

DPAC POLICY #102

Conflict of Interest and Perceived Bias

RATIONALE:

DPAC expresses the views of parents regarding education in School District #43. Parents bring a special expertise to the education forum that develops from their intimate experiences with children as they grow and develop and form a lifelong commitment to their children.

DEFINITIONS:

Conflict of Interest refers to a situation in which an individual or his/her immediate family could benefit monetarily from a decision of DPAC that this individual can influence or vote upon.

Perception of Bias refers to a situation that may exist if an individual who represents DPAC to an external organization or to the general public, is also an employee or elected official of a school district or the Ministry of Education. There may be a perception that he or she is not speaking solely in the interest of parents and this may diminish the power of what is said.

POLICY:

A. Conflict of Interest

That individuals refrain from discussing, influencing and voting upon any matter before DPAC in which they or their families have a pecuniary interest.

B. Perceived Bias

That the voice of DPAC must clearly be, and must be perceived to be, that of the parents of School District #43.

Those individuals who may be in a situation of "*perceived bias*" by virtue of another role they hold in the education system avoid functions within DPAC that involve representation to external organizations and the general public.

C. Concerns

Those members who have concerns regarding conflict of interest or perceived bias refer those concerns to the Committee.

PROCEDURES:

1. Concerns regarding conflict of interest and perceived bias will be referred to the Conflict of Interest Committee promptly.
2. The Conflict of Interest Committee will be composed of the President and two (2) other Executive members, and will deal with questions of conflict of interest and perceived bias.
3. The Conflict of Interest Committee will review any concerns that an individual is in a conflict of interest situation, and make recommendations as to how the situation may be addressed.

4. The Committee will review any concerns that a perception of bias exists. If the committee determines that a perception of bias does exist, this will be brought to the individual's attention, with a suggestion that the individual request a reassignment to another committee or position as appropriate.

5. If the committee does not resolve the matter with the individual, the committee will report to the DPAC Executive.

6. The Nominations Committee will refer to the Conflict of Interest Committee for review the situation of any candidate for an Executive position who provides compensated services to a School District or the Ministry of Education. The Conflict of Interest Committee will decide on the eligibility of such a person for an Executive position.