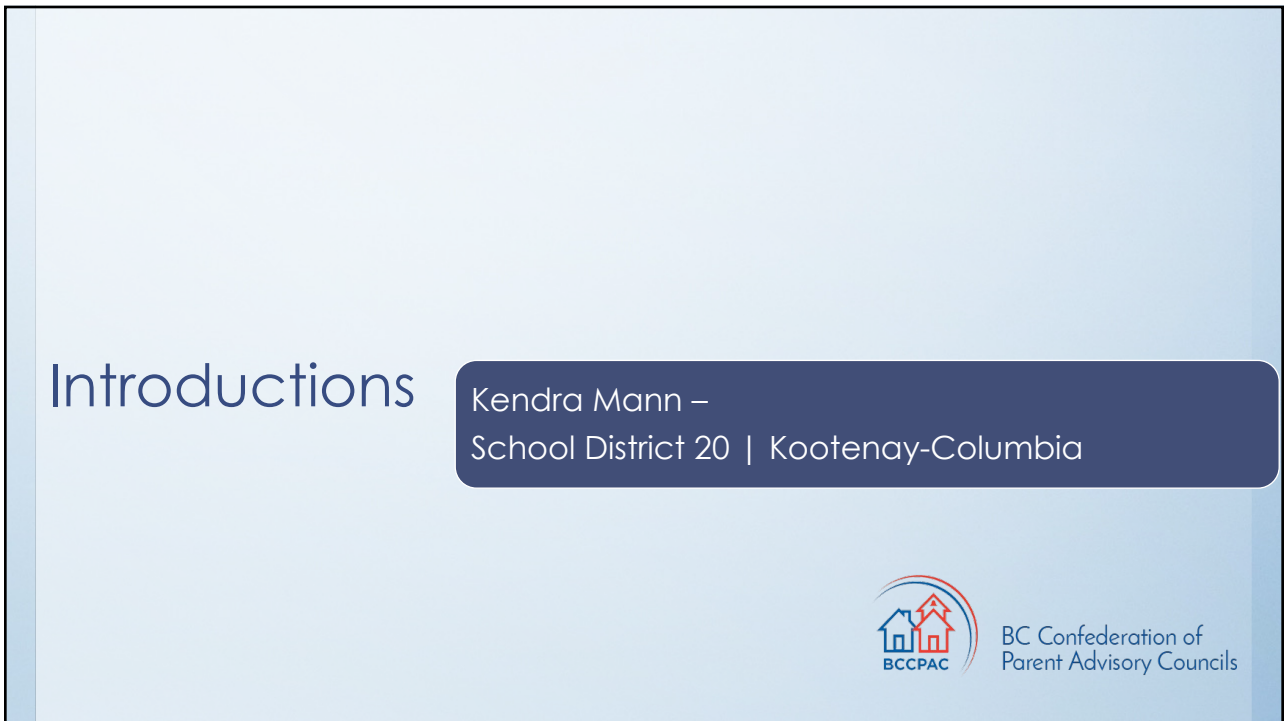


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The words we try not to use:
This is the way we have always done it.



BC Confederation of
Parent Advisory Councils

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About BCCPAC

The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC), a registered non-profit and non-partisan charity, represents the parents of more than 620,000 children attending public schools. As the provincial voice of parents, guardians and caregivers in public schools, we engage, empower and support them for the success of all learners through collaboration, partnership and education, in a culture of acceptance, inclusion and equity. We are governed by a volunteer board of directors elected annually by the membership which consists of District Parent Advisory Councils (DPAC), and Parent Advisory Councils (PAC).

Mission


To act as the collective voice of parents, guardians, and caregivers, as recognized by the provincial government and educational partners, to address issues within the public school system.

Vision

For all parents, guardians, and caregivers to be seen and heard as empowered, supported and educated advocates and advisors in the provincial public education system.

