

School Council vs. Parent Society

NELLIE MCCLUNG SCHOOL
JANUARY 2016

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What is School Council vs. Society?

School Council is a collective association of parents, teachers, secondary students, principal, staff and community representative(s) whose **purpose is to advise the principal and the board respecting matters relating to the school.**

Parent Societies or Associations are **formed to support and enrich school programming or specific programs in the school** and are predicated on the following principles:

- Activities undertaken by parent societies are meant to support the needs and success of students
- Collaboration is fostered through communication and understanding amongst parent societies/associations, school councils and the CBE

What is a School Council?

School Council Functions include:

Consulting with the principal so he or she can ensure students have opportunities to meet Ministry standards, fiscal management is sound and the community's expectations are taken into consideration during school-based planning

Advising the principal and the school board/charter board

Being involved in school-based planning

Sharing ideas and information with other school councils and provincial organizations

Communicating information to the school community and other school councils

Setting policies that relate to school council functions

Nellie McClung School Council Membership

Membership of Nellie McClung School Council is open to:

- Any person who is the parent, guardian or legal custodian of a child enrolled in Nellie McClung School
- Any member of the staff of Nellie McClung School
- Community representative(s) appointed by the Nellie McClung School Council

Nellie McClung Councils Executive

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Principal

Teacher

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Key Communicator

Education Partner Liaison

Members-at-large (2)

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Fundraising Coordinator

Volunteer Coordinator

Members-at-large (2)

School Council Decision Making & Governance

The principal, is the key educational leader at the school level who holds responsibility for directing the management of the day-to-day operations of the school.

The actual decision-making authority of the school council, as a whole, is limited to:

- a) developing policies at the school level, as described in the *School Act*,
- b) planning support activities that align with school council's **purpose** and
- c) choosing what advice to provide the principal and board on relevant topics.

Nellie McClung School Council follows the Assembly/Town Hall form of governance

Voting on a motion is on the basis of one vote for each member, where the majority of votes prevails

Annual General Meeting and Report

Every year the School Council shall hold an Annual General Meeting which shall be open to all concerned participants within the school.

The purpose of the meeting is detailed in the bylaws and includes: an Annual Report Presentation from the Chair, Financial Statement Report from the Treasurer, Report from the Principal, Report on Fundraising, Election of new Executive.

The School Council through the Chair must also prepare and provide the School Principal with an annual report as per the requirements of the CBE regulations.

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Operates in tandem with the Nellie McClung School Council

Is incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta

Is a Registered Charity with CCRA

Is governed by bylaws dated September 2004

Holds a Casino Licence from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC)

PAC must hold meetings to vote on spending of Casino funds: CBE staff has no voting authority on such financial matters