

AP 400.3: Event Protocol

The Superintendent has been given the responsibility to ensure positive external and internal communications are developed and maintained. Proper protocol is to be followed for events organized by schools. The Superintendent is to be informed whenever elected officials, dignitaries or First Nations leadership are involved in District or school events.

The success of a District or school event depends largely on good planning, as well as having a defined agenda and purpose for the event. If the event is well planned protocols normally flow smoothly.

Protocols will vary from one situation to another, depending on who is involved in the particular event. Accordingly, in the planning for an event, the order of introductions and speakers must be given special attention.

Procedures

1. When organizing a public event at which dignitaries are present, introduce the most senior dignitaries first:
 - 1.1 Members of the Senate representing British Columbia;
 - 1.2 MPs (cabinet members first);
 - 1.3 MLAs (cabinet members first);
 - 1.4 Board Chair and Vice-Chair;
 - 1.5 Mayor;
 - 1.6 Other trustees and civic councilors;
 - 1.7 Chief and Council, and Hereditary Chiefs
 - 1.8 Senior bureaucrats (superintendent and senior leaders of the school district and heads of other organizations);
 - 1.9 Prominent community members.
2. When organizing an event within the District schools, the introductions will take place in the following order:
 - 2.1 Board Chair;
 - 2.2 Board Vice-Chair;
 - 2.3 Trustees in attendance;
 - 2.4 Superintendent, Senior Leaders;
 - 2.5 Principal, Vice-Principal.

3. When organizing the order of speakers, protocols dictate that the most senior dignitary speaks last.
4. Seating is to be arranged so that the most senior dignitary is closest to the podium at all times.
5. Trustees are to be introduced at all times by the title of the trustee and their last name.
6. Provision is to be made for trustees and other important guests to be greeted by staff or students.
7. As audience members, dignitaries are to be provided with reserved seating in the front row.
8. Invitations to trustees to attend a school event are to be directed only to the liaison trustee(s) by the principal. The role and expectations are to be defined in the invitation. Provisions for parking are to be made for dignitaries and trustees. Trustees are to be notified at least two (2) weeks prior to the event. If trustees are invited the Superintendent must be informed.
9. The Superintendent is to be contacted if a representative of senior staff is requested to attend a school event.
10. The trustee invitation and School Board Office notice is to indicate who will serve as the Master of Ceremonies (MC).
11. When no trustee is available to attend, the MC will be advised to express regrets on behalf of the Board.
12. For assistance, contact the Superintendent's Office.