

Peter Ewart Middle School



Parent Advisory Council

Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted as of October 2019

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CONSTITUTION

Section I Name of Organization

The name of the organization shall be the **Peter Ewart Middle School Parent Advisory Council**.

The Council will operate as a non-profit organization with no personal financial benefit.

The business of the Council shall be unbiased towards race, religion, gender, politics, sexual orientation, and physical or mental ability.

Section II Purposes of the Organization

The purpose of the Council is:

To promote and support education and contribute to a sense of community at the Peter Ewart Middle School.

To promote the education and welfare of students in the school.

To advise the principal and staff on parents' views on any matter relating to the school – programs, policies, plans, and activities other than matters assigned to the school planning council.

To communicate with parents and promote cooperation between the home and school in providing for the education of children.

To assist parents in accessing the system and to provide advocacy support for individual children and their parents.

To encourage parent involvement in the school, and to support programs that promote parent involvement.

To contribute to a sense of community within the school and between the school, home, and neighbourhood.

To assist the principal and staff in ensuring the highest safety standards are maintained in the school and neighbourhood.

To organize and support activities for students and parents.

To advise and participate in the activities of Langley District Parent Advisory Council.

To promote a positive, caring culture within the school.

Section III Dissolution

In accordance with the School Act, Part 2, Division 2, Section 8(5)(a), "A Parents' Advisory Council, in consultation with the principal, shall make bylaws governing its meetings and the business and conduct of its affairs, including bylaws governing the dissolution of the council".

1. In the event of dissolution and following payment of all outstanding debts, disbursement of remaining funds will be decided upon by the membership at the final general meeting.
2. In the event of dissolution of the Peter Ewart Middle School Parent Advisory Council, all records of the organization shall be placed under the jurisdiction of Langley School District No. 35, in the person of the principal of Peter Ewart Middle School.
3. These provisions shall be unalterable.

Section IV Interpretation of Terms

"Board" means the Board of School Trustees for Langley School District No. 35.

"Community organizations" means groups that demonstrate an interest in education and are not already included in the scope of the PAC's constitution and bylaws.

"District" means Langley School District No. 35.

"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 Langley School District No. 35.

"Executive" means the elected officers of Ewart Middle School Parent Advisory Council.

"PAC" or "Parent Advisory Council" means the parents organized according to the School Act and operating as a parent advisory council at Peter Ewart Middle School.

"Parent" is as defined in the School Act and means (a) the guardian of the person 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 purpose of this Constitution and Bylaws, means a parent of a child enrolled at Peter Ewart Middle School.

"School" means any public elementary, middle, or secondary education institution as defined in the School Act operating within Langley School District No. 35.

BYLAWS

Section V Membership in a PAC

1. All parents and guardians of students registered at Peter Ewart Middle School are voting members of the Parent Advisory Council.
2. Administration and staff (teaching and non-teaching) of Peter Ewart Middle School may be non-voting members of the Council.
3. Members of the Peter Ewart Middle School community who are not parents of students currently enrolled in the system may be invited to become non-voting members of the Council.
4. At no time will the PAC have more non-voting than voting members.
5. No member of the executive shall be an employee of the Langley School District or an elected official of any school district or of the Ministry of Education.

Section VI Meetings

1. The number of general meetings will be set by the executive, with a minimum of five meetings (including the Annual General Meeting) that shall be held during one school year.
2. There shall be an Annual General Meeting for the purpose of electing executive officers, and representatives to the School Planning Council, held before the 31st of May each year.
3. Meetings will be conducted efficiently and with fairness to the members present.
4. Executive meetings may be held anytime, or place as deemed necessary. The purpose of executive meetings is to carry on business between general meetings.
5. If procedural problems arise on an issue not covered in these bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to resolve the issue.
6. A Council meeting shall not be a forum for the discussion of individual school personnel, students, parents, or other individual members of the school community.
7. 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.

8. Executive meetings will be held at the call of the president. At least one executive meeting will be held before each Annual General Meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Executive, or upon the receipt of a petition representing three (3) voting members of the PAC. Such special meetings shall be held with a minimum two (2) days' notice to all voting members of the PAC.
9. Monthly meetings will be advertised widely.
 - I. Members will be given reasonable notice of general meetings.
 - II. Members will be given thirty (30) days notice of the Annual General Meeting

Section VII Quorum and Voting

A. Quorum

- a) A quorum shall be eight voting members who must be present at any duly called general meeting.
- b) A quorum shall be four for executive meetings.

B. Voting

1. Unless otherwise provided, questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority vote (50% plus 1).
2. In the case of a tie vote, the motion is defeated.
3. Members must vote personally on all matters; voting by proxy shall not be permitted.
4. Voting shall be done by a show of hands, with the exception of the election of officers, which may be done by secret ballot. A vote shall be taken to destroy the ballots after the election.

