

**MAPC Resolution
April 2012
Manitoba School Division Guidelines
Regarding Parent Council Financial Accountability**

- Respectfully submitted by Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Board of Directors for consideration at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

Background

Every year in Manitoba, many parent groups choose the responsibility to raise and manage funds to enhance their school communities and provide additional opportunities for the students attending. The guidelines these groups are provided with from their local schools and divisions can vary greatly, from too little to very specific.

Introduction Statement

In these instances, parent groups and school divisions often rely on the *Advisory Councils for School Leadership Regulation (The Education Administration Act C.C.S. M. c. E10)* for guidance regarding the management and accountability of these funds.

3(3) (b) - (An advisory council shall) "Establish a means whereby it is regularly accountable to the school and community for its activities and expenditures."

8(1) (a) - "The structure and activities of the parent council must conform to any policies that the school board may have about such councils."

As well, Manitoba Education has created the *Policy on School Funds*, which outlines the expectations that should be met when working with parent groups involved in fundraising, to avoid any potential liability concerns. <http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/finance/schfundpolicy.html>

Some school divisions have implemented very detailed guidelines for parent groups to follow, while others have few. In these instances, the management of funds often becomes an area of tension, due to the misunderstanding of current practice. Individuals may be left feeling overwhelmed or become agitated due to their personal interpretation of accountability and transparency. Administrators may incorrectly advise without detailed guidelines or direction about the control of fund management, due to their lack of understanding.

While MAPC is available to its membership to assist with the development of best practices for Parent Advisory Councils, we cannot encourage or enforce the use of divisional guidelines which do not exist, or are open to misinterpretation.

Action Request

Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC) strongly requests all school division teams in Manitoba to work in consultation with its parents to review, create, and further develop clear and effective divisional guidelines regarding management of funds by a parent group, as outlined within the *Advisory Councils for School Leadership Regulation*, and the *Policy on School Generated Funds*.