

Manitoba Association of Parent Councils

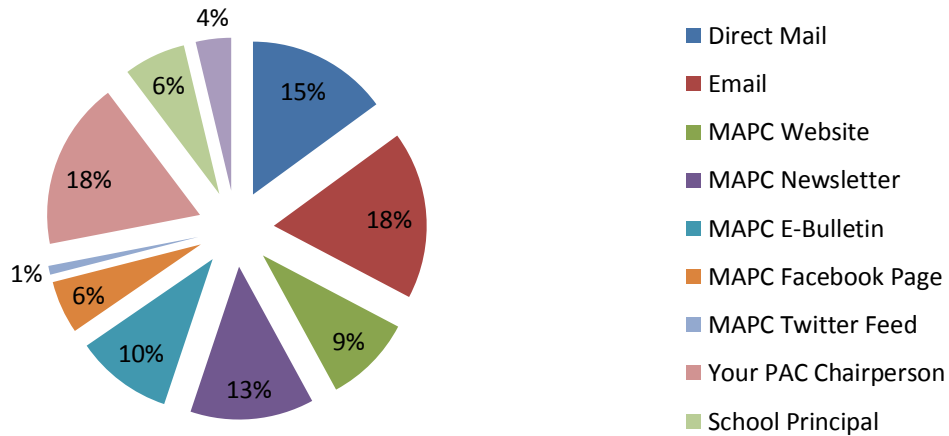
Chairpersons' Breakfast, Winnipeg and Brandon 2014

Evaluation Feedback – a Summary



1.

How did you find out about the MAPC 2014 Chairperson's Breakfast?



Additional comments about the promotion / communication of today's event:

- I liked how it kept coming up on my Facebook
- Can you ask if our chair's preference is email or hard copy? We prefer not to get paper – and I receive duplicate electronic and hard copy
- Excellent – good emails
- It was very informative...enjoyed the sharing
- Appreciate "free"
- Direct contact with MAPC office
- More promoting is needed by way of flyers
- Excellent communication to principals and MAPC Chair
- Well informed, appreciated the confirmation of registration
- Excellent!
- Very well done (B)
- Received them all. The communications sent directly to me and the ones sent to the school secretary also sent to me ☺ (B)
- Excellent. Information sent about today – you were kept up to date and reminded about the event (B)
- Please send a confirmation as soon as we are registered so I can ignore the other emails promoting it (B)

- It would nice to NOT get the emails to sign up when we have already signed up. We feel like our registration is not received if we get too many emails. Reminders are good though. Just not so many (B)
- Good, advance notice and good reminders (B)

2. What did you find most useful about today's event?

- Good discussion – great Emcee
- Everything was great
- Inspirational
- Thank you for the network opportunity
- Fundraising topics
- Building an effective PAC
- Communicating with other PACs and seeing how they respond to issues during the network session
- Groups – getting together and exchanging ideas
- Everyone sharing their ideas – communicating what works for their school. Great to have new ideas. Interesting in finding out what goes on at the higher levels and how parents can be involved in shaping their child's education
- Round table discussions
- Information about what is the trends in education
- Networking; MAPC info session
- Group discussions
- Lunch program info
- All!
- Breakout session re: lunch program
- Lunch program discussion
- Networking and exchanging ideas
- Found out about Bill 14 and some ways or ideas on how to deal with a difficult principal
- Networking with other PAC members from many different divisions and areas of the province
- What MAPC is about, how important it is, how to come together and make our school better
- Always useful to hear about other PAC initiatives, activities, fundraising
- Great MAPC review
- Learning more about the role parents can have in the education system
- Naomi's talk very good – didn't realize what the Advocacy Project was about
- Always great to network with other parent councils
- Talks from MAPC Executive and volunteers
- Open discussions

