

# PAC Info Session

---

What To Expect & How to Function

In the 2020/2021 School Year

“

“Unless someone like you  
cares a whole awful lot,  
nothing is going to get  
better. It’s not.”

”

*Dr. Seuss*

---



# Advocacy is using your parent voice to speak up in support of parents and students

---

- Caregivers are their child's natural advocate, making sure their child's rights, needs and opinions are respected.
- Caregivers can also help make sure decisions affecting their child are made fairly.
- Advocacy is about finding a successful solution for the benefit of the child.
- PAC advises the school administration on any matter relating to public education, supports parents.
- DPAC advises the school district on any matter relating to public education, support PACs.
- BCCPAC is the provincial voice of parents on K-12 public education and related issues, supports DPAC and PAC members.

# Key Players in BC Public Education



**SCHOOL**  
(Local Level)

**KEY PLAYERS:**

- Principal
- Teachers
- Education Assistants
- Office staff
- Building Engineer
- Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
- Students



**SCHOOL BOARD**  
(District level)

**KEY PLAYERS:**

- Trustees
- Superintendent
- Secretary-Treasurer

District staff

**STAKEHOLDERS:**

- District School Administration Ass'n
- District School Teachers' Ass'n
- Canadian Union of Public Employees Local
- Canadian Union of Public Employees Local
- International Union of Operating Engineers Local
- District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)
- Students' Council



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**  
(Provincial Level)

**KEY PLAYERS:**

Minister of Education: Rob Fleming  
Deputy Minister: Scott MacDonald

**STAKEHOLDERS:**

- BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA)
- BC School Superintendents' Ass'n (BCSSA)
- BC Ass'n of School Business Officials (BCASBO)
- BC Principals' & Vice Principals' Ass'n (BCPVPA)
- BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF)
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)
- International Union of Operating Engineers
- BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC)

**First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)**

Encourages discussion on education matters affecting First Nations in BC.

**Ministry for Children and Family Development (MCFD)**

**Treasury Board**  
Funding decisions on operating, special grants, and capital projects

**BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA)**

Employers' association and accredited bargaining agent for the province's 60 public boards of education. Board made of 9 school trustees, 4 government representatives, and a non-voting representative each from the BCSSA and BCASBO.

**BC Teachers' Council**

Regulator for approximately 67,000 certified educators in British Columbia. They enforce standards for educators, assess applicants for certification, approve and evaluate teacher education programs, and issue teaching certificates.



“

“Nothing you do for your  
children is ever wasted”

”

*Garrison Keillor*

---

*Advocate like a Mother*

# PAC's - Parent Advisory Councils

---

- Recognized in the School Act, Section 8 (this means a legally recognized and protected voice)
- Official collective voice of the parents/guardians of the school community
- Can advise school staff/board of education respecting any matter relating to the school or provincial education
- Composed of, run and managed by parents
- Required to have Bylaws under which they operate (self-governing)



- Advise the school principal & staff on parents' views and feedback about school programs, policies, plans and activities
- Organize PAC activities and events and endeavor to provide parent education
- Encourage parent involvement in the school, and to support programs that promote parent involvement
- Communicate with parents, and to promote co-operation between the home and the school in providing support for the education of children
- Assist parents in accessing the system (could mean connecting to DPAC) and to advocate on behalf of parents and students
- To advise and participate in the activities of the DPAC
- To provide financial support for the goals of the PAC, as determined by its membership



# What does Advocacy Mean?

---

- **ADVOCACY**-a simple short word with oh so much meaning and a different meaning for each of us
- *Noun:* public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy
- If the status quo isn't working or acceptable, within our democracy, it's our right to ask questions, push back, to demand change
- It's not a question of your political leanings or how you vote
- It's not which party you love or hate
- And it's not about ranting and railing because you are way too mad



Advocating for what you believe in is crucial -



If you don't ask for it, people assume you don't need it.

# SD57 Policy 1223

<https://www.sd57.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Policylisting/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

---

**POLICY:** The Board of Education requires principals to recognize and work with school parent advisory councils. The principal will:

1. Receive advice from the parent advisory council (PAC) on any matter related to the school, other than matters assigned to the school planning council.
2. Regard the parent advisory council as a communication link between the parent population, principal and staff.
3. Support the role the parent advisory council serves as an advocate for parents and students.
4. Work with the parent advisory council when general issues and concerns affecting students, parents and the school are identified and brought forward. PAC meetings are not forums for discussion of personnel matters or personal or confidential information about students, parents, teachers or other employees or members of the school community.



# Resources for PAC's

---

- BCCPAC: <https://bccpac.bc.ca>
  - Resources for PACs: <https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/resources>
- DPAC: <http://sd57dpac.ca>
- SD57: <https://www.sd57.bc.ca>
- Ministry of Education:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/education>
  - And <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12>



**BE  
THE CHANGE**