

Sample Constitution for PACs and DPACs

The samples in this manual offer the best suggestions available. You are encouraged to use them to develop your own documents, suited to your organization's needs.

Table of Contents

Section I	Name
Section II	Purposes
Section III	Interpretation of Terms

Constitution

Note: Where there are differences in the suggestions for PACs and DPACs, the wording for DPACs appears in italics.

Section I – NAME

The name of this Council is...

The name should include the name of your school (*or school district*). The titles “parent advisory council” and “district parent advisory council” are sanctioned by the School Act.

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

The business of the Council will be unbiased in respect of race, religion, gender, politics, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability.

Section II – PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL

The following list reflects the full range of activities PACs and DPACs are typically involved in. The list is not necessarily in order of priority. Through discussion, your membership will decide which purposes are most important to your council.

The purposes of the Council will be:

1. To promote the education and welfare of students in the school
2. To encourage parent involvement in the school, and to support programs that promote parent involvement
3. To advise the school board, principal, and staff on any matter relating to the school, other than matters assigned to the school planning council
4. To participate in the work of the school planning council through the Council’s elected representatives
5. To promote the interests of public education and, in particular, the interests of (name of your school)
6. To provide leadership in the school community

7. To contribute to a sense of community within the school and between the school, home, and neighbourhood
8. To provide parent education and professional development, and a forum for discussion of educational issues
9. To assist parents in obtaining information and communicating with the principal and staff about their child's progress or other concerns
10. To assist the principal and staff in ensuring the highest safety standards are maintained in the school and neighbourhood
11. To organize and support activities for students and parents
12. To provide financial support for the goals of the Council, as determined by the membership
13. To advise and participate in the activities of (name of your district parent advisory council) and the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

Section II – PURPOSES OF THE COUNCIL

The purposes of the Council will be:

1. *To be the collective voice of parents in the school district*
2. *To advise the school board on any matter relating to education in the district, including the district's Accountability Contract*
3. *To communicate with parents and parent advisory councils on educational matters*
4. *To promote the interests of public education and, in particular, the interests of (name of your school district)*
5. *To provide parent education and professional development, and a forum for discussion of educational issues*
6. *To assist parents in forming a parent advisory council in every school*
7. *To assist members in obtaining information and communicating with district personnel*
8. *To provide and support a local advocacy project*
9. *To communicate with other organizations in the community and province on educational matters of common interest*

Section III -- INTERPRETATION OF TERMS

“community organizations” means groups that demonstrate an interest in education and are not already included in the scope of the Council’s constitution and bylaws

“district” means School District No. ()

“DPAC” or “district parent advisory council” means the parent advisory councils organized according to the School Act and operating as a district parent advisory council in School District No. ()

“PAC” or “parent advisory council” means the parents organized according to the School Act and operating as a parent advisory council in (name of your school)

“parent” is as defined in the School Act and means

- (a) the guardian of the person of the student or child,
- (b) the person legally entitled to custody of the student or child, or
- (c) the person who usually has the care and control of the student or child

and, for the purposes of these bylaws, means the parent or guardian of a child or children enrolled in School District No. ()

“school” means any public elementary or secondary educational institution as defined in the School Act operating within School District No. ()

“SPC” means the school planning council created for (name of your school) according to the School Act