

What is a PAC and  
how'd I end up on it?

Nelson Family of Schools Meeting  
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School Board Office

# What is a PAC...?

- A Century ago, schools were set up by parents.
- 1915 the first official parent organization was launched at Craigflower School on the outskirts of Victoria.
- 30-40 years ago staff ran schools and parents stayed on the outskirts. In the 1970's and 1980's parent began questioning education policy and structure and our lack of meaningful involvement.

# What is a PAC...?

- In 1988 the province of BC struck a Royal Commission on Education:
  - « *Structures should be established at the provincial, school district and school levels to ensure that parents are genuinely involved in advising educators and policy makers – local and provincial – in matters related to education programs, services and operations.* »

# What is a PAC...?

- In 1989 Parent Advisory Councils were included in the school act :

8 (4) A parents' advisory council, through its elected officers, may:

- a) advise the board and the principal and staff of the school or the Provincial school respecting any matter relating to the school or the Provincial 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 this Act.

# What is a PAC...?

- In 2001 the school act was amended to include the rights of parents to volunteer in public schools:

7.1 Subject to this Act, the regulations and any rules of a board, a parent of a student may provide volunteer services at or for a school.

# What is a PAC...?

- In 2002 the school act was amended to include District Parent Advisory Councils:

8.4 (1) Subject to section 67 (5.1), the district parents' advisory council may advise the board on any matter relating to education in the school district.

(2) A district parents' advisory council must make bylaws governing its meetings and the business and conduct of its affairs, including bylaws governing the dissolution of the council.

(3) A superintendent of schools for the school district, a designate of the superintendent or a trustee of the school district may attend any meeting of the district parents' advisory council.

# What is a PAC...?

- Also in 2002 the school act was amended to include School Planning Councils:

8.2 A board must consult with a school planning council in respect of the following:

- (a) the allocation of staff and resources in the school;
- (b) matters contained in the board's achievement contract relating to the school;
- (c) educational services and educational programs in the school.
- (d) school safety, including the installation and operation of video surveillance cameras.

# What is a PAC...?

- What does this all mean?

***Parental involvement has been around for over a Century but PACs are only just entering their 20's...***



...and how'd I end up on it?

- Legislation requires PACs to have their own constitution and bylaws to govern their council.
- Constitution = purpose of a PAC
- Bylaws = operating rules
- PACs are an autonomous body. They are not a committee of the school or district. They are not run by school staff.

...and how'd I end up on it?

- PACs have executive positions:

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

DPAC Rep

SPC Reps

# ...and how'd I end up on it?

- **Chair** — plans meetings, chairs meetings, liaise with school staff, speaks for PAC
- **Vice-Chair** — assists Chair
- **Secretary** — takes minutes, checks PAC mail box and reports correspondence at PAC meetings
- **Treasurer** — keeps track of money, reports bank balance at PAC meetings
- **DPAC Rep** — attends DPAC meetings and reports back at PAC meetings
- **SPC Reps** — attends SPC meetings as required, helps organize School Planning Day in May, reports back at PAC meetings

...and how'd I end up on it?

- PAC Meetings

Quorum

Meeting Minutes

Reports

Discussion Items

# ...and how'd I end up on it?

- **Quorum** — how many parents do you need to run the meeting? This will be in your Bylaws.
- **Meeting Minutes** — important to keep a record of your meeting: who was there, general discussion points, etc.
- **Reports** — what did the principal share? What's going on at the SPC? DPAC?
- **Discussion Items** — important issues with parents at your school

...and how'd I end up on it?

- What not to talk about at PAC meetings...individual staff , students or parents

...and how'd I end up on it?

- What do we talk about at PAC meetings?

School Code of Conduct

School Plan

School Handbook

Upcoming events

Fund Raising

# Final Thoughts...

- What is a PAC...?

*The recognized voice of parents at a school*

- ...how'd I end up on it?

*Legislation gives you the right and responsibility to participate in your child's education*





# Thank You!

Kootenay Lake DPAC

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