

Parent Advisory Council

Policy 2110

April 26, 2005

Revised: September 23, 2014

May 26, 2015

School Act Reference – Part 2; Division 2; Section 8

The Board of Education of School District #81 believes that parents are partners in our educational system. The Board believes that parental involvement helps to promote a positive learning environment, and promotes open and two-way communication between parents, schools, the District and the Board. This parental input, advice and feedback are essential elements in the development of a positive relationship between home and school.

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

1. There shall only be one Parent Advisory Council (PAC) for each school.
2. All parents or guardians whose children attend the school are members of that school's PAC.
3. The PAC, through its elected officers may:
 - a. advise the Board and the principal and staff at the school respecting any matter relating to the school other than matters assigned to the School Planning Council; and
 - b. at the request of the School Planning Council, assist the School Planning Council in carrying out its functions under the School Act (School Act: Section 8(4)).
4. PACs shall not discuss individual students, school personnel, parents or other members of the school community.
5. Each PAC, in consultation with the Principal, shall have a Constitution and Bylaws governing its meeting and the business and conduct of its affairs. Bylaws governing amendments to the document, and procedures regarding the dissolution of the PAC should also be mentioned.
6. The constitution and bylaws of every PAC shall be filed with the Board.
7. Each PAC should strive to be as inclusive and communicative as possible to its members.
8. Copies of the minutes of PAC meetings are to be kept on file at the school and be available to members of the school community.

9. Representatives from the School Board, District Administration, School Administrators' Association, Teachers' Association, Support Staff, and other Community Organizations with an interest in education, may be invited or may request to attend meetings as non-voting members of the PAC.

DISTRICT PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Board recognizes School District #81's, District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) as representing individual school parents' advisory councils. Such recognition is subject to the understanding that:

1. The DPAC must make bylaws governing its meetings and the business and conduct of its affairs, including bylaws governing the dissolution of a DPAC.
2. Membership and participation in the DPAC and its activities is open to all PACs established pursuant to this policy.
3. Each PAC may elect annually one of its members to be a representative on the DPAC for a term of not more than one year.
4. The Superintendent of Schools for the District, a designate of the Superintendent or a Trustee of the School District may attend any meeting of the DPAC.
5. The provision of this policy relating to PACs also applies to DPAC.
6. The DPAC's activities will be carried out at the District level, rather than at the local school level.
7. Individual school PACs have the right and authority under the School Act to approach the Board directly.

School District #81, District Parent Advisory Council Function

The stated objective of the School District #81 DPAC is to encourage cooperation and communication among parents, students, educators, and School District appointed and elected representatives. In meeting this objective School District #81 DPAC, as the recognized District representative group, shall:

1. Promote the interests of the public school system throughout the district.
2. Liaise with the Board, District staff assigned this responsibility by the Board, or the Superintendent and other partner groups.
3. Liaise with the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils.
4. Advise the Board on District-wide matters relating to the education and well-being of students.

5. Provide a vehicle for communication among PACs and provide assistance to PACs as requested.

Board Support for the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

1. The Board shall provide access to copy services to support the publication of newsletters and other materials.
2. The Board shall provide access to the School District mail system to DPAC to enable them to distribute mail to and from schools and the District Office.
3. The Board shall provide to the DPAC, without charge, a copy of all Regular Board meeting agendas and a copy of the Board Policy Manual with amendments as necessary.
4. An annual amount will be designated by the Board after the DPAC presents its plan of activities for that year.

District Committees that Include Parent Members

1. District committees that call for parent members will include the following:
 - (a) Representatives appointed by the DPAC;
 - (b) School based standing committees
 1. Policy Committee
 2. Calendar Committee
 3. Finance Committee
 4. Green Committee
 - (c) Other parent representatives as determined by the Board's terms of reference for a specific district committee.

The number of each to be determined by the Board upon establishment of each new committee.

2. The DPAC shall appoint representatives to District committees for a one-year term.
3. Where applicable, a PAC shall appoint representatives to District committees for a one-year term.
4. Where possible, appointments should be made by September 30 of each year.
5. With the DPAC's endorsement, a PAC representative may also serve as the DPAC representative on District committees.