



School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)

PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCILS

Policy No. 1210

Effective: November 2017

Initial Adoption: September 1991

Preamble

The Board encourages the support and participation of parents/guardians in the activities and programs of their local schools.

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 Councils whose purpose shall be to provide a regular opportunity for each school and its community to consult on issues of general interest, which affect the education of children, including the annual School Plan.

Roles and responsibilities of Parent Advisory Councils are outlined in the *School Act*.

Regulations

1. Principals are expected to encourage the establishment of Parent Advisory Councils, in compliance with the *School Act*.
2. 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, PACs shall not discuss individual students or school personnel.
3. The Board of Education will recognize a specific PAC as the only such Council for a specific school upon **a letter of application** that includes the following:
 - a. A statement, signed by the Principal, indicating that s/he has been consulted in the making of the bylaws that govern:
 - i. The Council's meetings;
 - ii. The business and conduct of its affairs;
 - iii. The election of a member to represent the Council on the District Parents' Advisory Council, by secret ballot; and
 - iii. Its dissolution.
 - b. A copy of its bylaws. A sample of bylaws may be found on the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils website.

4. If a Parents' Advisory Council is established in a school:
 - a. The Principal will be responsible for assisting with the drafting of bylaws to govern its operation and for holding the initial election of officers;
 - b. The Principal will be an ex-officio member; and
 - c. Voting membership will be limited to parents/guardians of students in the school.

5. If a Parents' Advisory Council is established at the District level:
 - a. The Superintendent will be responsible for assrafting interim bylaws to govern its operation;
 - b. The Superintendent will be an ex-officio member; and
 - c. Voting membership will be limited to one representative appointed by each school's Parents' Advisory Council.

6. Functions and Procedures
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.