



Engaging and Effective School Councils

School Council Forums 2018

Inspire Learning!

Welcome

Goals for learning together

- Solidify our understanding of purpose and function of school council
- Collaborate within and among school council teams
- Renew our focus on student achievement and well-being

YRDSB School Council Policy

“The Board believes that strong partnerships are built from a common vision and common goals, nurtured through regular communication and meaningful consultation, involving all members of the school community through engagement and inclusion.”

Role of Parents in YRDSB

- Parents play the first and most important role in their children's education and are key partners in building a quality education system.
- One purpose of the school council is to promote and support the involvement of all parents in their children's learning.

The Important Role of School Councils

The Board believes that school councils play an important role in a variety of ways:

- building school, family and community partnerships
- providing input into relevant school level and Board decisions
- encouraging the meaningful involvement of all members of the school community in support of student learning.

Board Policy #262.0

Why School Councils?

School councils build school, family and community partnerships through a variety of strategies including:

- ongoing dialogue with and advice to the principal
- participation in the development and support of the school improvement plan
- volunteering in various capacities
- promoting parent education and learning at home
- coordinating, supporting and empowering community resources

The Role of School Councils

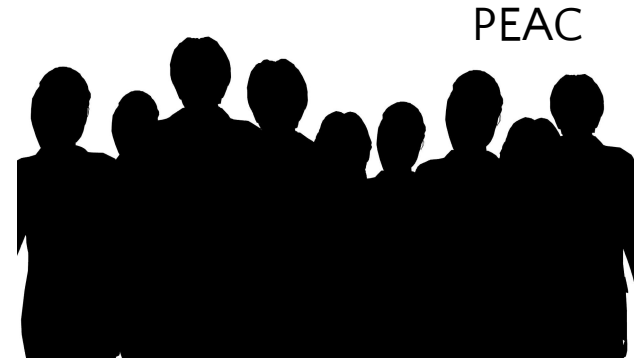
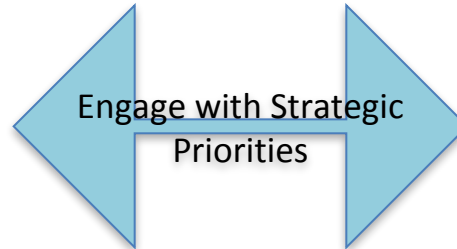
What are School Councils to *do*?

- School councils are advisory bodies
- They can make recommendations to the PRINCIPAL and/or the Board on ANY matter (with the exception of confidential personnel matters)

What is the *role* of School Councils?

- The role of the schools councils is to improve student learning and to develop a shared sense of accountability for the public education system among both parents and educators

Support for Board and school level priorities



Effective School Councils

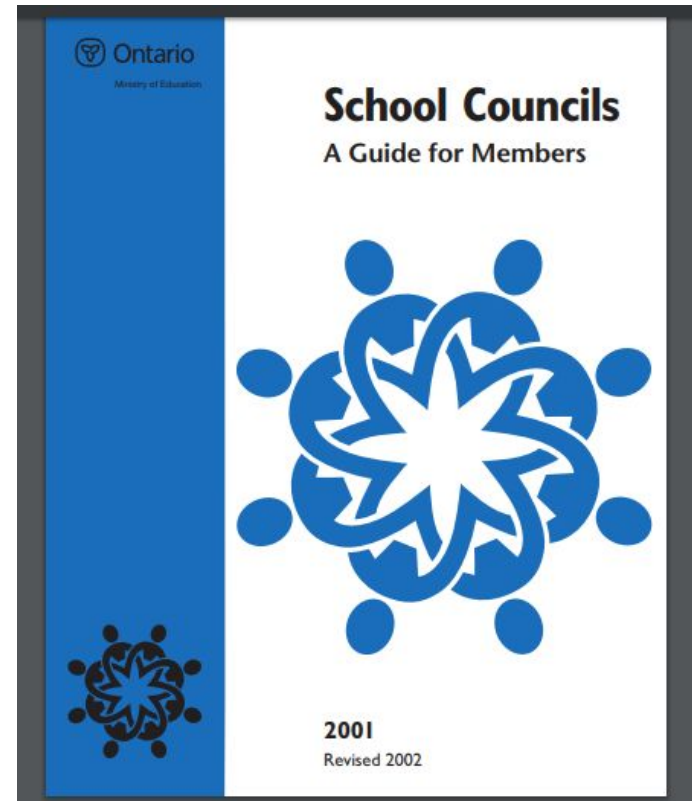
- focus on student learning and the best interests of ALL students
- are actively involved in setting school priorities for improving student achievement and well-being
- promote meaningful parental and community involvement and engagement, actively seeking the views of ALL members of their school communities
- have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities

Effective School Councils cont'd

- include members who represent the diverse views of their school communities
- keep well informed about school and board policies and procedures
- have clear and consistent processes for decision making
- communicate with the community about their activities
- maintain high ethical standards
- have members who have developed mutual trust and respect for one another