- Networking with other PAC Chairs / sharing ideas of “what works”
- Networking / discussion. Excellent topics!
- What other schools do for volunteering and what they are involved in
- Learning about how other schools do lunch programs and safety issues
- Information collected from other PAC members
- The discussion of what PAC’s think their purpose is
- Great discussion happened - congrats! Lots of networking opportunity
- Discussed the three different subjects with group discussion following
- I learned great information about the purpose of MAPC and my role as part of a parent council
- I found this very informing and it helped to network with other parents. I also learned how to be more positive and it helped to know what we can do to be part of the school
- Networking
- The brainstorming discussion was excellent
- MAPC information (Naomi ‘s presentation)
- Personally, this event has me thinking about the importance of community and how relational / communication skills are essential to learn. Where do we learn this?
- Networking – there is no other true opportunity or resource to interact and share ideas and solutions with other PACs
- Networking, sharing ideas
- Purpose of PACs, curriculum discussion
- Introduction of staff and volunteers
- The discussion about networking. Listening to other issues from schools (B)
- Notes that I can take back to Parent Council meeting. Also looking forward to Winnipeg notes to get off the website (B)
- A lot of PACs have the same questions and concerns. You were able to brain storm as a group (B)
- Different ideas. Great to hear other PAC ideas and plans (B)
- Sharing info about today’s concerns in our schools with other PACs (B)
- The purpose and role of MAPC & through their assistance what resources and links through the internet available (to assist with acquiring more knowledge and assisting the teacher, parents, etc., in educating the kids (B)
- Networking; learning services MAPC can provide (B)
- I loved the networking going on both formally and informally (B)
- Networking! Thinking about our role and what admin thinks our role is (B)
- Information regarding role of MAPC and what work is being done (B)
- Effective PAC discussion (B)
- It was very beneficial to hear what other parent councils do for their schools/staff/students (B)

3. How can we make this event more relevant or useful for you and your PAC?

- More time / info about lunch programs would have been great
- Breakdown positions in ways that would be most efficient
- Hearing how other PACs are working; issues other PACs are facing. I realize we had issues that had not even been considered as they were constantly pushed to the back behind more “pressing issues”
- Zero in on important topics that were discussed at previous
- Invite all the trustees as well
- Have a professional fundraiser come and talk about ideas
- More time for discussion topics; less on What is MAPC
- Not sure, think it works very well
- Allow longer time for networking
- I enjoyed what I learned. Maybe just an extra 30 minutes...
- Great breakout sessions – extremely useful
- Once people commit to coming, survey prior what topics we’d like to network about (only 1 of 3 topics felt relevant). Other topics: social media, beyond fundraising, by-laws writing or review
- More time management for discussion – too much – long winded experiences during networking discussions
- To have a little bit more info about hot lunch ideas
- Maybe have a superintendent or school trustee as a speaker
- Not actually sure
- Very informational - bravo
- Well done
- Discussed the three different subjects with group discussion following
- Just keep doing a great job – really enjoyed it
- Sandy kept everything running on time – excellent!
- Remind parents to keep side-chatter to a minimum. Remind parents to keep comments short – don’t ramble on or dominate conversations
- Perhaps a handout of what makes an effective meeting for the 9:30 session on effective PACs
- Offer an open discussion period where PACs can introduce a problem they have and receive feedback and support as a larger discussion group
- Perhaps ask PAC chairs about topics
- More discussion / review on lunch programs
- More discussion / review on running an effective PAC meeting
- Keep information coming from MAPC via website (B)
- Send out a survey to find out about topics we would like to see addressed in the future. This one was great (B)

- n/a. The information was well presented today (B)
- I found the 15 minute break I was able to chat with other PAC members and found out different things they've done. A longer chat session would be great as well. Have a sharing time within table groups (B)
- Very relevant already worth the time. The networking and group sessions most valuable for sharing of info (B)
- Not sure, it was great (B)
- Not sure (B)
- Curriculum experts to help us grasp what our kids are trying to learn. Which helps us help them with homework (B)
- I think there needs to be a discussion about how to cope with challenges of being a PAC and meeting goals, especially with reference to fundraising (B)

4. Do you plan on attending the 2014 MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference on Apr 25 & 26, 2014? Why or why not?

- Undecided at this time, researching who pays the fee
- Possibly, depends on husband's shift
- Would love to, however, have another conference that same weekend. Will make sure someone attends
- Yes, however, our PAC has already set our budget which did not include this function's costs
- No, time commitment. Still don't quite understand the relevance of the AGM for our PAC (which doesn't do a lot beyond home-school communication). No budget to pay for participants as we don't do any fundraising or have a bank account
- Not sure – conflicts possibly with a social event
- Yes I am attending, because I find to run a positive parent council you need to learn and attend these functions to learn how to be more effective
- Yes (4x)
- Not sure (6x)
- No (3x)
- Yes, last year was so much fun – I have been looking forward to it all year!
- Yes, I attended last year's event and found it very informative and fun. My favorite part was the Q & A with Education Minister Nancy Allan
- Yes, depending on children's activity/schedule conflicts
- No, work commitments (2x)
- Yes, to be inspired and motivated like today
- Yes, opportunity to stay connected to issues and networking. Be part of the process and represent our parent community
- Not sure - cost is an issue

