

## **Bilingual Parent Advisory Council (BPAC)**

### **General Information**

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The New Jersey Bilingual Education Code (Bilingual Code or N.J.A.C. 6A:15), which outlines rules and regulations for Bilingual, English as a Second Language (ESL), and English Language Services (ELS) programs in New Jersey, is based on N.J.S.A. 18A.35-15 through 26. The Bilingual Code also gives authority to the New Jersey Department of Education to develop approval criteria for the Bilingual Education Program Waiver (N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.5) and the Three-Year Plan (N.J.A.C. 6A:15-1.6).

The Bilingual Code ensures the rights of English Learners (ELs) are protected, regardless of the specific program; the education of ELs is evaluated for effectiveness; and ELs are provided with a free, appropriate public education. As a way to protect the rights of ELs, the Bilingual Code requires the establishment of a Bilingual Parent Advisory Council (BPAC) in every district offering bilingual education services.

The Superintendent of Bellmawr Public Schools believes that schools exist for students, and consequently, our parents must be given the opportunity to provide their input to improve our programs. Through the BPAC, our superintendent is ensuring that our parents have a voice in order for their children to reach their full potential. Furthermore, the District Supervisor of Bilingual/ESL education collaborates with the BPAC with the logistics of the meetings and activities.

The main purpose of the BPAC is to give the parents of our English Learners a voice. Therefore, throughout their year, the council meets to provide input in the planning, operation, and evaluation of the various programs Bilingual/ESL program. Furthermore, during the meetings, the BPAC discusses important topics regarding our learning community.

The Council is mainly comprised of parents/guardians of children currently enrolled in any of the Bilingual/ESL programs being implemented in our school district. However, other members of our learning community are invited to participate and to become active members of the BPAC.

### **Mission Statement**

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The mission of the Bilingual Parent Advisory Council (BPAC) is to collaborate with the Bellmawr Board of Education to provide our English Learners with the tools they need to succeed in school. Acting as a liaison between the school district, parents, and the community at large, the BPAC will provide suggestions to ensure that every single English Learner in our district has an equal access to a quality education.

## **BPAC Goals**

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Review and provide input regarding Bilingual/ESL programs currently in place in the district.  
Review plans and grants dealing with English Learners and provide suggestions for improvement.

Serve as a liaison between the school district, parents, and the community at large.

Encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.

Inform parents about the advantages of bilingual and ESL education.

## **BPAC Meeting Dates**

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This year, the council will meet on the following dates:

- BPAC Meeting: 10/1/20 5:00 to 6:00 pm
- BPAC Meeting: 4/28/21 3:30-4:30 pm
- BPAC Meeting: 5/12/21 3:30-4:30 pm
- BPAC Meeting: 6/10/21 3:30-4:30 pm

## **Contact Information**

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Please remember that all parents with children in our Bilingual/ESL Program are welcome to participate and to become a member of the committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the following staff members:

- Frank Jankowski, BPAC District Coordinator; Director of ESL Education  
fjankowski@bellmawrschools.org
- Kathleen Mortka, Administrative Assistant, [kmortka@bellmawrschools.org](mailto:kmortka@bellmawrschools.org) (856)931-6362 ext. 3300