Purpose

- To promote, support and advance meaningful parent participation throughout the public education system in order to advocate for the success of all students; and
- Through our membership, to promote leadership, communication, cooperation, and representation in British Columbia at the school, school district and provincial level



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History

- On September 8, 1915 the first official parent organization was launched at the oldest school in the Province, Craigflower on the outskirts of Victoria.
- In 1922 the idea of parent involvement in education had spread so far across the province that it was evident that a provincial organization was needed
- More than 60 associations sent 283 delegates to a conference in Vancouver to create a plan for a provincial federation. On April 22, 1922, the BC Parent Teacher Federation was formed and plans were made to promote the ideals and objectives of the organization in all schools in the province.
- The BC chapter undertook provincial surveys, the last of which was to gather input for the Royal Commission on Education in 1987. Following the two-year Commission, the BC government amended the School Act to give parents the right to belong to a parent advisory council in their school, and through it to advise the board, principal, and staff on any matter relating to the school. Many parent organizations already in place in schools became the official parent advisory council for the school. Many more schools acquired a council for the first time.
- More legislative changes came in 2002. Parents were given the right to form a district parent advisory council in their school district, and through it to advise the board on any matter relating to education in the district.
- The BC Parent Teacher Home and School Federation changed its name to BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils in 1990.



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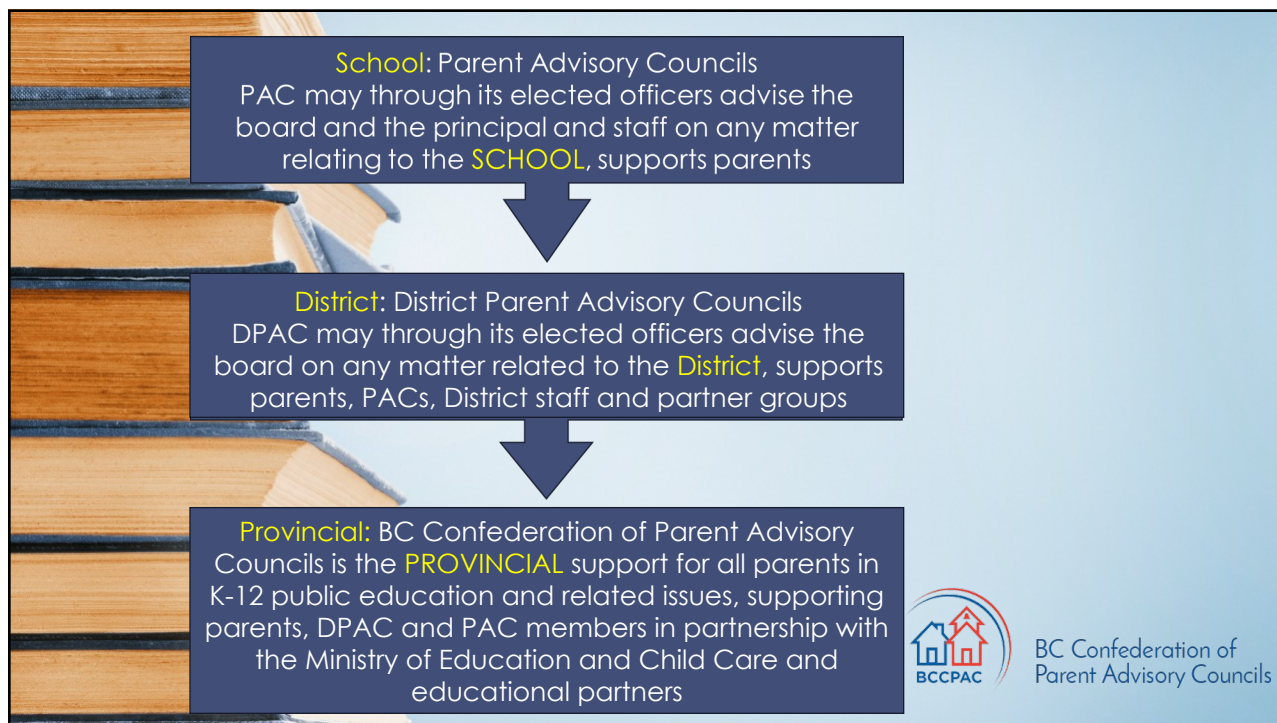
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How does it all work?