Section VIII Election of Executive Officers

1. The executive will include the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, 1 DPAC representative, 4 Members at Large (1 grade 6 representative, 1 grade 7 representative, and 1 grade 8 intermediate representative, 1 Events Coordinator), Past President.
2. The executive officers shall be elected from the voting members at the Annual General Meeting.
3. The president shall conduct elections.
4. Nominations may be received up to and during the Annual General Meeting, until declared closed by the president.

5. A letter of notice for nominations should be distributed to all families in the school at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
6. All voting members of the PAC are eligible for and may accept a nomination upon nomination by two voting members, except that no employee or elected official of Langley School District No. 35 or the Ministry of Education shall hold an executive position.

Section IX Term of Office

1. The term of office shall commence the 1st of July of each year and shall be for one year.
2. No person may hold any one position for more than three (3) consecutive years. DPAC Representative excepted.
3. No person may hold more than one elected executive position at any one time.
4. The Past President shall hold that office for one year.
5. In the event of a resignation or sudden vacancy on the Executive during the year, or if any office is not filled at the time of the election, the Executive may appoint a member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term until the next election. This includes that with majority support from the executive, point (2) above can be overlooked.

A. Removal of Executive

1. The members at a general or specially called meeting may, by a majority of not less than 75% of the votes cast, remove an executive member before the expiration of his/her term of office, and may elect an eligible member to complete the term.
2. Written notice specifying the intention to make a motion to remove the executive members must be given to all members not less than fourteen (14) days before the meeting.
3. The following are grounds for termination of any Executive Member:
 - a. Absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without notification.
 - b. Failure to observe the Constitution and Bylaws, purposes and policies of the PAC.
 - c. Failure to abide by the PAC's Code of Conduct

Section X Executive Officers

1. The affairs of the Council shall be managed by a board of elected officers and the immediate past president.
2. The Executive Officers may be as follows:
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Treasurer
 - Secretary
 - District Parent Advisory Council Representative
 - Past President
 - Members at Large
 - Grade Six Representative
 - Grade Seven Representative
 - Grade Eight Representative
 - Special Events Co-ordinator

Section XI Duties of Officers

A. The President:

- shall speak on behalf of the PAC
- shall consult with PAC executive and members
- shall attend and preside over all membership and executive meetings
- shall ensure an agenda is prepared and presented
- shall allow input from membership
- shall appoint committees where authorized by the membership or executive
- shall ensure that the PAC is represented in school and district activities
- shall ensure representation at DPAC meetings
- shall ensure that PAC activities are aimed at achieving the purposes set out in the constitution
- shall take such actions or ensure that such actions are taken by others to achieve the objectives and purpose of the organization
- shall oversee all PAC activities
- shall be a signing officer

B. The Vice-President:

- shall assume responsibilities of the president in the president's absence or upon

request

- shall assist the president in the performance of his or her duties
- shall accept extra duties as required
- may be a signing officer

C. The Secretary:

- shall ensure that members are notified of meetings
- shall record, prepare, distribute and file minutes of all membership, special and executive meetings
- shall keep an accurate copy of the constitution and bylaws
- shall submit a copy of the amended constitution and bylaws to the school office and the school board office
- shall prepare and maintain documentation as requested by the membership or executive
- shall issue and receive correspondence on behalf of the PAC
- shall ensure all records of the PAC, including financial records, are kept in a designated and accessible location on school premises
- shall keep an accurate record of PAC executive and committee members
- shall write and/or submit PAC newsletter
- shall ensure PAC Bulletin in main foyer is maintained and up to date
- may be a signing officer
- shall submit an annual report to the membership

D. The Treasurer shall:

- shall be responsible for and report on the financial accounts of the organization
- shall maintain good record keeping of all financial activities of the PAC using acceptable book-keeping standards
- shall ensure all funds of the PAC are properly accounted for
- shall disburse funds as authorized by the membership or executive
- shall report on all receipts and disbursements at general and executive meetings
- shall make financial records and books of account available to the membership upon written request
- shall have the financial records and books of account ready for inspection or audit annually
- shall assist with an annual draft budget and tentative plan of expenditures
- shall be one of the three signing officers of the executive
- shall ensure that another signing officer has access to the financial records and books of account in the Treasurer's absence
- shall prepare and submit a Year End Financial Statement and provide such to the president for submission to the membership
- shall submit an annual report to the membership

E. The DPAC/PAC Representative:

- shall act as a liaison between the PAC and the Langley DPAC
- shall attend all meetings of Langley DPAC and represent, speak and vote on behalf of the PAC
- shall maintain current registration of the PAC
- shall report regularly to the membership and executive on all matters in relation to the DPAC (at general meetings)
- shall seek and give input regarding district (DPAC) and provincial (BCCPAC) issues to the DPAC on behalf of the PAC
- shall receive, circulate and post DPAC newsletters, brochures and announcements
- shall keep the DPAC Handbook up to date

