

# Advocacy 101

## Advocacy for Parents and Students

Wednesday September 26, 2018  
Nelson Board Office, Nelson BC

Advocacy 101

# Agenda



Welcome



Disclaimer



What Advocacy is and isn't



Supporting your child



Questions



# Introductions



# DISCLAIMER

THIS INFORMATION IS MEANT AS A GUIDE WHEN ACTING AS AN ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR CHILD. THIS IS NOT A REPLACEMENT FOR LEGAL ADVICE OR DIRECTION.

EVERY SITUATION IS DIFFERENT AND EVERYONE WILL HAVE THEIR OWN WAY OF APPROACHING A CONVERSATION.

Susan has over 15 years experience as an advocate helping families and school districts across the province.

Susan trained under the BCCPAC Advocacy Project which ended in 2009 due to a change in Ministry of Education funding priorities.

# WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

ADVOCACY IS DESCRIBED AS SPEAKING UP IN SUPPORT OF YOURSELF OR OTHERS.

For the purposes of our discussion, we'll be going over how to support parents and students navigate the public education system through established policies, procedures and legislation.

# WHAT ADVOCACY IS NOT

- ADVOCACY IS **NOT** ABOUT WINNING, PUNISHING OR FIRING SOMEONE – IT'S ABOUT COMING TO A RESOLUTION
- ADVOCACY IS **NOT** ABOUT “ME” – IT'S ABOUT THE CHILD

# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

## Your child may:

- Not want to go to school
- Complain about stomach or head aches
- Have a change in their behaviour

## You may:

- Have a question about your child's progress
- Worry about your child's placement in an educational program
- Be concerned about the administration of exams, course selection, etc.

NOW WHAT?

# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

## Identify the problem

- Bullying?
- School grades or progress?
- Staff mannerisms or behaviour?

WHOSE ISSUE IS IT ANYWAY?



# SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

Learn how the school and/or school district deals with concerns and complaints

- School Code of Conduct
- School Handbook
- School district policies and procedures
- School act legislation

# KOOTENAY LAKE SD NO 8 POLICIES

## Policies that parents may need to be aware of

#300 – Code of Conduct

#300.1 Use of Illegal Drugs and Alcohol

#310 Student Medication

#461 School Choice & Catchment

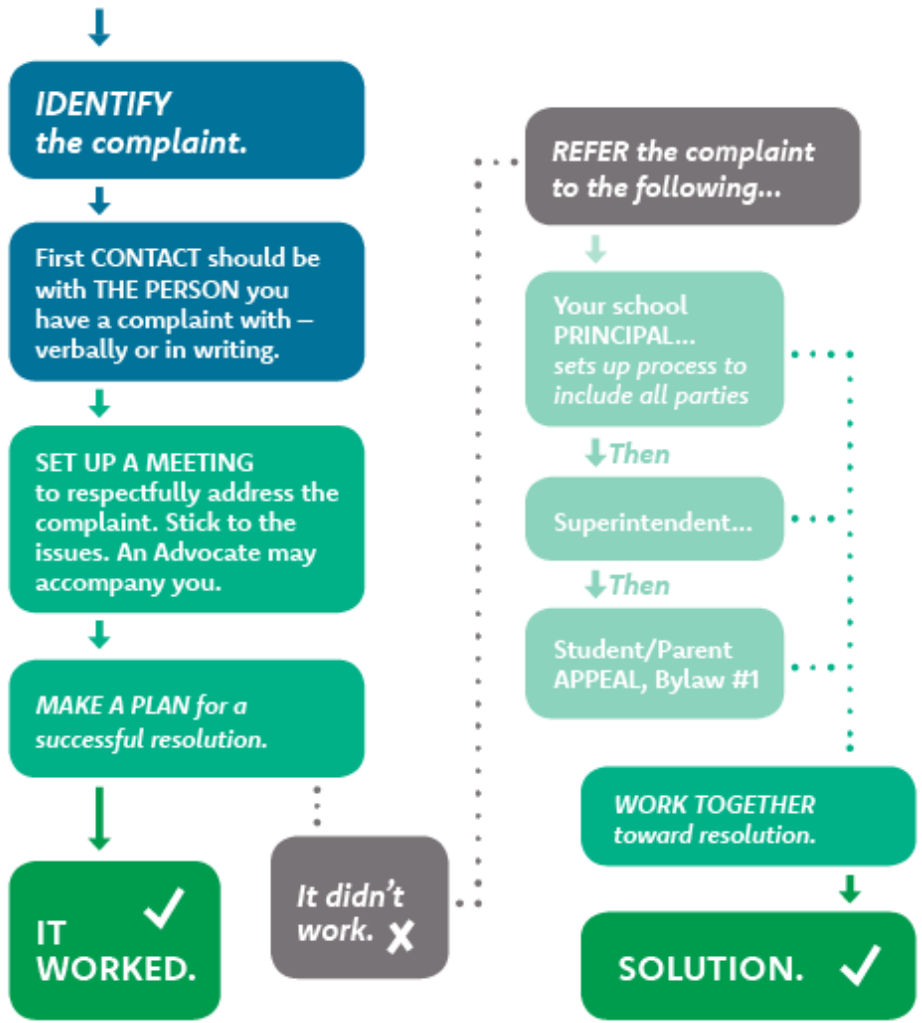
#462 Schools & Programs of Choice

#730 Pupil Transportation (also see Pupil Transportation Manual)

# SD8 Communication Protocol



## Resolving Concerns or Complaints





# SCENARIO #1

PROBLEM SOLVING GUIDE



# SCENARIO #2

MEETING SURVIVAL GUIDE



## PICK A PARTNER AND USE THE PROBLEM SOLVING GUIDE FOR THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO

“Jane” starts to skip volleyball practices and ignores her chores at home. She spends more and more time on her laptop and you wonder whether or not she’s doing homework.

When Jane says she’s not going to school on Monday, you ask why. She bursts into tears and tells you she’s failing history and her teacher won’t help her.





# PICK A PARTNER AND USE THE MEETING SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO

“John” is on the autistic spectrum. He is making great academic progress and his ability to communicate his needs improved greatly last school year.

The school feels John has enough skills to be more independent and wants to reduce his support worker time.

You ask for a meeting with the school.





## SCENARIO #1

Did the Problem Solving Guide help identify the issue?

What resources are available to Jane and her parents?

Should the parents ask for a meeting?



## SCENARIO #2

Did the Meeting Survival Guide help the focus the discussion?

What action plans were agreed to?

Was a resolution reached?





# THANK YOU

Please take a few minutes to fill out the evaluation form!



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