



Breaking “PAC” Myths

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) More Than Just fundraising and playground Chit-Chat – Debunking the PAC Mythos!"

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[PAC LIFE](#)

PAC MYTHS - You may have heard or thought

My voice doesn't matter

Joining the PAC means I have to volunteer all my time. I'm too busy.

Too much complaining, Not enough problem solving.

PAC meetings are just boring administrative gatherings.

The PAC only focuses on fundraising.

The PAC is cliquey and exclusive to certain parents.

The PAC is just for stay-at-home mom's; dads aren't welcome.



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL = YOU

To advocate for excellence in education, for the safety and well being of our students and the effective and meaningful involvement of the parents as partners.

PAC is the official, recognized collective voice of the parents/guardians of your school community

- ALL parents are members
- Everyone is welcome
- Parent engagement helps to strengthen the school community for all



What does a PAC do?

- “Welcome back to School” events
- Parent and student education talks
- Plan Social Events- Bingo, BBQ, book club, pub night
- Support Cultural events & performances
- Provide technology, equipment and supplies
- Supplemental and enhanced learning programs
- Build Outdoor Space, Kitchen, Learning Commons and Playground
- Plan fundraising events Gala, Fun Run, Hot Lunch, Cheque Writing campaign
- Staff appreciation events
- AND SO MUCH MORE



How does a PAC run?

The need-to-knows are in your Constitution and Bylaws

- Relevant, Inclusive PAC Meetings; follow Robert's Rules of Order
- Updated Bylaws - easy to understand and reflective of how your PAC runs
- Transparency – consult and inform your whole PAC not just your exec
- Balanced Budget
- Effective and relevant communication strategies
- Close working relationship with school admin. Common goal!
- Is run by parents who are committed, want to connect, and build a fun community



Building a Strong PAC



- Find your leaders, but also Idea people, organizers, techies... DOERS
- Support your team players to succeed
- Make volunteering easy –tons of online tools, allow for strengths, differences, and quieter voices
- Find your cultural leaders to create an inclusive PAC community
- Streamline and document your processes so things can be easily repeated. Helps with succession planning!

Build a Strong Relationship with School Admin

- Establish honesty and trust for solid communication
- Align on parent and administration goals
- Clear budget that aligns with school goals/wishes
- Support school initiatives
- Ask for accountability & transparency
- Recognize your principal and teachers



How to FUN-DRAISE Well

- Have a **PURPOSE**, don't just raise for the sake of it, spend it on the kids now
- Budget, List Priorities, Fundraise
- Repeat successes
- Great opportunity to build school Community, Culture, and Spirit

Fundraiser Ideas

Hot lunch • Gelato Booth • Cheque drive • Golf Tournaments • Gaming Grants • Galas • Pub Nights



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COMMUNICATION → CONNECTION → COMMUNITY

Clear Communication Channels

Regular Meetings

Agenda Setting

Encourage Participation

Use Technology Effectively

Listen Actively

Respectful Communication:.

Educational Workshops and Events

Social Media Presence

Parent Representatives

Solicit Volunteers



Moving forward



More than ever, it is an awesome time to...

- Welcome fresh parent participation & appetite for connection
- Rebuild school community
- Create a working group that creates support and improves communication and connection
- Share & Network with other PAC's -what is and isn't working at various schools
- Work together –Celebrate all successes, recognize individual effort, respect all voices



PAC RESOURCES

Previous PAC Chair and EXEC

DPAC Exec

- Years of experience at the PAC level –just ask 😊
- DPAC Website, WhatsApp, MailChimp, and email
- Attend DPAC Meetings and Treasurer or communications training sessions

BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) bccpac.bc.ca

- Leadership manual
- Budget template
- Constitution and by-law samples
- Workshops for PAC's

