

Constitution of the Abbotsford District Parent Advisory Council

Table of Contents

Section I	Name
Section II	Purposes
Section III	Interpretation of Terms

Constitution

Section I – NAME

The name of this Council is Abbotsford district parent advisory council.

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 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 the Abbotsford 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. 34

“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. 34

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

- (a) the guardian 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. 34

“school” means any public elementary, middle, or secondary educational institution as defined in the School Act operating within School District No. 34

Bylaws

Table of Contents

Section I	Membership
Section II	Meeting of Members
Section III	Proceedings at General Meetings
Section IV	Executive
Section V	Executive Meetings
Section VI	External Committee Representatives
Section VII	Conduct of Executive and Representatives
Section VIII	Duties of Executive and Representatives
Section IX	Committees
Section X	Financial Matters
Section XI	Constitution and Bylaws Amendments
Section XII	Property in Documents
Section XIII	Dissolution

Bylaws

Section I – MEMBERSHIP IN A DPAC

1. All parent advisory councils in School District No. 34 are voting members of the Council.
2. A member will be represented on the Council by the person elected annually by the member for that purpose. In the event the elected person is unable to attend the member may be represented by an alternate.
3. There will be no other members of the Council.

Section II – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

General Meetings

1. General meetings will be conducted with fairness to all members.
2. General meetings will be held not less than four times during the school year. One of those meetings will be the annual general meeting.

Conduct

3. At general meetings, members will not discuss individual school personnel, students, parents, or other members of the school community.
4. The Council will refrain from partisan political action or other activities that do not serve the interests of the school or the public-school system.

Notice of meetings

5. Members will be given reasonable notice of general meetings.

Section III – PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Quorum

1. A quorum for general meetings will be 5 voting members.
2. If at any time during a general meeting a quorum ceases to be present, business then in progress must be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.

Voting

3. Except as provided elsewhere in these bylaws, all matters requiring a vote will be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast (50% plus 1).
4. In the case of a tie vote, the chair does not have a second or casting vote and the motion is defeated.

5. Members will vote through their elected representatives. A representative must be present at a meeting to vote. Voting by proxy will not be permitted.
6. Except as provided elsewhere in these bylaws, voting is by a show of hands or, where requested by two voting members present, by secret ballot.
7. A vote will be taken to destroy the ballots after every election.

Section IV – EXECUTIVE

Role of executive

1. The executive will manage the Council's affairs between general meetings.

Executive defined

2. The executive will include the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and such other members of the Council as the membership decides.

Eligibility

3. Any elected representative of a Council member is eligible to serve on the executive, except employees or elected officials of School District No. 34 or the Ministry of Education.

Election of executive

4. The executive will be elected at each annual general meeting.
5. Elections will be conducted by the chair of the Nominations Committee.

Term of office

6. The executive will hold office for a term of one year beginning immediately following the election.
7. No person may hold the same executive position for more than four years.

Vacancy

8. If an executive member resigns or ceases to hold office for any other reason, the remaining executive members may appoint an eligible representative of a Council member to fill the vacancy until the next annual general meeting.

Removal of executive

9. The members may, by a majority of not less than 75% of the votes cast, remove an executive member before the expiration of his or her term of office, and may elect an eligible representative of a Council member to complete the term.
10. Written notice specifying the intention to make a motion to remove the executive member must be given to all the members not less than 14 days before the meeting.

Remuneration of executive

11. No executive member may be remunerated for serving on the executive but may be reimbursed for expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred while engaged in the Council's affairs.

Section V – EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

Meetings

1. Executive meetings will be held at the call of the president. At least one meeting will be held before each general meeting.

Quorum

2. A quorum for executive meetings will be a majority (50% plus 1) of the members of the executive.

Notice

3. Executive members will be given reasonable notice of executive meetings.

Voting

4. All matters requiring a vote at executive meetings will be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast (50% plus 1).
5. In the case of a tie vote, the chair does not have a second or casting vote and the motion is defeated.

Section VI – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

External committees

1. The membership or executive may elect or appoint a representative of a Council member who is not an employee or elected official of School District No. 34 or the Ministry of Education to represent the Council on an external committee or to an external organization.
2. The representative will report to the membership or executive as required.

Section VII – CONDUCT OF EXECUTIVE AND REPRESENTATIVES

Code of ethics

1. On election or appointment, every executive member or representative must sign and agree to abide by a code of ethics acceptable to the membership.

Representing the Council

2. Every executive member and representative must act solely in the interests of the parent membership of the Council.

Privilege

3. Any information received in confidence by an executive member or representative from school personnel, a student, parent, or other member of the school community is privileged and must not be divulged without permission of the person giving the information.

Disclosure of interest

4. An executive member or representative who is interested, either directly or indirectly, in a proposed contract or transaction with the Council must disclose fully and promptly the nature and extent of his or her interest to the membership and executive.
5. Such an executive member or representative must avoid using his or her position on the Council for personal gain.

