

Our Vision: *To improve public education for all students by including and supporting parents*

Volunteers Needed for AGM Minutes Approval Committee

The AGM Minutes Approval Committee is essential to the operation of BCCPAC. The members of this Committee attend the BCCPAC Annual General Meeting and keep a record of the business that occurs, including who speaks to each resolution, which PAC or DPAC the person represents, any amendments to the resolutions and how the voting goes. They also review the draft AGM minutes, to ensure they match what they observed, prior to approving them.

To volunteer for this or another committee see <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/aboutus/volunteer.aspx>

Will We See You at the Kelowna Member Input Session?

The next Governance Audit Member Session is Saturday, February 28 in Kelowna. Don't miss your chance to set the future path for BCCPAC! These sessions are to review the very purpose of BCCPAC that is the foundation upon which it operates. There can be no improvements or changes to the governance of BCCPAC without a clear indication from the membership of agreement as to the purposes on which the BCCPAC Constitution is based. Don't rely on someone else coming in your stead. To date we have not received a single registration. The session will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel, Kelowna (North Ballroom), 2402 Hwy 97 North, Kelowna, BC, V1X 4J1 Toll Free: 1-888-860-1212, Phone: (250) 860-1212. Lunch will be served. The session is free, but the office needs to know the numbers attending so we can provide enough food. Please send a registration form. See the notice on the BCCPAC web site home page <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca>

February 28th is the Deadline for Nominations for the Board of Directors

Do you know someone who could contribute valuable experience and time to the Board of Directors? Perhaps that person is you. Consider a nomination for the Board of Directors election. The positions of First Vice-President, Treasurer and two Directors are open. Nomination forms and other information are available on the on the web site. Be sure to get the nomination form to the office by February 28.

<http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/aboutus/2008-09board/elections.aspx>

Learn How to Overcome the Most Common Fear

The fear of public speaking is the most common fear of all. You can learn to not only overcome that fear, but become expert at delivering presentations if you attend the two workshops, "Words That Can Change the World Parts 1 and 2 at the upcoming BCCPAC Spring Conference May 1st at the Radisson President Hotel and Suites Vancouver Airport in Richmond. The workshop leader is John Hawkins, author of *Public Speaking Mastery: The Complete Guide to Speaking with Passion, Power and Persuasion*. His expertise is sought out by corporations and non-profits alike because having the power to speak persuasively to an audience is one of the most powerful personal attributes you can obtain. More information on John Hawkins and the workshops is on the BCCPAC web site.

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=85#Words

BCCPAC Advocacy Project Seeks Input from Parents for IEP Self-help Guide

The BCCPAC Advocacy Project is looking for input from parents to help in the development of a new Self Help guide for Individual Education Planning (IEP). If your child has an IEP and you are interested in providing input, please click on the following link and answer the three questions:

- What parts of the Individual Education Planning process worked for you and your child and why?
- What parts of the Individual Education Planning process didn't work for you and your child and why?
- What kind of information do you think would have helped you participate better?

No information that would identify you, your child, other persons, or your school or district is required to participate in the questionnaire. The link is available until Feb. 27, 2009.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=YvHmZd6S6eAucOIC9wpRZw_3d_3d

Playground Grant Information

Some member PACs have contacted the BCCPAC office for information on the BC Government Playground Grants. The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch administers the grants, which are available to PACs throughout the province, provided they submit the proper application information and are eligible. Based on the projected cost of the playground, the Branch will provide funds up to \$20,000. For complete details on the playground grants see the web site <http://www.mhr.gov.bc.ca/gaming/grants/playground.htm#one>.

Pink Shirt Day February 25th

Thanks to a group of students who wore pink to show their support of another student who was being bullied for wearing that colour, pink has become the international colour of anti-bullying advocates. This year BCCPAC encourages all parents and students to stand up to bullying by wearing a pink shirt. For more information and anti-bullying activities see <http://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>.

BCSTA Election Brochure

The BC School Trustees Association has produced a brochure to assist voters to support candidates in the upcoming provincial election for whom public education is a priority. The brochure indicates ways to promote the value of public education and questions to ask those seeking election in your district. It can be downloaded from the BCSTA website <http://www.bcsta.org/main/>.

Students May Adopt a Country

Students from across British Columbia will have the opportunity to connect directly with countries around the world through a new Adopt a Country program. BC schools may adopt one of the approximately 80 countries that will participate in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Schools may choose to conduct research, or to connect with students, cultural organizations, and Olympic and Paralympic athletes, from their adopted country, through video messages, webcasts, letters or email. For more information see the Sharing the Dream website at <http://www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/>

NewsBytes is a regular e-mail communication sent to BCCPAC members to highlight items of interest. Others may also subscribe to NewsBytes. Contact BCCPAC at 604-687-4433, e-mail info@bccpac.bc.ca. Feel free to share this communication with others.