

*The Parent Voice:
Creating Connections To
Support Student Success*



**2012 BCCPAC
Spring Conference and
Annual General Meeting
May 25—27, 2012**

Executive Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre
405 North Road
Coquitlam, BC V3K 3V9



www.bccpac.bc.ca

Friday May 25, 2012

Breakfast on your own

7:30am Registration and Exhibitors

8:30am **Welcome**

9:00am **That Place Called School: Building Resiliency in Children One Site at a Time**
with Jeff Stewart

Next to parents and guardians, schools are the most important resiliency factor in children's lives. While the *BC Education Plan* presents the framework of a much needed and dynamic model of curriculum reform, there is a parallel and arguably a more essential shift that needs to take place in the province to transform school cultures and communities into places where children thrive, not simply survive. To do this we need to end the long standing isolation of our schools from their communities. This vision requires our collective dedication to a new and dynamic relationship with the place called school; one that surrounds each child with personal connections and resources to ensure that all students are on a trajectory to live full and rich lives. This presentation explores the growing evidence and realization that our schools have to be re-invented in terms of a "village", structured and surrounded by rich connections and relationships to the community, focused on raising the whole child.

10:15am *Break*

10:45am **Panel Session**

11:45am *Lunch*

12:30pm **Workshop Sessions**

A: It All Counts— Treasurer 101

with Susan Wilson (BCCPAC Treasurer)

This session will provide PACs and DPACs information on gaming funds, budgets, finances and the reporting obligations associated with them. It is ideal for volunteers who are treasurers, are considering becoming a treasurer, or who want to play more of a role in the financial work of their PAC or DPAC. Bring your questions, budgets and forms for sharing.

B: Resolutions R Us

with John Puddifoot (Resolutions Committee Chair)

Do you have questions or just want more information on the resolution process or resolutions coming to the AGM? This will provide an opportunity for members to learn about resolutions, an overview of voting procedures: how to move, amend and speak to resolutions at the AGM, and an opportunity to learn more through discussion and questions. Resolutions provide policy and direction. What real changes can we expect a resolution to make? How far should the Board go to lobby for each resolution? How can members be involved in supporting that? Members submitting resolutions at the AGM are encouraged to be in attendance to answer any inquiries about their own proposals.

C: The Light at the End of the Hallway

with Jeff Stewart and Steve Cairns

The ideas from the keynote address are not simply "cloud theory". This workshop will present an overview of the growing application of these ideas in two communities: Burnaby and the Comox Valley (Vancouver Island).

The workshop will provide an opportunity to explore how we are transforming the relationship between school, parents and community partners to focus on the development of the whole child.

2:15pm *Break*

2:45pm **Minister of Education George Abbott**

4:00pm **Workshop Sessions**

E: DPAC Chair Meeting with Minister Abbott

DPACs are uniquely situated to support parents as partners in education. DPACs are encouraged to discuss and bring forward key issues from their membership to share at this meeting which will be attended by the Minister of Education, Honourable George Abbott. Attendance is limited to one delegate from each district (the DPAC Chair or alternate). Please be sure your district has a delegate registered to attend this session.

F: A Parent's Brain on Stress: Fragile, Fried or Fortified?

with Raj Dhasi

This interactive session takes a close look at the effects of stress on the brain of a parent. Special attention will be given to understanding:

- What's your current stress level?
- How does the way you see your parenting role effect your brain?
- What's the impact of stress on aging and memory?
- How does multitasking effect your brain?
- How is your child's brain impacted by your stress level?
- What are easy yet scientifically sound strategies for managing stress effectively?

G: Emergency Preparedness

This session will look at basic Emergency Management; what basics should schools have in place; what do schools need to know - response plans including student release and preparedness planning - such as education, drills and supplies; what can we do to help make this happen, who is responsible for what and what are next steps to building the future for school emergency management.