Section VIII – DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE AND REPRESENTATIVES

A. The President will

- (a) speak on behalf of the Council
- (b) consult with Council member
- (c) preside at membership and executive meetings
- (d) ensure that an agenda is prepared
- (e) appoint committees where authorized by the membership or executive
- (f) ensure that the Council is represented in school and district activities
- (g) ensure that Council activities are aimed at achieving the purposes set out in the constitution
- (h) be a signing officer
- (i) submit an annual report

B. The Vice-President will

- (a) support the president
- (b) assume the duties of the president in the president's absence or upon request
- (c) assist the president in the performance of his or her duties
- (d) accept extra duties as required
- (e) be a signing officer
- (f) submit an annual report

C. The Secretary will

- (a) ensure that members are notified of meetings
- (b) record and file minutes of all meetings
- (c) keep an accurate copy of the constitution and bylaws, and make copies available to members upon request

- (d) prepare and maintain other documentation as requested by the membership or executive
- (e) issue and receive correspondence on behalf of the Council
- (f) ensure safekeeping of all records of the Council
- (g) keep an accurate record of PAC representatives
- (h) assist the president in providing information to local news media
- (i) may be a signing officer
- (j) submit an annual report

D. The Treasurer will

- (a) be a signing officer
- (b) ensure all funds of the Council are properly accounted for
- (c) disburse funds as authorized by the membership or executive
- (d) ensure that proper financial records and books of account are maintained
- (e) report on all receipts and disbursements at general and executive meetings
- (f) make financial records and books of account available to members upon request
- (g) have the financial records and books of account ready for inspection or audit annually
- (h) with the assistance of the executive, draft an annual budget
- (i) ensure that another signing officer has access to the financial records and books of account in the treasurer's absence
- (j) submit an annual financial statement at the annual general meeting

E. The Special Education Representative will

- (a) act as the liaison between the parents/families and the District
- (b) encourage open dialogue surrounding special education within the District
- (c) promote available resources surrounding special education to all families in School District No. 34
- (d) help identify interested and qualified parents for the special education committee
- (e) reach out to the BCCPAC for support when helpful or necessary
- (f) submit an annual report

F. The Inclusion Representative will

- (a) act as the liaison between minority groups, marginalized groups, the LGBTQ, Aboriginal Canadians, etc, and the Council and District
- (b) encourage open dialogue surrounding inclusion within the District
- (c) promote available resources surrounding inclusion to all families in School District No. 34
- (d) help identify interested and qualified parents for the inclusion committee
- (e) reach out to the BCCPAC for support when helpful or necessary
- (f) submit an annual report

G. Directors will

- (a) serve in a capacity to be determined by the Council at the time of election, and at other times as the Council requires

- (b) submit an annual report

Section IX – COMMITTEES

1. The membership and executive may appoint committees to further the Council's purposes and carry on its affairs.
2. The terms of reference of each committee will be specified by the membership or executive at the time the committee is established, or by the committee at its first meeting, as the membership or executive decide.
3. Committees will report to the membership and executive as required.
4. A nominating Committee will be appointed annually before the annual general meeting.

Section X – FINANCIAL MATTERS

Financial year

1. The financial year of the Council will be July 1 to June 30.

Power to raise money

2. The Council may raise and spend money to further its purposes.

Bank accounts

3. All funds of the Council must be kept on deposit in the name of the Council in a bank or financial institution registered under the Bank Act.

Signing authority

4. The executive will name at least three signing officers for banking and legal documents. Two signatures will be required on all of these documents.

Annual budget

5. The executive will prepare a budget and present it to the membership for approval for approval before the current budget expires.

Non-budgeted expenditures

6. The executive will present all proposed expenditures beyond the current budget for approval at the next general meeting.

Treasurer's report

7. A treasurer's report will be presented at each general meeting.

Auditor

8. Members at a general meeting may appoint an auditor.

Section XI – CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS

1. The members may, by a majority of not less than 75% of the votes cast, amend the Council's constitution and bylaws.
2. Written notice specifying the proposed amendments must be given to the members not less than 14 days before the meeting.
3. Where the proposed amendments exceed one page, they need not be given to every member, but must be posted in a conspicuous place in the school or made accessible to all members.

Section XII – PROPERTY IN DOCUMENTS

1. All documents, records, minutes, correspondence, or other papers kept by a member, executive member, representative, or committee member in connection with the Council shall be deemed to be property of the Council and shall be turned over to the president when the member, executive member, representative, or committee member ceases to perform the task to which the papers relate.

Section XIII – DISSOLUTION

1. In the event of winding up or dissolution of the Council, and after payment of all debts and costs of winding up or dissolution, the assets and remaining funds of the Council shall be distributed to another parent advisory council or councils in School District No. 34 having purposes similar to those of the Council, as the members of the Council may determine at the time of winding up or dissolution.
2. In the event of winding up or dissolution, all records of the Council shall be given to the Secretary-Treasurer of School District No.34.

Adopted by Abbotsford district parent advisory council at Abbotsford, British Columbia, on October 25, 2018.

Signatures of president and one other executive member

President

CODE OF ETHICS

A parent who accepts a position as a Council executive member, committee member, or representative

1. upholds the constitution and bylaws, policies, and procedures of the electing body
2. performs his or her duties with honesty and integrity and in the interests of the Council
3. works to ensure that the well-being of students is the primary focus of all decisions
4. respects the rights of all individuals
5. takes direction from the membership and executive
6. encourages and supports parents and students with individual concerns to act on their own behalf, and provides information on the process for taking concerns forward
7. works to ensure that issues are resolved through due process
8. strives to be informed and only passes on information that is reliable
9. respects all confidential information
10. supports public education

Statement of Understanding

I, the undersigned, in accepting the position of _____ of _____ (name of your council) have read, understood, and agreed to abide by this Code of Ethics. I also agree to participate in the dispute resolution process that has been agreed to by the electing body, should there be any concerns about my work.

Name of Executive Member, Committee Member, or Representative

Signature _____

Date _____ Phone number _____