F. The Past President:

- shall help smooth the transition between Presidents
- shall assist, advise and support the Council
- shall provide information about resources, contacts, and other essential information to the Council
- shall act as a consultant for the President

G. Members at Large:

- shall serve in a capacity to be determined by the PAC at the time of election and at other times as the PAC requires
- shall be strong advocates for meaningful parent involvement in the school and school planning
- shall attend general and executive meetings as directed by the membership or executive
- shall submit an annual report to the membership

Duties of Committee Representatives

The membership and executive may appoint committees to further the PAC's purposes and carry out its objectives. Committees will report to the membership and executive as required. Outgoing representatives serving in positions shall work in conjunction with their respective newly elected representatives, from the period beginning July 1st until the following June 30th at end of the school year.

Section XII Code of Ethics

A parent who accepts a position as a PAC Executive Member:

1. Upholds the constitution and bylaws, policies, and procedures of the Peter Ewart Middle PAC.
2. Performs her/his duties with honesty and integrity.
3. Works to ensure that the well-being of all students is the primary focus of all decisions.
4. Respects the rights of all individuals.
5. Takes direction from the members, ensuring representation processes are in place.
6. Encourages and supports parents and students with individual concerns to act on their own behalf and provides information on the process for taking forward concerns.
7. Works to ensure 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.
11. Adhere to the Langley School District's Parents Code of Conduct.

A. Representing the Council

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

B. Privilege

- 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.

C. Disclosure of interest

- 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.
- Such an executive member or representative must avoid using his or her position on the Council for personal gain.

D. Social Media

- Principles of integrity, professionalism, privacy, and impartiality should be observed by PAC when posting online.
- Do not post anything illegal, including copyrighted materials.
- The purpose of the PAC social media accounts is to inform parents and the school community of events and happenings at PEMS – it is not to promote individual businesses.
- The authenticity of what PAC posts is important. PAC should verify questionable content with credible sources before posting or tweeting about it.
- Dishonourable or inappropriate content such as racial, ethnic, sexual, religious, and physical disability slurs are not tolerated.
- PAC must not post any information that should remain confidential, including names or specific details, unless so directed by the school principal. Do not post anything to do with legal issues, cases, and/or attorneys without the express written consent of the school principal. Always check with the school before posting photos that have PEMS students in them to ensure it is permitted.
- Do not respond/post/re-tweet to the media regarding any incidents that occur on school grounds without the permission of the school principal.
- PAC must ensure that their social media accounts, including but not limited to, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are only associated with or "following" educationally appropriate content.

Section XIII Financials

Fiscal year

- The financial year of the PAC will be July 1 – June 30.

Bank Accounts

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

Interim Handling of Funds

- All funds must be kept locked on school premises until such time that they can be given to the Treasurer for deposit.

Signing Authority

- The executive will name at least three signing officers for banking and legal documents, one of whom will be the Treasurer. Two signatures will be required on all of these documents.

Power to raise money

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

Non-budgeted expenditures

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

Budget

- The executive will prepare a budget and present it to the membership for approval before the current budget expires.
- A budget and tentative plan of expenditures should be drawn up by the executive and presented for approval at a general meeting prior to the end of September of each year. It is advisable to set aside \$5000.00 received during the year to be held over for start-up operating costs for the following year.
- All monies spent above and beyond a predetermined petty cash amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) will be first presented to and voted on by the executive, and then approved by a majority at a general meeting.

Treasurer's Report

- A Treasurer's report to all members should be available at each general meeting and a financial statement should be published and presented for acceptance by the PAC membership at a general meeting prior to the end of June of each year.
- A need for financial review, if needed, will be determined by the membership at any General Meeting by simple majority of members and notice of such shall be waived. At the Annual General Meeting a financial review shall be considered by the membership.

Section XIV Constitution and Bylaw Amendments

- Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Peter Ewart Middle Parent Advisory Council may be made at any general meeting at which business is conducted, providing a minimum of fourteen (14) days written notice of the meeting has been given to all members.
- A seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of those voting members present at the meeting will be required to amend the Constitution and Bylaws.
- The Constitution and Bylaws of this school's PAC shall be filed with the DPAC and PEMS Administration upon application for recognition under the School Act, Part 2, Division 2, Section 8 (1) and Section 8 (2)

Section XV Properties in Documents

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

relate.

- A copy of the constitution and bylaws shall be dated with the date it was passed in a PAC General Meeting, signed, and forwarded to the office and the DPAC and PEMS Administration for safekeeping.

**Adopted by Peter Ewart Middle School PAC at Langley, British Columbia on _____,
20__.**

President

Secretary

Statement of Understanding

I, the undersigned, in accepting the position of _____ on the Peter Ewart Middle School PAC Executive, have read, understood, and agreed to abide by the Code of Ethics set out in this document. 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: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____ Phone number: _____

This page is to be photocopied and signed yearly by the new executive.