

“Meaningful parental involvement is driven by educational motives and directed at the needs of the child.”

Renihan and Renihan (1994), “Encouraging Meaningful Parental Involvement”

Characteristics of the Ideal PAC, continued

8. THE PAC PROVIDES ADVOCACY SUPPORT TO PARENTS, both informally and through referrals to district and provincial programs. PAC leaders are familiar with district policies and programs, including appeals procedures.
9. THE PAC WORKS HAND IN HAND WITH THE COMMUNITY of which the school is a part. PAC leaders inform and educate themselves about the community, its resources, values and priorities.
10. THE PAC INVESTS IN ITS OWN LEARNING. PAC leaders encourage all parents to attend school, district and provincial workshops and conferences, and work with school administrators to enable parents to participate in school staff meetings and professional development. Funding is targeted to parent education and involvement.
11. PAC LEADERS ENSURE THAT ALL INTERESTED PARENTS HAVE INPUT INTO POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND DECISION-MAKING at the school, district and provincial levels. The PAC appoints informed parents to represent the parental viewpoint on major issues including budget, health and safety, and crisis response.
12. THE PAC OPERATES FROM A WELCOMING SPACE IN THE SCHOOL which includes sufficient room for a parent resource centre as well as PAC administration. The parent resource centre includes a bulletin board, resource lending library, telephone, computer with Internet access, photocopy access and refreshment facilities. Volunteers in the centre welcome parents and provide support.
13. THROUGH THE PAC, PARENTS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE. There is a strong volunteer organization with opportunities for parents to contribute in many ways at different times of the day and evening. Parent recognition and appreciation are given on an ongoing basis. Volunteers support student programs (e.g. playground, library, classroom, field trips) and offer practical support to parents (e.g. clothing, transportation). Volunteers are part of a resource network involved in extracurricular activities, coaching, advocacy, mentoring students and parents, facilitating support groups, lobbying, fundraising, school improvement (e.g. accreditation and planning), representing the PAC on DPAC and BCCPAC, and external networking with the larger community.
14. STRONG PARENT COMMITTEES PLAY AN ACTIVE PART IN SCHOOL LIFE through communication, fundraising, staff selection, curriculum and program development, planning social activities, outreach, fine arts, athletics, music—supporting the entire school community.