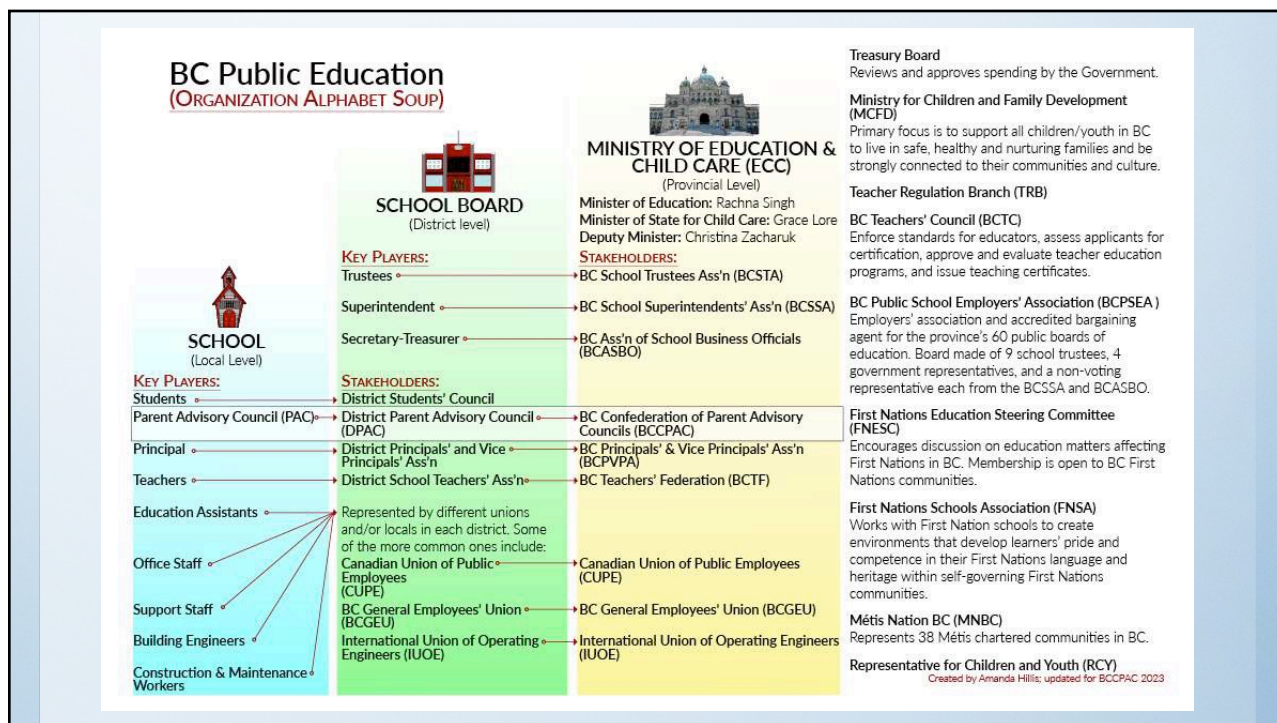
- Every parent is automatically a member of the PAC when their child is enrolled at the school as per section 7 of the school Act
 - Every parent has the ability to run for and be elected to the PAC Executive
 - Every PAC should elect a DPAC Rep as per Section 8(6) of the School Act
 - Each DPAC Rep (one per school or alternate) has the ability to attend the DPAC Meetings
- Each PAC and DPAC in the public school system in BC has the ability to become a member of BCCPAC
 - Each Member PAC or DPAC has the ability to send representation to the Annual General Meetings and can attend any BCCPAC event.
 - Each Member PAC or DPAC has the ability to run for and be elected to the BCCPAC Board of Directors.



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PACs – What is a PAC?

What does that really mean?

- Every Parent (as defined under Part 1 the School Act) has the legislated right to "belong" to a Parent Advisory Council that has a child "attending" registered/enrolled at the School.
- Nothing in the School Act prevents any parent from serving as an elected officer for their Council if elected.
- There is no mandate or expectation in the School Act that PACs provide any financial resources of any kind to a school. But there may be an opportunity to coalesce with the School Growth Plan and the School Budget.
- PACs are legislated to operate in an advisory capacity to the School/Board/Staff
- PACs may provide a forum and opportunity for parents to build relationships and engage with principals and staff about school activities and programs
- PACs may look for ways to provide better opportunities for students, improve learning outcomes as well as provide educational opportunities and developments for parents
- PACs may be critical to promoting parent involvement that can contribute to building and fostering a school community
- Many staff members have children attending school in a district, these staff members could also belong to the PAC, serve as an elected officer, and outside of matters related to their job they are a parent first in our eyes
- PAC Elected Officers and/or DPAC can assist parents in advocating for themselves and help them understand School and/or District policies and processes.

