

# British Columbia School Act

## Handout

### Division 2 — Parents

#### Parents' entitlements and responsibilities

- 7 (1) A parent of a student of school age attending a school is entitled
- (a) to be informed, in accordance with the orders of the minister, of the student's attendance, behavior and progress in school,
  - (b) on request, to the school plan for the school and the accountability contract for the school district, and
  - (c) to belong to a parents' advisory council established under section 8.
- (2) A parent of a student of school age attending a school may, and at the request of a teacher, principal, vice principal or director of instruction must, consult with the teacher, principal, vice principal or director of instruction with respect to the student's educational program.

#### Parent volunteers

- 7.1 Subject to this Act, the regulations and any rules of a board, a parent of a student may provide volunteer services at or for a school.

#### Parents' advisory council

- 8 (1) Parents of students of school age attending a school or a Provincial school may apply to the board or to the minister, as the case may be, to establish a parents' advisory council for that school.
- (2) On receipt of an application under subsection (1), the board or minister must establish a parents' advisory council for the school or the Provincial school.
- (3) There must be only one parents' advisory council for each school or Provincial school.
- (4) A parents' advisory council, through its elected officers, may
- (a) 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, other than matters assigned to the school planning council, and
  - (b) at the request of the school planning council, assist the school planning council in carrying out its functions under this Act.
- (5) A parents' advisory council, in consultation with the principal, must make bylaws governing its meetings and the business and conduct of its affairs, including bylaws governing
- (a) the dissolution of the parents' advisory council,
  - (b) the election of members to represent the parents' advisory council on the school planning council, and
  - (c) the election of a member to represent the parents' advisory council on the district parents' advisory council.
- (6) Voting at an election referred to in subsection (5) (b) and (c) must be by secret ballot.

#### School planning council

- 8.1 (1) A board must establish a school planning council for each school, except a Provincial resource program, in its school district.
- (2) At the request of 3 parents of students attending a Provincial resource program, a board may establish a school planning council for the Provincial resource program.
- (3) A school planning council for a school consists of the following persons:
- (a) the principal of the school;
  - (b) one of the teachers at the school, elected annually by secret ballot by the teachers who teach at the school;
  - (c) 3 representatives of the parents' advisory council who are
    - (i) parents of students enrolled in the school, and
    - (ii) elected annually by the parents' advisory council.
  - (d) if the school enrolls students in grade 10, 11 or 12, one student of school age enrolled in one of those grades at the school, appointed annually by the principal of the school after consulting with the students enrolled in those grades at the school.

- (4) One of the representatives elected under subsection (3) (c) must be an elected officer of the parents' advisory council.
- (5) A board may appoint a person to fill a vacancy on a school planning council if
  - (a) there is no parents' advisory council for the school,
  - (b) the parents' advisory council for the school does not elect 3 representatives under subsection (3) (c),
  - (c) the teachers at the school do not elect a representative under subsection (3) (b), or
  - (d) the principal of the school does not appoint a student under subsection (3) (d).
- (6) The term of office of a person appointed or elected under this section to the school planning council must not be more than one year.
- (7) An employee of any board is not eligible for election under subsection (3) (c) or an appointment in the circumstances referred to in subsection (5) (a) or (b).

**Role of a school planning council**

- 8.2** A board must consult with a school planning council in respect of the following:
- (a) the allocation of staff and resources in the school;
  - (b) matters contained in the board's accountability contract relating to the school;
  - (c) educational services and educational programs in the school.

**School plan**

- 8.3** (1) In each school year, a board must approve a school plan for every school in the school district.
- (2) By a date set by the board, a school planning council must prepare and submit to the board a school plan for the school in respect of improving student achievement and other matters contained in the board's accountability contract relating to that school.
  - (3) A school planning council must consult with the parents' advisory council during the preparation of the school plan.
  - (4) The board may approve, approve with modifications or reject a school plan submitted under subsection (2) or (6)
  - (5) Before approving a school plan, the board may
    - (a) consult with the school planning council about modifications to the school plan, or
    - (b) direct the school planning council to modify all or part of the school plan by a specified date.
  - (6) The board may direct the principal of a school to prepare and submit to the board a school plan for the school by a specified date if
    - (a) the school planning council does not submit a school plan under subsection (2),
    - (b) the school planning council does not comply with a direction of the board under subsection (5) (b), or
    - (c) the board rejects the school plan submitted under subsection (2).
  - (7) A board must make a school plan approved under subsection (4) available to the parents of students attending that school.

**District parents' advisory council**

- 8.4** (1) A parents' advisory council, through its elected officers, may apply to the board for the establishment of a district parents' advisory council.
- (2) On receipt of an application under subsection (1), the board must establish a district parents' advisory council for the school district consisting of representatives elected to the council under subsection (3).
  - (3) Each parents' advisory council in a school district may elect annually one of its members to be its representative on the district parents' advisory council for a term of not more than one year.
  - (4) There must be only one district parents' advisory council for each school district.

**Purpose and operation of district parents' advisory council**

- 8.5** (1) Subject to section 67 (5.1), the district parents' advisory council may advise the board on any matter relating to education in the school district.
- (2) A district parents' advisory council must make bylaws governing its meetings and the business and conduct of its affairs, including bylaws governing the dissolution of the council.
  - (3) A superintendent of schools for the school district, a designate of the superintendent or a trustee of the school district may attend any meeting of the district parents' advisory council.