



MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF PARENT COUNCILS
2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE
EVALUATION RESULTS
(Total Received – 39)

1. How satisfied were you with the conference promotion and information material?

Very Satisfied 20

Satisfied 17

Dissatisfied 1

Very Dissatisfied 1

Please explain any suggestions for improvement:

Very Satisfied:

- Introduce the different schools attending the conference; better microphones
- Have each member introduce themselves and the school they represent – that would be more interesting
- I know it's hard but the AGM went on a bit long – maybe the people who get up to comment should only be allowed to speak for 2 – 3 minutes
- Presenter should be set up in attached room to allow us to gather more information and contacts

Satisfied:

- Would like more detailed agenda for weekend made available beforehand
- It's all new to me, I just need more time. Great job!!!
- More variety in the breakout sessions
- Need to promote your organization at the beginning of the year for us new chair people (what you can offer to us)
- Session on running an efficient and effective meeting
- Longer workshops; maybe less lecture time in the morning, then more time for workshops
- A website connection (didn't know there was one!) – I understand some of the info was incorrect
- Afternoon sessions were too short to cover the topic at hand – consider extending to two hour sessions, you could skip the networking to buy an hour

Dissatisfied:

- No notification from school – heard by chance by word of mouth. Our PC chair did not pass out this info

Very Dissatisfied

- I thought the sessions in the afternoon were short and didn't leave a lot of room for discussing the issues

2. How satisfied were you with the Keynote Speaker and workshop sessions of the conference?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Did Not Attend
J. Kevin Cameron - Saturday Keynote	37	1			
Parent Supporter Program	2	1	1		9
Safe Schools MB – Bullying Awareness	13	6	3		5
Roles and Responsibilities of the PAC	4	8	3		
MAPC Advocacy Project – Systems Advocacy	6	4	1		7
Safe Workers of Tomorrow	2	2			9
Promoting a Culture of Inclusion	8	12			4

For any sessions that you were not totally satisfied with, please explain. Your comments can help with planning in the future.

- Would have liked more ideas on how to recruit PC members; left feeling unclear on different types of parent councils types
- I just thought the Roles and Responsibilities wasn't long enough to really learn anything; it seemed kind of rushed
- MAPC Advocacy was a very good presentation; good interaction with Q&A
- Some misinformation if we are talking about people who come on PAC with "hidden agendas" that also includes PAC who have a "hidden agenda" with the school and school administration – crash meetings very inappropriate "some may take this seriously" if we work together
- Too large of a topic to discuss in one hour; one longer session may be better than two short ones
- Provide more time for the break out sessions; we didn't have enough time to go into the topics in depth – the topics were great, but only scratched the surface
- The speaker for the Bullying Awareness session was very ineffective
- The keynote speaker was exceptional and knowledgeable about an issue that is increasing in potential to occur to provide awareness
- I wish the examples used were more clear; less improvise; I loved the friendly atmosphere
- Advocacy Project – case study brought up towards end of session – although I really appreciate the time restraints, more time for discussion would have been very beneficial
- Our other board members attended the Roles and Responsibilities of PAC then we all attended MAPC Advocacy and it seemed to be the information could have been the same
- Roles and Responsibilities of PAC was helpful but should have been more in depth
- Roles and Responsibilities – it's such a big area and so many different levels – maybe just keep it at more simple levels; we talked a lot of conflict (that's a session on its own)
- Lots to cover – did a good job condensing a ton of info into your presentation; handouts were helpful
- I felt a bit rushed in the workshops; could there be something about how to bring parents in to meetings again next year
- Perhaps break into three break out sessions so that we can at least see three out of six ; maybe also need to be longer 1 ½ - 2 hrs
- Ended up being a racism session
- Role of PC – some confusion on difference between Advocacy for SL and PC; need more clarity

- Found that the Bullying Awareness was “generic”- not deep enough/new info
- The Bullying Awareness presentation was too basic – parental involvement might be helpful
- You could get two key note speakers
- I thought the Culture of Inclusion was directed more to individuals with mental disabilities (or learning) and I expected more cultural diversities
- Felt tired in the small conference rooms; sleepy
- All were helpful
- I was very satisfied with all the sessions; I felt the Roles & Responsibilities of PAC was a topic that probably could have had more time as there lots of questions
- Running out of coffee at the 10 am break!
- Promoting a Culture of Inclusion – liked the example
- Roles & Responsibilities is great but needs more time!
- Culture of Inclusion – NAME needs to be changed! I thought it was going to be about different cultures
- The Speaker opened my eyes to “no one just snaps”

