Welcome from the District Parent Advisory Council
To PACS and parents of Coast Mountain School District #82.

1. What is DPAC?

DPAC is the District Parent Advisory Council and includes a representative of each PAC in CMSD#82. We gather electronically or in-person as a separate board to provide leadership to PACs as well as to communicate and provide a parent view to the School District #82 Board and staff, as the policies are reviewed and budgets are made at a district level each year.

2. Why be involved?

DPAC Representatives bring forth news about their school PACs, help to identify common issues and points of inquiry for parents at a district level. DPAC supports PACs to develop and helps parents to connect with the school system. DPAC also communicates back to the PACs about changes or asks for feedback from PAC on policy or issues to represent the local schools interests and inform the Board of impacts your PAC may be having or answer your questions. For example annual review of the Code of Conduct, the use of seclusion and restraint in schools, funding issues, review of alternative schools, French immersion, development of trade related, learning outcomes and goals, development of new curriculum, implementation of Response to Intervention, budget priorities and so on. The Board doesn't hear your voice at the school level directly. DPAC is the official “district” voice of parents and your participation is critical through your DPAC rep.

DPAC is a separate agency and has a Constitution and Bylaws and obligations under the School Act and Society Act to support parents to be involved in education with the ultimate goal of increasing student success in schools. DPAC has separate funding from PACs.

DPAC meets on the 4th Monday of each month for this school at the School Board Office in Terrace (Dec/ March Breaks and on rare Monday that conflict with Stat Days an alternate Monday.) Some travel reimbursement and electronic attendance are available.

3. PAC's role in choosing the DPAC Reps!

Each PAC elects a DPAC Rep. Some larger PACs also elect an alternative person. Our Constitution also requires that DPAC representatives be elected by secret ballot. This is a requirement by legislation of the School Act. Therefore please use secret ballot for your selection.

4. Letting DPAC know!

Finally we request that you inform DPAC of who the person(s) elected and their contact info to Chairdpac82@gmail.com and Secdpac82@gmail.com (see Form attached or on our DPAC website http://cmsd.bc.ca/about-dpac/)
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5. What if our PAC does not have enough people or has no one is able to be a DPAC Rep?  DPAC is your voice and what we do impacts your school and your children. We want to help your PAC to develop and we would appreciate a school contact person to keep you informed. We will still help you connect with BCCPAC with membership, invite your school to our PAC café or other events where we have a person to contact. Please have your PAC either choose a “contact person” or provide information about who your executive are with contact information to ensure your school parents have their voice or do not miss important opportunities. (See membership form: No DPAC Rep and mark School Parent Contact.)

6. What if our school doesn’t have a Parent Advisory Council?  (Principals: Please forward this information to your parents.)
DPAC is willing to come to your school and work with you and your school to increase parental involvement in whatever unique ways your school may need. Contact Chairdpac82@gmail.com
Please fill out membership form: (no current PAC; Contact person)

7. External Committee Parent Representatives: Nominations from PAC

The CMSD#82 Board of Education has asked DPAC to provide parents to participate on two of their committees to provide “stakeholder” input. One is the Education Committee and the other is the Budget Committee.

The Education Committee meets monthly to present and discuss projects, frameworks, educational goals and developments in the district and can make recommendations to the Board.

- The Budget Committee meets once a week usually for about 4-6 weeks to develop the budget.
- Both meetings occur after school from 4-6 pm at the School Board office.
- Both committees have 2 parent positions on these committees.
- Both External Committee Reps are required to attend to the DPAC meetings to report back and to gather information from DPAC to represent to the committees.
- Some travel to the Board office from outlying areas is available

This is a unique and important volunteering opportunity for parents.

PACs nominate interested parents and DPAC executive review the nominations and appoints the parents to these positions annually. Names of past nominees are also considered.

There is great value in having PACs nominate interested and committed parents for External Committees. These parents do not need to be PAC executive but PAC executive are also welcome. Any DPAC rep is eligible however we ask that the PAC provide a nomination form to help the DPAC make the selection.

See External Committee Nomination Form attached or on our website: http://cmsd.bc.ca/about-dpac/
Any questions: please forward to Chairdpac82@gmail.com.
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6. BCCPAC annual Membership: DPAC can help you!

District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) is offering to cover the $75.00 annual fee for membership with BCCPAC to all Coast Mountain School District PACs.

BCCPAC is updating their info and this will help them to apply online at http://bccpacmembership.weebly.com/

Note on the bottom of the form: Who will be paying? Check DPAC.

Please email a letter to chairdpac82@gmail.com and c.c. treasurerdpac82@gmail.com to confirm you have applied and we will check with BCCPAC directly for payment by Nov 15, 2016.

Reasons to Join BCCPAC

1. BCCPAC is the official provincial level “voice of parents” according to current legislation.
2. BCCPAC advocates for systemic changes to the education system based on your voice.
3. PACs and DPACs present “resolutions” to the Annual General Meeting, for discussion and support. If accepted by the membership, BCCPAC will lobby the government for your proposed changes.
4. BCCPAC is successful in its ongoing lobbying regarding changes to legislation that impact your children.
5. BCCPAC Board of Directors are elected at the Annual General Meetings by your PAC/DPAC reps and are parents like you. BCCPAC has some hired staff and there are opportunities with BCCPAC.
6. BCCPAC provides a format for networking with other PACs and DPACs, providing information, website and forums on critical topics, advise on your PAC development and connection to other PACs.
7. Newsletters are available and resources BCCPAC sends out regular communications.
8. Opportunities to receive leadership education from skilled experts at our annual conferences.
9. Travel subsidies are available for members through DPAC to attend the Conferences.
10. Opportunities to serve on various provincial committees, and to provide feedback through focus groups and opinion polls.

General BCCPAC membership info online http://bccpac.bc.ca/membership

7. DPAC can help your PAC:

Developing or reviewing your constitution? Want a presentation on DPAC and BCCPAC? Want to help parents who need to advocate for their child in the school? Want to explore options to support your PAC to develop? Need help resolving conflicts? Need help connecting with education systems? DPAC members are willing to help your PAC. Contact your DPAC rep or Chairdpac82@gmail.com

DPAC is excited to begin the 2016/2017 school year and we hope to connect soon!

Your current DPAC Executive: Chair: Rebecca Georges, Vice-Chair: Terri Edmond, Secretary: Krystal Miller, Treasurer: Fiona Broome, Member-at-Large: Jaquie Strachan.