



## BC CONFEDERATION OF PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS

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February 17, 2022

### Re: **The Important Role of District and School Parent Advisory Councils (DPAC & PAC)**

The best school is one where parents, educators, staff, and school administrators have a shared vision and work diligently together to achieve it and have an active and engaged PAC. The best school district is one where there is an engaged DPAC (District Parent Advisory Council) representing all PACs (Parent Advisory Councils), all parents/guardians as a formal stakeholder at the district level. The public education system benefits and our children benefit when parents/guardians are recognized, represented and heard, and are active at all levels.

PACs are often described as bridges between schools and parents. Although there is some truth to that, we believe we are all part of the same education community. Parents should be providing advice on the development of both short and long term school goals. Parents, teachers, and school administration play an important role teaching positive values and attitudes. These are an important part of a child's education and can be instilled more effectively when parents, teachers, and school administrators are working together. School administrators need to encourage and maintain regular interaction with the PAC. Supporting parent engagement is more than a courtesy; it is required by the *School Act* and is one of the best ways to create a positive learning environment.

District PACs (DPAC) are an extension of school PACs and are also recognized in the *School Act*. DPAC is the official representative body of parents/guardians of children in a school district. The *School Act* provides DPACs the power to advise the board of education respecting any matter relating to education within the district including educational policy. As a district stakeholder, DPAC, like the other stakeholders at the district level, should have representation on all standing Committees and on any advisory and ad-hoc committees or working groups.

District administrators and Trustees are welcomed to attend DPAC meetings as regular invited guests. Similarly, DPAC Executives should be meeting regularly with their senior district teams. DPAC can (and should) set up meetings with whomever they think is appropriate within the district. DPACs communicate directly with their PAC parent community gathering and discussing issues of importance regarding their district (such as Strategic Planning, District Budget, Long Range Facilities Plan etc.) in order to adequately advise those that influence their district decisions. In addition to DPAC meetings, communication may also be done through surveys, newsletters, email, and websites so that all PAC parents have the opportunity for input.

It's to the advantage of the local PACs and their parent communities to be connected with their DPAC; a functioning DPAC with the engagement and support of its local PACs will benefit all students and the school district.

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As the provincial voice of parents on K-12 public education and related issues and the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) directly support DPAC and PAC members and individual parents/guardians.

For some time, we have been working closely with Coast Mountains School District 82 (CMSD82) to help ensure the DPAC in your district has the ability to continue, to represent parents.

On February 16, 2022, an informal Zoom meeting was held at the invitation of Superintendent Janet Meyer and Andrea Sinclair, BCCPAC President with a group of CMSD82 PAC leaders from across the school district to discuss the future of the DPAC in School District 82. It was a meaningful and informative meeting to create a plan together for the DPAC for CMSD82 that has shared responsibilities as opposed to all responsibilities being on a few people.

The plan is to reconvene this group during the week of April 11, 2022 via Zoom to continue this important discussion into the future of CMSD82's DPAC. *We very much would like all PACs to attend and be represented at this next meeting; it's important for you as parents/guardians for the benefit of your children.* An email invitation will be extended to all PACs with the April meeting date and Zoom link following Spring Break.

Sincerely,



Andrea Sinclair  
President



Janet Meyer  
Superintendent of Schools