3. Would you enjoy the networking sessions again next year? Yes 31 No 1

Comments (including suggested topics you would like to discuss):

- School Divisions banning chocolate sales
- It's reassuring to hear other parents struggling with the same issues
- Great questions for this year
- Lunch programs; supervision and responsibility
- Seatbelts on school buses
- Should students be suspended?
- Have a feed back session where groups have a chance to express their thoughts in front of other groups = leadership
- They were excellent topics and very well discussed
- Divisional funding formula
- Dealing with all the different behaviours affecting our schools and how we can deal and understand (FASD, sensory issues, disability); kids in younger years are spending a lot of time in hallways
- Strategies/activities that support the school
- Physical Education, Science and Math – separate classes for boys and girls
- Maybe there is a way to network by moving around the tables and speaking to other tables
- Any current topic in education
- Questions may need a little more context
- Balanced school day
- Lunch programs
- How to engage administration to be more supportive of PACs
- Networking was good
- I felt Hugh McFadyen was more sincere than Ian Band
- Only mixed with people at that table
- I enjoyed this years, I'm open either way to have it again or not
- Free form networking would be better
- Some of the issues were not relevant or we did not know anything about
- Not as it was presented this year with set topics of discussion because unless you where familiar with the particular issue it's hard to form an opinion

4. What did you like *most* about the conference?

Keynote Speaker, J. Kevin Cameron (25)

- FANTASIC! AWESOME! GREAT!
- Very scary and introduced something we can take back and ask about
- Extremely valuable information that I didn't know existed; gave me some hopeful guidance in personal life as well as my ECE profession
- Very inspiring, informative

Break Out Sessions/Workshops (8)

- Very informative
- Systems Advocacy session was excellent!!
- Variety of sessions
- I enjoyed the information given in the Bullying workshop and would certainly like to see this be presented in our school; very beneficial
- Choices of topics

Networking (7)

- Feeling of community
- Networking with other conference attendees
- Ideas to take back of parent council
- Connection of parents with parents
- Getting to know other PAC parents

Food/Hospitality Suite (4)

- Thanks for hospitality suite
- Good food and lots of snacks were appreciated
- Breakfast was nice

Miscellaneous

- Pace, not too slow
- I'm new to Parent Councillng – was very helpful to have some of the structure explained
- Chance to get info for self
- I really enjoyed everything!
- The students who introduced the presenters was a great idea!

5. What did you like *least* about the conference?

- Nit picking
- We needed more rest! Late night, early a.m....maybe an outdoor break?
- 7:30 am...yuck
- Early morning (although I recognize it may be the only way to get it all in)
- Late night, early morning – my own fault!
- Suggestion - contact PACs in Sept to help new boards and give advice where needed – let them know you are there
- I thought the sessions were a bit short
- There was not enough variety for the breakout sessions
- Needed more time for breakout sessions
- Breakout session I attended

- Promoting a Culture of Inclusion lecture
- Variety of workshop sessions
- Networking – some questions didn't understand what it meant and sitting with people who may see things differently
- The long meeting after supper!
- Too much sitting; I think that maybe some "role playing" in the workshops would be welcome, or more involvement with the audience
- Perhaps we need to have a two day conference – Saturday and Sunday
- I found the AGM rather boring
- Hard to hear in the conference rooms for the workshops; some speakers should have microphones in there
- Time frame Friday/Saturday – I felt that this was rushed; perhaps the AGM could be the final thing of the weekend
- Split workshops not back to back (i.e. keynote-workshop-lunch-networking-workshop)
- Nothing; was all good and I've been to quite a few of them
- Nothing I can think of – well paced, good food, well organized!

6. Were there any presenters that you would like, or *not* like, to see again in the future?

J. Kevin Cameron (7)

- I loved Kevin's presentation; he was dynamic, very informative while being entertaining
- Liked very much; he can always repeat his message again and again – parents need this knowledge. Bring him back!

