

W.D. Ferris Elementary School
Parent Advisory Council
Constitution and By Laws
Amendment Draft
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Please note that words and sentences in **blue** indicate the old ones and ones in **red** means amended words / lines.

Constitution

Section 1 Name

The name of the Association shall be the W.D. Ferris Elementary School Parent Advisory Council (School District No. 38)

The Council will operate as a non-profit organization with no personal financial benefit.

The business of the Council shall be unbiased towards race, religion, gender or politics.

Section 2 Purposes

1. To advise the school principal and staff on parental views about school programs, policies, and activities

2. To communicate with parents, and to promote co-operation between the home and the school in providing for the education of children

3. To assist parents in accessing the system, and to advocate on behalf of parents and Students
4. To organize PAC activities and events
5. To contribute to the effectiveness of the school by promoting the involvement of parents and other community members.
6. Raising funds to enhance student's learning environment – through programs, equipment, supplies, and the like.

By Laws

Section 3 Membership

1. All parents and guardians of students registered at W.D. Ferris Elementary School may be voting members of the group.
2. Administration and staff (teaching and non-teaching) of W.D. Ferris Elementary School may be non-voting members of the group.
3. Members of the school community who are not parents of students currently in the system may also be non-voting members of the group.

Section 4 Meetings

1. There shall be an Annual General Meeting for the purpose of election of officers held in June of each year and additional general meetings shall be held at least once a month during the school year to conduct current business.
2. The executive meetings and additional general meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive, or upon the receipt of a petition representing fifty per cent (50%) of the voting delegates.
3. Meetings will be conducted efficiently and with fairness to the members present.
4. If procedural problems should arise, [Robert's Rules of Order will be used to resolve the situation, unless they are in conflict with the guidelines in this Constitution.](#) Should appoint a person to keep a list of speakers ensuring everyone has a chance to be heard.

Section 5 Voting

1. [The At least 6](#) voting members including chair or vice-chair present at any duly-called general meeting shall constitute a quorum.

2. Unless otherwise provided, questions arising at any meeting shall be decided upon by a simple majority vote.
3. In the case of a tie vote, **the motion will be lost. the chairperson may cast the deciding vote.**
4. Voting of members on all matters must be given personally; voting by proxy shall not be permitted.
5. Voting shall be done by the show of hands with the exception of the election of officers which shall be done by secret ballot.

Section 6 Election of Executive Officers

(The group shall elect a slate of officers from the voting members for each school year. Number and position of executive members should be determined by local organizational needs)

1. The executive officers shall be elected from the voting-members at the Annual General Meeting, except that no employee / elected official of the school district or Ministry of Education shall hold an executive position.
2. Call for nominations shall be made at the meeting in May.
3. In the event of a vacancy on the executive during the year the Council shall elect the new officer who shall hold office until the next election.
4. Elections shall be conducted by the Nominating committee chairperson.
5. Scrutineers (**Ballot counters**) shall be appointed as required by the Nominations committee chairperson at the time of the elections.
6. A vote shall be taken to destroy the ballots.

Section 7 Term of Office

1. The term of office shall commence in July* of each year and shall be for one year.
2. Any elected member of the Council may serve on the executive for as many years as **he/she is they are** elected to a position but no person may hold any one position for more than **two three** consecutive years **unless the position is shared.**
3. No person may hold more than one elected executive position at any one time.
4. The Past-President **Chairperson** shall hold that office for one year.

5. Termination of Position

Any officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the voting members in attendance at a general, Special, or Annual General Meeting. Fourteen (14) days notice of the motion to remove an officer from office must be given to the members. An officer shall cease to hold office upon such removal or upon resignation.

6. Resignation

- Any officer may withdraw from office by submitting a written resignation to the chairperson.

- Vacancy of Executive

If any officer resigns during a term of office or if any office is not filled at the time of elections, the council executive may appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next election.

Section 8 Executive Officers

1. The affairs of the Council shall be managed by a board of elected officers and the immediate Past **President Chair**.

2. The Executive Officers will be as follows:

- A. **President Chair**
 - B. **Vice-President Co-Chair**
 - C. Treasurer
 - D. Secretary
 - E. District Parent Advisory Council Representative
 - F. Two or more Members-at-Large
- Fundraising, Hot lunch, etc are committee responsibilities.
- G. Past **President Chair**

A, C, and D positions are required to have a functioning PAC.
Officers positions may be held by 2 persons jointly.

Section 9 Duties of The Officers

A. **President Chair**

- a) Shall convene and preside at all membership, special, and executive meetings
 - b) Shall ensure that an agenda is prepared and presented
 - c) Shall appoint committees where authorized to do so by the executive or membership
 - d) Shall be an ex-officio member to all committees except the Nominating Committee
 - e) Shall take such actions or ensure that such actions are taken by others to achieve the objectives and purpose of the organization
 - f) Shall be the official spokesperson for the organization
 - g) Shall be a signing officer
 - h) Shall submit an annual report
- B. Vice **President Chair or Co-Chair**
- a) Shall assume the responsibilities of the **president chair** in the **president's chair's** absence.
 - b) Shall accept extra duties as required

- c) Shall submit an annual report
- d) Co-chair shall share the chair's duties equally.