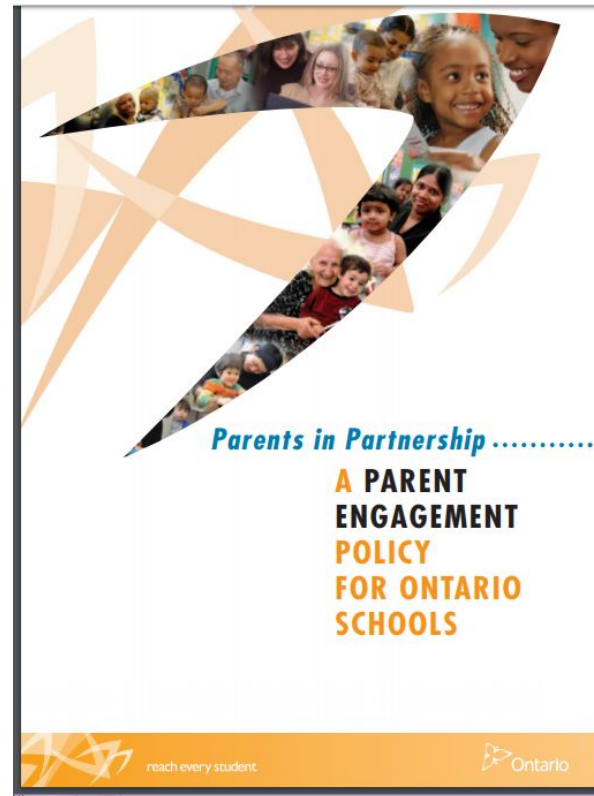
Role of Chair/Co-Chair

- arrange for meetings;
 - prepare agendas;
 - chair council meetings;
 - ensure that minutes of council meetings are recorded and maintained;
 - facilitate the resolution of conflict;
 - participate as ex-officio members of all committees established by the school council;
 - communicate with the school principal on behalf of the council
- Excerpt from SCHOOL COUNCILS : A GUIDE FOR MEMBERS, Ministry of Education
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf>



Engaging Your Community

- School Climate
- Eliminating Barriers
- Support for Parents
- Parent Outreach



Equity & Inclusive Education

Source materials students use that illustrate to students there are alternative perspectives that relate to their social experiences

Caring & Safe Schools

How do we reach the people that we aren't typically reaching, those who are marginalized and therefore underserved?

Math

At Family Math Nights, give parents access to devices so they can actually go to the site and explore, encourage families to look at math task together

Mental Health & Well-being

Create Schools as a “hub” - both virtually and mortar/brick... whereby students and parents are guided to develop / lead a variety activities

School Councils and Fundraising

The Board endorses a collaborative approach to fundraising initiatives by schools, students, parent groups and school councils that is consistent with the Board's mission, vision and values and with individual school improvement plans

Fundraising Policy and Procedure

What is a Fundraising Plan?

Fundraising activities must be compliant with:

- YRDSB policies and procedures,
- Municipal, provincial and federal legislation,
- Ministry of Education guidelines and policies,
 - the Fundraising Guideline,
 - School Food and Beverage policy,
 - Equity and Inclusive Strategy,
 - Facility Partnerships Guideline
 - Broader Public Sector Procurement and Expenses Directives.

Fundraising Policy and Procedure

Creating the Plan:

- Principal in consult with staff, School council, students, fundraisers
- Should align with School Improvement Plan
- All plans must be approved by Principal
- Created at the beginning of the year

Fundraising Policy and Procedure

Fund Management

- Spent in the year that they are raised unless the project is a long term project where funds cannot be raised in one school year (e.g. raising funds for a new playground).
- Spent on the intended purpose as per the fundraising plan and should benefit the student community.
- All funds raised should be provided to the school office at the end of each day.
- All funds should be deposited into the school generated funds bank account.
- Any excess funds raised in a fundraiser project should be reviewed by the principal and directed to another identified project in the plan, and reported to the school community.

Fundraising Policy and Procedure

What may funds be raised for?

- supplies, equipment or services which complement items funded by provincial grants, such as, but not limited to, extracurricular band equipment and audio-visual equipment;
- field trips or other excursions;
- guest speakers, presentations or to cover the cost of occasional staff to assist with events (e.g. extracurricular athletic events) and activities for students;
- ceremonies, awards, plaques, trophies or prizes for students;
- scholarships or bursaries;
- extra-curricular activities and events; and/or
- school yard improvement projects, such as, but not limited to, playground equipment, shade structures and gardens, with prior approval from Plant Services.

Fundraising Policy and Procedure

Funds may not be raised for:

- items funded through provincial grants such as, but not limited to, core learning materials;
- facility renewal, maintenance, or upgrades funded through the provincial grants, such as, but not limited to, structural repairs, sanitation, emergency repairs, or replacing flooring due to wear and tear;
- infrastructure improvements which increase the student capacity of a school or are funded by provincial grants;
- goods or services for employees, where such purchases would contravene the *Education Act or school council by-laws regarding conflict of interest*;
- professional development or occasional teacher coverage for staff attendance at professional development activities;
- administrative expenses not associated with the fundraising activity;
- support for religious or partisan political activities, groups or candidates; or
- food or gifts for staff (e.g. teacher appreciation lunch, retirement gift for staff).
- A fundraising activity should not result in any person, including school board staff or volunteers, benefiting materially or financially from the activity.

Fundraising Policy and Procedure

How should funds raised be reported?

- All communications (e.g. newsletters, forms, etc.) regarding fundraising initiatives should cite the purpose for the funds raised (e.g. “Proceeds from this hot lunch program will be used to purchase technology for classrooms”).
- A report should be communicated annually to parents identifying what funds were raised and spent.
- Additionally, YRDSB Quality Assurance staff monitor school funds annually, perform random reviews and audits, and submit an overall school generated funds report to the Ministry of Education each year.

Networking

1. Which engagement strategies have been successful? A challenge?
2. What fundraising ideas have worked at your school?