



**POLICY NO. 1210  
PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCIL**

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**POLICY**

The Board of Education believes:

**THAT** opportunities for children to develop to their fullest potential will be enhanced by increasing and improving the involvement of parents and members of the general public in schools.

**THEREFORE**, the Board of Education strongly encourages the formation of Parents' Advisory Council whose purpose shall be to provide a regular opportunity for each school and its community to consult on issues of general interest which effect the education of children, including the annual School Plan for Student Success.

Legal Reference: The School Act, Section 8, 65 2(b)



## **REGULATIONS**

1. The primary role of the Parent Advisory Council is to act in an advisory capacity on matters of school policy rather than specific details of school operation. In particular, Councils shall not discuss individual students or school personnel.
2. The Board of Education of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) will recognize a specific Parents' Advisory Council as the only such Council for a specific school upon a letter of application that includes the following:
  - a statement, signed by the Principal, indicating that s/he has been consulted in the making of the bylaws that govern:
    - the Council's meetings;
    - the business and conduct of its affairs; and
    - its dissolution.
  - a copy of its bylaws.(See attached sample bylaw from the BCCPAC (B.C. Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils).)
3. If a Parents' Advisory Council is established in a school:
  - the Principal will be responsible for assisting with the drafting of bylaws to govern its operation and for holding the initial election of officers;
  - the Principal will be an ex-officio member; and
  - voting membership will be limited to parents/guardians of students in the school.
4. If a Parents' Advisory Council is established at the District level:
  - the Superintendent will be responsible for drafting interim bylaws to govern its operation;
  - the Superintendent will be an ex-officio member; and
  - voting membership will be limited to one representative appointed by each school's Parents' Advisory Council.
5. Functions and Procedures:
  - 5.1 A Parents' Advisory Council, through its elected officers, may give advice to the Principal and staff respecting any matter relating to the school, including the annual School Plan for Student Success.
  - 5.2 The Principal and staff continue to carry formal responsibility to the Board through the Superintendent for decisions concerning the school and its effective operation. The role of a Parents' Advisory Council is to act in an advisory capacity in matters of school policy rather than specific details of school operation. In particular, Councils should not discuss individual school personnel or students.
  - 5.3 In the event that the advice of a Parents' Advisory Council requires a decision by the Superintendent of Schools or the Board of Education, the matter shall be brought to the Superintendent's attention by the Principal of the School.

**“SAMPLE”**

**Name of School**

**School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain)**

**Parents’ Advisory Council**

# **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

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# CONSTITUTION

## Section 1: Name

The name of the Association shall be the Name of School Parents' Advisory Council, School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain).

The Council will operate as a non-profit organization with no personal financial benefit.

The business of the Council shall be unbiased towards race, religion, gender or politics.

## Section 2: Purposes

1. To advise the school principal and staff on parental views about school programs, policies, and activities.
2. To communicate with parents, and to promote co-operation between the home and the school in providing for the education of children.
3. To assist parents in accessing the system, and to advocate on behalf of parents and students.
4. To organize PAC activities and events.
5. To contribute to the effectiveness of the school by promoting the involvement of parents and other community members.

# BYLAWS

## Section 3: Membership

1. All parents and guardians of students registered in Name of School may be voting members of the group.
2. Administration and staff (teaching and non-teaching) of Name of School may be non-voting members of the group.
3. Members of the school community who are not parents of students currently in the system may also be non-voting members of the group.
4. At no time shall the Council have more non-voting than voting members.

## Section 4: Meetings

1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting for the purpose of election of officers held in June\* of each year and additional general meetings shall be held at least once a month during the school year to conduct current business.
2. The executive meetings and additional general meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive, or upon the receipt of a petition representing fifty per cent (50%) of the voting delegates.
3. Meetings will be conducted efficiently and with fairness to the members present.
4. If procedural problems should arise, Robert's Rules of Order will be used to resolve the situation, unless they are in conflict with the guidelines in this Constitution.

\* Date may be changed to suit the individual requirement of the Parent Advisory Council.

## Section 5: Voting

1. The voting members present at any duly-called general meeting shall constitute a quorum.
2. Unless otherwise provided, questions arising at any meeting shall be decided upon by a simple majority vote.
3. In the case of a tie vote, the motions will be lost.
4. Voting of members on all matters must be given personally; voting by proxy shall not be permitted.
5. Voting shall be done by the show of hands with the exception of the election of officers which shall be done by secret ballot.

## Section 6: Election of Executive Officers

*(The group shall elect a slate of officers from the voting members for each school year. Number and position of executive members should be determined by local organizational needs.)*

1. The executive officers shall be elected from the voting members at the Annual General Meeting, except that no employee/elected official of the school district or Ministry of Education shall hold an executive position.
2. Call for nominations shall be made at the meeting in October\*.
3. In the event of a vacancy on the executive during the year the Council shall elect the new officer who shall hold office until the next election.
4. Elections shall be conducted by the Nominating Committee chairperson.
5. Scrutineers shall be appointed as required by the Nominations Committee chairperson at the time of the elections.
6. A vote shall be taken to destroy the ballots.

\* Date may be changed to suit the individual requirement of the Parent Advisory Council.

## Section 7: Term of Office

1. The term of office shall commence in July\* of each year and shall be for one year.
2. Any elected member of the Council may serve on the executive for as many years as s/he is elected to a position but no person may hold any one position for more than two consecutive years.
3. No person may hold more than one elected executive position at any one time.
4. The Past-President shall hold that office for one year.