- Dr. Mary Hall (3)

- Naomi Kruse
- Anne Kresta
- Roles and Responsibilities of PAC should be a double session; one was just touching the surface; great and necessary info
- Everyone was great
- I would see any of the presenters again
- Schools talking about what works well in their schools; picnics, fundraising, PAC
- Advocacy Project
- Parent Support Program – never went to
- I think the organizer should book Peter Bjornson for a Q & A period during one of days next year with an opportunity for us to prepare questions ahead of time so that he could prepare/field; I think this would be very helpful
- Department of Education re: P&P ex. Zero tolerance
- Did not particularly engage in Roles & Responsibilities of PAC facilitating approach – need more clarity on some of her comments but not enough time to ask questions

7. What topics would you like to suggest for the future?

- Sex ed
- Fun and creative things for parent councils to do
- Dept of Education – Policies and Procedures re: zero tolerance, etc.
- Running a meeting
- Bullying/cyberbullying
- Would like to see a networking session on a topic that we provide to you ahead of time
- More interaction about what other schools do
- Lunch programs run by PACs (2)
- The growing trend (in city) of community liaison officers (Winnipeg Police Services)
- More about roles and responsibilities of PAC, Part 2
- How to accomplish more details on how to get involved in plans on school/divisional/provincial levels
- Would like to take in advocacy project but couldn't fit it in
- Running PC meetings 101 – or Roberts Rules; get some input from chairs at schools where meetings are well run (get Principals to give input)
- Finding sources of income, grant applications, etc.
- Success stories, problem solving, running an effective meeting, effective executives
- Getting more parents out to meetings!
- Financial responsibility of parent groups
- How to encourage effective change within administration/teaching staff
- Policies specific to Manitoba – what principals roles are
- What PACs can do to raise money (ie share ideas of where people have gone or who they have gone to for fundraising)
- Role playing/behaviours
- Cultural differences (people deal differently with children, situations, schools)
- Threat Assessment & Trauma again – more aspects of it
- Peer orientation

8. Overall, how you rate the 2009 MAPC conference?

Excellent	12
Very Good	23
Good	2
Fair	0
Poor	0
No Answer	2

9. Please tell us about your experience with the Victoria Inn, Winnipeg (*where applicable*).

Hotel Room:	Excellent	5	Very Good	3	Good	1	Fair	0	Poor	0
Meals:	Excellent	18	Very Good	12	Good	3	Fair	0	Poor	0
Conference rooms:	Excellent	14	Very Good	14	Good	5	Fair	0	Poor	0

10. Other comments and suggestions:

- Glad that it was a lighter lunch buffet; better than last year
- Meals were terrific, nice atmosphere, registration welcoming and organized, all MAPC board members and staff made parents feel welcome. Thanks again!
- Great job – your commitment to the children and families of MB – Wow! Words cannot express my appreciation. Thank you.
- I enjoyed the Culture of Inclusion but thought it was about something else when I signed up for it – don't get me wrong, it was still GREAT!
- Would like to see a Q&A period with the Minister of Education some year (each PAC group would have option of bringing a question or have MAPC board screen questions ahead of time, or however they would see appropriate
- It was quite interesting and I learned a lot. Very well done, Thank you.
- We would like to send two people next year to attend more of the workshops
- I understand from a hotel employee that it wasn't their fault that there was no coffee at 10:00 because it wasn't order until 11:00
- Talk about fundraising – school board set guidelines to what we can do but they want our money (ie we can't sell chocolates. Parents feel a lot of pressure to sell; the schools seem to need a lot of money). We spend money on garbage cans, school items; we don't have much left for kids
- Other workshop sessions next door were distracting if they were too loud
- Please keep in mind that for rural members without high speed internet info should be on accessible link – no extra downloading
- I would have liked to see some of the sessions more involved with the keynote speaker
- I was just so over tired that my brain shut down!
- Thanks for a terrific day
- Also how to handle people with hidden agendas or how to keep members from getting distracted
- In the Embassy rooms the sound carries from other rooms when the speaker is miked – a mike doesn't seem necessary in such a small room
- Great job – glad I came!
- Maybe need a proceedings of the info that was presented
- First time attending – was great
- Will be interested in attending all the sessions

May 7, 2009