

This information is provided from the BCCPAC website - a great source of information for parents. www.bccpac.bc.ca

What is a DPAC?

The school act recognized District Parents' Advisory Councils (DPAC) in 2002 but many DPACs were established long before that. DPACs are the legislated parent voice at the school district level, representing the collective views of school Parents' Advisory Councils (PAC) in a school district.

DPACs advise the board of education on any matter relating to education in their school district. DPACs advocate for parental involvement in the education system and give input into the development of education policy and curricula. Many DPACs are offered seats on school district committees such as policy, finance or budget and healthy lifestyles.

Who can become a member of DPAC?

DPACs are comprised of elected parent representatives from PACs and serves as an umbrella organization for the PACs in their school district.

What does DPAC do?

DPACs support and encourage PACs and parents in accessing the school system at all levels by providing regular forums for the exchange of ideas and information to ensure that public education serves the best interests of all students.

What does DPAC NOT do?

DPACs are not a venue to discuss individual students or staff problems or conflicts.

The Role of an Elected DPAC Representative

The roles, duties and responsibilities of elected DPAC representatives vary from DPAC to DPAC and PAC to PAC. Generally, DPAC representatives:

- Act as a liaison between the PAC and DPAC by attending DPAC meetings
- Communicate and obtain information to and from PAC
- Bring forward issues that may be common to more than one school

Can DPACs ask to meet with the superintendent?

DPACs are the legislative voice of parents in the school district and should meet with the superintendent on a regular basis either at a DPAC meeting or another time set aside. Building a relationship with senior staff at a school district takes time and should be mutually convenient and worthwhile.

The DPAC is the parents' representative at the partners in education table locally, explain

By legislation, DPACs purpose is to advise the board on any matter relating to education in the school district. Many districts invite feedback and participation from DPACs to district initiatives, budget and school district committees.

Do DPACs fundraise?

That is up to individual DPACs to decide. There is nothing preventing DPACs from fund raising.

DPAC are specifically regulated in what we can spend money on.

DPAC raised funds are in the control of DPAC. No outside organization can dictate where a DPAC can spend their money. DPAC gaming funds are intended to benefit students by supporting activities that foster parental involvement in the schools and promote effective communication between schools, parents, students and the community. Eligible uses of DPAC funding include educational and promotional materials, administrative costs including British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) membership fees, and travel for regular DPAC meetings. Grant funds to DPACs must be disbursed within 12 months of receipt.

How many meetings should a DPAC have?

The bylaws will state how many meetings are required for a DPAC.