5:30pm Conference Day Ends

7:00pm Resolutions Café
Parking Lot 101

8:15pm We're All in This Together—Meet the BCCPAC Board and share a vision

9:30pm Networking Lounge

Saturday May 26, 2012

Breakfast on your own

7:45am Registration and Proxy Room opens

Morning Sessions

8:00am Coffee with the Candidates

9:10am Introduction to the BCCPAC AGM

10:00am BCCPAC AGM—Call to Order

Lunch provided

4:00pm Meeting Ends

7:00pm Evening Events hosted by Coquitlam DPAC

9:30pm Networking Lounge

Sunday May 27, 2012

Breakfast on your own

8:00am Registration

8:30am The BC Education Plan: What Can We Expect for Our Children

with Maureen Dockendorf

The Ministry of Education is committed to working with education partners to transform the BC education system ensuring students are at the center of everything. Curriculum will be redesigned to reflect core competencies, skills, and knowledge that students need to succeed in the 21st century. A curriculum with less content and more attention to higher level thinking will enable deeper learning and understanding. Increased flexibility is key to ensuring that the learning needs of all students are met and students' passions and interests are realized.

Maureen Dockendorf is a team member of the Ministry of Education's Learning Division. She will provide a summary of proposed changes that will impact the learning of BC students with a focus on improving life chances for every child, every day.

9:45am Break

10:00am Workshop Sessions

I: Enhancing Play Based Learning at Home

with Maureen Dockendorf and Nancy Carl

Early learning classroom experiences are designed for children to actively learn through play. This practical session will provide parents with a variety of play based learning activities that can be adapted to the home environment, and show new ways that teachers are communicating with parents through documenting children's learning utilizing a reciprocal process to inform the next steps in learning. This session will also help parents understand the learning that is occurring when children are engaged in rich, personally meaningful play based experiences.

J: Speaking Up!

Join this workshop on the most important topic - making it better for students. After all these years we are still experiencing and addressing the same issues - putting time and effort to overcoming the same barriers. We all can use help in understanding the school system. How can parents speak up on behalf of children and teach children to speak up for themselves? Learn how to identify and solve problems, and have the confidence to speak up. You will be provided with information on policy and process, practical skills, tools and humour to inform and inspire you. Let's talk!

K: School Planning Councils (SPCs)

This session will explore the roles and responsibilities of School Planning Councils (SPCs) and parents in the process of identifying, consulting and the setting of school goals. Learn to use evidence to create living documents connected to the school community. Stories and experiences of collaboration and planning will be shared along with resource materials. This is an interactive workshop with many opportunities to share and explore strategies and practices that support student achievement in your school and district.

L: Healthy Minds Matter

This session will provide ideas for promoting good mental health, descriptions of behaviors that may indicate problems and how special needs may affect mental health, guidelines for understanding how boys and girls differ, a framework for knowing when a behavior is normal, when monitoring or action is needed, and when to refer to a specialist. You will be provided with tools and resources to collaborate and enhance capacity, practical suggestions for the prevention of mental health problems, and early intervention strategies to use at home.

11:45am **Just Ask Us—Student Panel**

12:15pm **Lunch**

2:30pm **Workshop Sessions**

O: Beyond the Basics: Making A Difference

Parent involvement spans the continuum from first entering the school system to leadership within the school system. Parents through PAC, DPAC and BCCPAC can

and do effect positive change. Learn how to plan for the future (from idea to implementation) and be recognized as a meaningful and important member of the school/district community. What are the roles and responsibilities of parent leaders to create the collective voice of parents in your school, district and the province? This is an opportunity to network, share ideas and information with PAC and DPAC executive and leaders from around the province. Parents as partners - connecting to make a difference for students.

P: BYOB (Bring Your Own Bylaws)

Why do PACs/DPACs need bylaws? What is the purpose and should be included in the bylaws? Where should copies be kept? When should changes be made? How do we know if what we are doing is right? Bring your questions along with a copy of your Constitution and Bylaws and determine if what you have is what you really need.

Q: Worries & Woes in Your Child—How to Know What's Too Much!

with Dr. Lynn Miller, Ph. D., R. Psych

Anxiety disorders are the most common form of psychological distress reported by children and adolescents, and can interfere significantly in the lives of children. An anxiety disorder is a level of anxiety that interferes with daily functioning, either with peer relationships, academic performance, or in family routines. Children with anxiety disorders are shy, inhibited, and avoidant: school personnel are typically very good at identifying anxiety in children but may not use the most effective interventions to support students.

R: Special Needs: Finding Your Way

Collaborative team planning and parental involvement is key to success for all learners and is an integral component of the IEP/Learning Plan process. A well planned intervention model with ongoing "review and revise" is critical to ensuring students are successful learners. How do you make IEP meetings productive and supportive for your child? How do we get back on track when our perspective differs from that of the school? Let's learn and support one another.

4:00pm **Lessons Learned: Where do We Go From Here?**