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# Characteristics of the Ideal PAC

1. THE IDEAL PAC HAS WELL ESTABLISHED AND EFFECTIVE PROCESSES IN PLACE, including:
  - a constitution and bylaws reviewed annually
  - a code of ethics
  - financial management and accountability procedures
  - conflict resolution
  - a schedule of regular meetings planned and announced in advance
  - procedures for appointment and accountability of committees.
2. THE PAC IS FOCUSED ON ITS MANDATE TO SUPPORT THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL STUDENTS. Relations with partner groups within the school community are mutually respectful, and the PAC is routinely consulted by administration and staff on school decisions.
3. THE PAC RECOGNIZES THE DISTINCT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE VARIOUS EDUCATION PARTNERS, and promotes equality, mutual respect and collaboration among partners in the system.
4. THE PAC IS INCLUSIVE, COLLABORATIVE AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DIVERSITY OF PARENTS IN THE SCHOOL. It is open to discussion and compromise, recognizing that there is no one right way to do things. The PAC keeps parents informed of its activities and regularly consults with parents to obtain their input on educational issues and decisions. It builds bridges of understanding and listens to parents to ensure proper representation.
5. THE PAC IS FINANCIALLY ACCOUNTABLE TO ITS MEMBERSHIP. All accounting records are maintained by a skilled individual, and reports are made to the membership on a regular basis.
6. PARENTS ARE PERSONALLY INVITED TO MEETINGS, AND PARENTS OF ALL CULTURES FEEL WELCOME. The PAC sets its own agenda for the meetings and the principal's report does not dominate the meeting. Communication is two-way, and discussions about educational issues are lively and engaging.
7. THE PAC SUPPORTS THE LEARNING OF PARENTS THROUGH PARENT EDUCATION, workshops, conferences, bulletin boards, and a parent resource centre including a library.

“The primary purpose of parent involvement is to establish connections, to learning or to a sense of community.”  
*Heather Wark  
and Fiona Morrison, SD 35,  
Langley*