- Unfortunately the last weekend of April never works for me, however, we always try and send a parent council representative
- No, I was invited to today's event
- Yes, haven't been able to in the past and look forward to attending this year. Interested in hearing keynote speaker and Minister of Education
- Going to try
- Yes – won the two-for-one registration
- Yes, all the info we can have helps
- Yes, it's interesting to know what is currently occurring in schools
- Not sure yet – will see the topics
- Sure would like to – if no one else is interested, otherwise would let someone know go
- Yes, looking forward to Q & A with new Education Minister
- Yes, any information regarding PAC is useful
- No – other commitments. Someone else from our PAC may attend (B)
- Yes, because it is pre-seeding time this year! (B)
- Yes, April is better than May for farming families like myself (B)
- I would like to make the trip to the city however, distance is a factor (B)
- I will not but I'm pretty sure another representative from our PAC will be attending (B)
- It would be nice to have this event held in Brandon. A lot of councils are located in the Western area. Winnipeg is not always easy to travel to (B)

5. Do you have any suggestions for future topic of discussion or presentations?

- Lunch programs (7 x)
- Running effective meetings
- Family life curriculum
- Social Media issues (6 x)
- Constitutions workshop
- Policy lesson – what are the components of the Public Schools Act/Education Act – what the basic entitlements to a student and family
- Obviously – social networking – use of email, Facebook, Twitter, etc. is a big issue
- Clear guidelines on how to deal with issues. Handout – flowchart – to use in times of challenge / distress (re: won't remember what is said but we might remember that we received a handout)
- Addition to Advocacy Project presentation
- Facebook Pages by PACs
- Ways to create an event/workshop to get parents engaged / involved in their children's school
- Ways to help newcomer parents with education system
- Ways to get family rooms in schools and keep them open for the summer so school is a link
- How to get more parents in the school attending meetings and volunteering

- Handling conflict within the PAC
- Grant applications (PAC run) – are there any out there that require minimal staff/administration/teacher involvement?
- Indoor recess issues
- Continue today's topics
- Special needs and differentiated learning
- Social media and PACs (3 x)
- How to get involved in the school plan (perhaps have principal & PAC chair co-present a success story). It's law now – how do we now implement at school level?
- More ways for parents to get involved in school decision making
- Possibly provincial budget guidelines – per school/per student, etc.
- The feedback from everyone was fantastic
- Keep up the good work
- Electronic communication
- Conflict resolution
- How, as concerned parents, we can change policy
- Lines of communication in conflicts
- Inclusive education
- Portables and safety concerns related to them
- Fundraising ideas and resources, grant resources
- Bullying programs that are effective
- Positive PAC environments
- Round table discussions regarding each schools PAC. Which school has many volunteers, most funds raised, to help benefit all PACs
- Addressing ideas regarding challenges of PAC groups...idea sharing (B)
- Home schooling help. Eg. How can I home school on a certain subject like French which is not taught to my satisfaction? (B)
- Changes with curriculum (B)
- I would address my parent council for topics they are interested in (B)
- Volunteering and how to get more volunteers on the parent councils (B)

6. Any additional comments or suggestions would be most welcome!

- Thanks!
- Do province-wide every other year – need rural/urban together
- Steps to conflict resolution: no funding for students who need support but do not have “the behaviour” to get funding
- Thank you for today

- What are we supposed to do with our dishes – clear the table on the break? Is it just that I want more order?
- You did a great job managing the time...there are so many things to talk about! Probably need to designate more time for the breakout sessions. Maybe only have 2 topics or don't get together as a large group
- Great morning! Thanks.
- My first year and it's amazing – thank you
- This is my second year. Excellent topics, food and company! See you at the AGM!
- Mic's around room during question and answer
- Comments from past members – Naomi and _____ invaluable
- Skip intros at beginning – takes up too much time & can't hear anyone. Instead just have a fun ice breaker such as...show of hands if you are grade k – 6; stand up if you're a secretary; stand here if you are new to PAC; 5 years and up form a group; etc.
- Breakout groups were way too large for everyone to communicate – no larger than 8/group
- Thank you for the invite
- I learned a lot today – more informed
- Great breakfast; good networking and sharing of ideas
- How to start a new council
- Have school board representation
- Thank you
- I appreciate coming and learning about MAPC & meeting people every year helps me feel more together with a force trying to help my children grow
- They were good – I liked hearing about MAPC and their role (B)
- These sessions should not be opportunities to “bash” teachers. Some parents feel free to do so. Limit comments so that everyone shares ideas rather than the same people talking on every topic at length (B)
- Very informative – great work ladies! (B)
- Thank you – well organized event (B)
- Keep the dialogue open (B)