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PACs – What is a PAC?

- PACs do not have unfettered access to the school, its staff or the grounds
- PACs like any other parent are a guest within the school building and are only there with the permission of the principal – this can be implied on scheduled days or events or done on an as needed basis
- PACs older than 1 year (12 months) are entitled to apply for gaming grant funds
 - these funds have restrictions on use
- PACs may have a social media presence separate from the school accounts to remind parents about school events, community events and provide resources and information – These are accounts that are run and managed by the elected executive of the PAC
 - School information sharing and use of the school's logo should be with the permission of the Principal
- PACs are bound by PIPA
- PACs do not dictate
- PACs do not instruct anyone other than their members and executive
- PACs do not demand
- PACs are bound by their code of conduct (each PAC has their own as part of the Constitution & Bylaws and you can ask to see a copy of it at anytime)

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PACs – What is a PAC?

- PAC are self governed
 - PACs are self-governed through the Elected Officers under the framework of their Constitution & Bylaws, under the authority of the membership.
 - The Constitution & Bylaws should be available to all members and reviewed at least every 2 year
 - PACs may at anytime reach out to DPAC for guidance and direction but what they do with that advice is up to them
 - PACs who are members of BCCPAC may reach out to them to ask for guidance and direction but what they do with that advice is up to them
- Parents should not take on duties that would otherwise be performed by staff members without expressed permission to do so
 - Office duties
 - Grounds duties (Snow removal, grounds clean up beautification projects etc.)
 - Custodial duties
 - Teaching during instructional hours

Volunteers are subject to Section 7.1 of the School Act:

Parent volunteers

- 7.1 Subject to this Act, the regulations and any rules of a board, a parent of a student may provide volunteer services at or for a school.
- Were there is a specialty academy that is established that will be offered as a part or whole piece of the circular courses at a school the PAC , pursuant to the school act section 82.1 Specialty academies, must review the schedule of fees, approve those fees to be cost neutral for those families that will be taking part in these academies.

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Roles of District Parent Advisory Councils (DPAC)

- Comprised of elected parent representatives from PACs and serves as an umbrella organization for PACs in the School District
- Assist parents in forming a PAC in every school
- Assist members in obtaining information and communicating with district personnel
- Help parents navigate the school system locally
- Advocate for parental involvement in the education system and input on School District decisions
- Support and encourage PACs and parents in accessing the school system at all levels by providing forums for the exchange of ideas and information to ensure that public education services the best interests of all students and their families.

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<h2>Roles of District Parent Advisory Councils (DPAC)</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family-School Engagement Playbook • DPACs works closely with District Partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Advisory Councils • School Board Trustees • Superintendent & Senior Staff • Principal & Vice Principal Association • Indigenous Partners • Teacher Association • CUPE • Student Voice. <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils</p> </div>
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<h2>Role of BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprised of elected parent representatives from Member PACs and DPACs and serves as an umbrella organization for the Province of BC • Assist members in obtaining information and communicating with all levels of public education • Help parents navigate the school system • Advocate for parental involvement in the education system and input at the Ministry Level • Hosts several parent and member engagement opportunities to connect parents from across the province • Provide an avenue to bring concerns through resolutions at Member meetings, townhalls committee meeting, conferences and summit
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Who does BCCPAC work with

- BCSSA
- BCSTA
- BCASBO
- BCPVPA
- BCTF
- FNESC
- MNBC
- Ministry
- Community Partners (ex Translink)
- BC School Sports
- CUPE BC
- BCPSEA
- BCTC
- RCY

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Parents as Partners

- Partners recognize their shared interests in and responsibilities for children, and they work together to create better programs and opportunities for students.
- Schools that succeed in engaging families from very diverse backgrounds share three key practices
 - Focus on building trusting collaborative relationships among teachers, families, and community members.
 - Recognized, respect, and address families' needs, identities and cultures.
 - Embrace a philosophy of partnerships where power and responsibility are shared.



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Parents have the right:

- To have trained teachers and appropriate support for their children
- To be involved in all aspects of the planning process for IEPs
- To receive progress reports that can be understood
- To appeal a school district employees' decision that affects the education, health and safety of a student
- To have a support person and/or advocate attend meetings with them
- To educate their child at home



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Questions?

Kendra Mann

kendradpac@gmail.com

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