C. Secretary

- a) Shall record the minutes of membership, special and executive meetings
- b) Shall distribute minutes to Council members
- c) Shall keep an accurate copy of the Constitution and Bylaws and if and when changes are made they shall be done so in red and the copy amended shall be dated and initiated and a copy submitted to the school board office for safe-keeping.
- d) Shall issue and receive correspondence on behalf of the organization
- e) Shall safely keep all records of the Council
- f) Shall submit an annual report

D. Treasurer

- a) Shall be responsible for and report on the accounts of the organization
- b) Shall be one of the two signing officers of the executive as per Section 11
- c) Shall prepare a financial report for publication in the school newsletter as per section 11
- d) Shall, with the assistance of the executive, draft a budget and tentative plan of expenditures as per Section 11
- e) Shall ensure that another financial signing officer has access to the books in the event of his / her absence.
- f) Shall submit an annual report

E. DPAC Representative

- a) Shall attend DPAC meetings
- b) Shall report back to the PAC
- c) Shall seek input from the PAC
- d) Shall submit an annual report

F. Members at Large

- a) Shall serve in a capacity to be determined by the Council at the time of their election, and at other times throughout their tenure as the needs of the Council might require
- b) Shall submit an annual report or committee activities

G. Past President Chair

- a) Shall help smooth transition between presidents
- b) Shall assist and advise the Council
- c) Shall act as a consultant for the president chair
- d) Shall chair the nominating committee
- e) Shall submit an annual report

Section 10 Committees

1. Standing and ad-hoc committees shall be formed when necessary.
2. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed annually before the Annual General

Meeting

3. Committees are responsible to the executive and members.
4. Members may be appointed annually to committees by the **president chair** (after consultation with the executive).

Section 11 Finances

1. A budget and tentative plan of expenditures should be drawn up by the executive and presented for approval at a general meeting prior to the end of May* each year.
A budget and tentative plan of expenditures should be prepared in April, present at May meeting and voted for approval at June meeting.
2. All funds of the organization will be on deposit in a bank or financial establishment registered under the Bank Act.
3. The executive shall name two signing officers, one of whom will be the treasurer and one of whom to be the chairperson as well as the school administration shall name two signing officers, one of whom will be the principal and one of whom to be the vice principal, for banking and legal documents. Two signatures will be required for these documents. One from the executive and one from the school administration.
4. All money spent above and beyond a pre-determined petty cash amount \$500,00 will be first presented to and voted on by the executive, and then approved by a majority at a general meeting.
5. A Treasurer's Report to all members should be published in the PAC/ school newsletter prior to the end of each school term.
6. A need for audits will be agreed upon by the members at any general meeting, where upon an independent auditor will be appointed as needed.
7. Fundraising for educational purposes may not be necessarily the sole right of the PAC.

Section 12 Constitution & Bylaw Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws of the W.D. Ferris Elementary School Parent Advisory Council may be made at any general meeting at which business is conducted, providing:

1. Written notice of the meeting has been given to all members (14 days minimum)
2. The notice of the meeting included notice of the specific amendments proposed
3. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those voting members present at the meeting will be

required to amend the constitution and By-laws

Section 13 Code of Conduct

1. The W.D. Ferris Elementary School Parent Advisory Council is not a forum for the discussion of individual school personnel, students, parents, or other individual members of the school community.

2. An executive member who is approached by a parent with a concern relating to an individual is in a privileged position and must treat such discussion with discretion, protecting the confidentiality of the people involved.

3. A parent who accepts a position as a PAC Executive Member:

- a) Upholds the constitution and bylaws, policies and procedures of the PAC.
- b) Performs her / his duties with honesty and integrity.
- c) Works to ensure that the well-being of students is the primary focus of all decisions.
- d) Respects the rights of all individuals.
- e) Takes direction from the members, ensuring that representations processes are in place.
- f) Encourages and supports parents and students with individual concerns to act on their own behalf and provides
- g) Works to ensure that issues are resolved through due process.
- h) Strives to be informed and only passes on information that is reliable and correct.
- i) Respects all confidential information.
- j) Supports public education.

4. Social Media

All social media connected to Ferris Elementary PAC will be managed by the Executives or by a member designated by the Chair or Co-Chair.

II. No one shall comment on behalf of Ferris Elementary PAC on any media platform without prior permission of Ferris Elementary PAC Chair or Co-Chair.

III. All communications by Ferris Elementary PAC, regardless of platform, will be for Ferris Elementary PAC, School District or Education related information purposes only. Ferris Elementary PAC communication channels shall not be used for any commercial, political or personal commentary, endorsement or disapproval unless related to PAC Executives or Members.

Section 14 Dissolution

1. In the event of dissolution of the Council, and following payment of all outstanding debts, disbursement of remaining funds will be decided upon by the membership at the final General Meeting.

2. In the event of dissolution of the Council all records of the organization shall be placed

under the jurisdiction of School District No. 38 in the person of the principal of the school.

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