meeting (possibly start with 4 tables).
- E. Preference to decide locations after a rough end-state plan to avoid costly relocations.

9. Meeting Adjourned 7:02pm

Next Steps for Committee:

- Prepare and submit a phased proposal and presentation for district approval.
- Engage approved vendors to draft site designs/layouts and provide quotes for tables, shade solutions, and play structures.
- Initiate grant applications and sponsorship outreach (e.g., Fortis, Telus) and set up community/family donation options.
- Define initial picnic table quantities and styles, ensuring at least one accessible table.
- Create a rough master plan to determine precise table locations and minimize future relocation costs.
- Evaluate shade options (retractable awnings, umbrellas, permanent structures), confirm district requirements, and assess durability and handling.
- Compare ground surface options (rubber tiles/poured vs. wood chips), including maintenance needs, climate impacts, and costs and choose an option.
- Plan relocation of the long jump area to a compliant concrete runway; adjust the sandpit/grass nook to expand the play space.
- Coordinate installation approach (vendor-installed vs. district work order), confirming timelines and budget implications.
- Recruit additional members for the playground committee (currently Ian, Rebecca, Daryl, & Jenn)