



The Constitution of the Parent Advisory Council

Background

When the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division was established in 1997, the Board of Education convened Parent and Community Advisory Group forums. In the spring of 2001 both Board of Education members and parents observed that the forums had not been an effective networking opportunity. Therefore, the Board of Education established a new format for advisory group networking.

Named the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), this organization invited each Parent and Community Advisory Group send representatives to PAC meetings that would be scheduled every two months. The Parent Advisory Council will be hosted by the Deputy Chair of the Board of Education. The first Parent Advisory Council meeting was held on Thursday, March 29, 2001 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm at the Education Centre.

Membership

Each Parent and Community Advisory Group in the school division is invited to send representatives to PAC meetings. However, PAC membership is flexible for all Board of Education members and school-based administrators are welcome to attend PAC meetings.

Each school will have a maximum of two (2) voting members.

Meetings

Parent Advisory Council meetings will be chaired by the Deputy Chair of the Board of Education. The agenda will be set by Education Centre personnel based upon agenda items submitted by the PAC membership.

Parent Advisory Committee meetings will be held at the Education Centre of the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division. Meetings will be held every two months during the school year and will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Parent Advisory Council provides members the opportunity to:

- **Communicate Concerns**
 - Bring forward concerns from parent and community advisory groups in order to explore if those concerns are system-wide.

- **Recommend to the Board of Education**
 - Discuss, debate and make recommendations to the Board of Education regarding allocation of available resources throughout the school system.
 - Work with the Board of Education to achieve any common goals or requests the Parent Advisory Council might have. The PAC is a vehicle for communication to flow more easily between parents and the Board of Education.

- **Network**
 - Share ideas about what is working and what is not working in schools as well as brainstorm new ideas.
 - Get to know parents from across the school division.
 - Exchange ideas between schools on the many activities in which advisory groups are involved.
 - Understand the differences and similarities that exist within the school division's wide range of schools.
 - Share stories of successes and failures.

- **Develop and Learn**
 - Obtain information from the Board of Education and school division staff regarding impending changes, policy and Board of Education activities. This information can then be brought back to the local level.
 - Share information about workshops, policies, and funding.
 - Invite guest speakers to discuss topics of interest to members.