



Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council



Upholding Parental Rights in Public Education

Vancouver District Parent Advisory Council



Parental involvement in public education is a protected right under BC

law. The Statement of Education Policy Order, the School Act, and VSB policies all affirm that parents have both the right and responsibility to help shape educational goals, policies, and services. This summary outlines the legal framework supporting parent participation through PACs and DPAC, and reinforces that school board policies must uphold these rights.

1. The rights of parents are outlined in an Order in Council, **Statement of Education Policy Order (Mandate for the School System) 1280/89**, at page 5:

Parents have **“the right and responsibility to participate in determining the educational goals, policies and services provided for their children...They have a responsibility to help shape and support the goals of the school system ...”** (emphasis added)

2. The Order in Council 1280/89 further states the following about the “Attributes of the Public School System”:

“Accountability – resources are allocated efficiently; parents and the community are informed about school progress and involved in planning... They have a responsibility to help **shape and support the goals of the school system** and to share in the tasks of educating their young.” (emphasis added)

3. Section 8 (4) of the **School Act** allows for the establishment of Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) at each school, which may advise the board on any school-related matters:

“A parents’ advisory council, through its elected officers, **may advise the board** and the principal and staff of the school or the Provincial school respecting **any matter relating to the school** or the Provincial school.”

4. The VSB’s **Administrative Procedure 110** affirms section 8(4) of the School Act, as it states: “A PAC, through its elected officers, **may advise the Board and the Principal and staff of the school.**”



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advise the board on any matter relating to education in the school district.

6. The VSB's **Administrative Procedure 111** states that DPAC "will enhance communications among the school Parents' Advisory Councils (PACs), the District, stakeholder groups and the community at large". The policy further states that the duties of the DPAC Executives include:

(a) communicating with PACs and offering advice and support to them; and

(b) presenting the parental viewpoint to the trustees and senior management as nonvoting members on the Board Standing Committees.

7. The appointments of elected officers at PACs and DPAC are made in accordance with their bylaws as mandated by the *School Act*.

8. In summary, a legislative framework exists to provide parents opportunities to exercise their rights to participate in shaping educational goals, policies, and services, as well as advising the Board.

9. While the Board's policies allow for some opportunities for parental input, such as the public consultations under VSB Policy 20, parental rights are not limited by the VSB's policies. Parental rights are outlined in the legislative framework. The VSB's policies must align with the laws that ensure parents have the right to participate in decision-making and planning for educational policies and services.





Parental involvement is a protected right



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