\* Date may be changed to suit the individual requirement of the Parent Advisory Council.

## Section 8: Executive Officers

1. The affairs of the Council shall be managed by a board of elected officers and the immediate Past President.
2. The Executive Officers will be as follows:
  - (a) President;
  - (b) Vice-President(s);
  - (c) Treasurer;
  - (d) Secretary;
  - (e) District Parents' Advisory Council Representative;
  - (f) Two or more Members-At-Large;
  - (g) Past President.

## Section 9: Duties of the Officers

1. President:
  - (a) shall convene and preside at all membership, special, and executive meetings;
  - (b) shall ensure that an agenda is prepared and presented;
  - (c) shall appoint committees where authorized to do so by the executive or membership;
  - (d) shall be an ex-officio member to all committees except the Nominating Committee;
  - (e) shall take such actions or ensure that such actions are taken by others to achieve the objectives and purpose of the organization;
  - (f) shall be the official spokesperson for the organization;
  - (g) shall be a signing officer
  - (h) shall submit an annual report.
2. Vice-President:
  - (a) shall assume the responsibilities of the President in the President's absence;
  - (b) shall accept extra duties as required;
  - (c) shall be a signing officer;

- (d) shall submit an annual report.
3. Secretary:
- (a) shall record the minutes of membership, special, and executive meetings;
  - (b) shall distribute minutes to Council members;
  - (c) shall keep an accurate copy of the Constitution and Bylaws and if and when changes are made they shall be done so in red and the copy amended shall be dated and initialled and a copy submitted to the school board office for safekeeping;
  - (d) shall issue and receive correspondence on behalf of the organization;
  - (e) may be a signing officer;
  - (f) shall safely keep all records of the Council;
  - (g) shall submit an annual report.
4. Treasurer:
- (a) shall be responsible for and report on the accounts of the organization;
  - (b) shall be one of the three signing officers of the executive as per Section 11;
  - (c) shall prepare a financial report for publication in the school newsletter as per Section 11;
  - (d) shall, with the assistance of the executive, draft a budget and tentative plan of expenditures as per Section 11;
  - (e) shall ensure that another financial signing officer has access to the books in the event of his/her absence;
  - (f) shall submit an annual report.
5. DPAC Representative:
- (a) shall attend DPAC meetings;
  - (b) shall report back to the PAC;
  - (c) shall seek input from the PAC;
  - (d) shall submit an annual report.
6. Members At Large:
- (a) shall serve in a capacity to be determined by the Council at the time of their election, and at other times throughout their tenure as the needs of the Council might require;
  - (b) shall submit an annual report.
7. Past President:
- (a) shall help smooth transition between presidents;
  - (b) shall assist and advise the Council;
  - (c) shall act as a consultant for the president;
  - (d) shall chair the nominating committee;
  - (e) shall submit an annual report.

## **Section 10: Committees**

- 1. Standing and ad-hoc committees shall be formed when necessary.
- 2. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed annually before the Annual General Meeting.



3. Committees are responsible to the executive and members.
4. Members may be appointed annually to committees by the president (after consultation with the executive).

## **Section 11: Finances**

1. A budget and tentative plan of expenditures should be drawn up by the executive and presented for approval at a general meeting prior to the end of May\* of each year.
2. All funds of the organization will be on deposit in a bank or financial establishment registered under the Bank Act.
3. The executive shall name at least three signing officers, one of whom will be the treasurer, for banking and legal documents. Two signatures will be required for these documents.
4. All money spent above and beyond a predetermined petty cash amount (*insert amount*) will be first presented to and voted on by the executive, and then approved by a majority at a general meeting.
5. A Treasurer's Report to all members should be published in the PAC/school newsletter prior to the end of each school term.
6. A need for audits will be agreed upon by the members at any general meeting, where upon an independent auditor will be appointed as needed.

\* Date may be changed to suit the individual requirement of the Parent Advisory Council.

## **Section 12: Constitution and Bylaws Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the \_\_\_\_\_ School Parents' Advisory Council may be made at any general meeting at which business is conducted, providing:

1. written notice of the meeting has been given to all members (14 days minimum);
2. the notice of the meeting included notice of the specific amendments proposed;
3. a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those voting members present at the meeting will be required to amend the Constitution and Bylaws.

## **Section 13: Code of Conduct**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Parents' Advisory Council is not a forum for the discussion of individual school personnel, students, parents, or other individual members of the school community.
2. An executive member who is approached by a parent with a concern relating to an individual is in a privileged position and must treat such discussion with discretion, protecting the confidentiality of the people involved.

3. A parent who accepts a position as a PAC Executive Member:
  - (a) upholds the constitution and bylaws, policies and procedures of the PAC;
  - (b) performs her/his duties with honesty and integrity;
  - (c) works to ensure that the well-being of students is the primary focus of all decisions;
  - (d) respects the rights of all individuals;
  - (e) takes direction from the members, ensuring that representation processes are in place;
  - (f) encourages and supports parents and students with individual concerns to act on their own behalf and provides information on the process for taking forward concerns;
  - (g) works to ensure that issues are resolved through due process;
  - (h) strives to be informed and only passes on information that is reliable and correct;
  - (i) respects all confidential information;
  - (j) supports public education.

### Section 14: Dissolution

1. In the event of dissolution of the Council, and following payment of all outstanding debts, disbursement of remaining funds will be decided upon by the membership at the final General Meeting.
2. In the event of dissolution of the Council all records of the organization shall be placed under the jurisdiction of School District No. 6 (Rocky Mountain) in the person of the principal of the school.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, British Columbia this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal