



SCHOOL COUNCILS 2009-2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORTS

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Rationale:

To provide trustees, School Councils, principals and senior administrators with the status of School Council initiatives and a summary of the annual reports received from School Councils.

Background:

School Councils complete an annual report and submit it to the Board. Highlights of each School Council’s report are also shared with the school’s local community. Annual reports also include a year-end financial statement. The annual reports are summarized and reported to the Board, senior staff, principals and School Councils. The summary is posted on the School Council pages of the Board’s website.

Summary of School Council Annual Reports

A total of 123 School Council reports were summarized: 102 Elementary and 21 Secondary. The response rate for Elementary schools was 63% and for Secondary schools it was 68%. Table 1 summarizes the number of responses received from each Community Education Center (CEC) and the respective response rates. Table 2 summarizes the number of responses from the Secondary panel and the total response rate.

Table 1

Elementary		
CEC	Count	Response Rate
Central	30	71%
East	26	65%
North	25	64%
West	21	51%
Total	102	63%

Table 2

Secondary	
Count	Response Rate
21	68%

The following sections summarize the information provided by School Councils in response to the questions asked in the annual report template. Each question is analyzed and summarized in relation to only those School Councils that responded to each particular question. The number of participants (n) is provided for each question.

QUESTION 1: During your last election process, parent members of council were selected by:

Across both panels, the majority of parent members of School Councils were selected by **acclamation**:

	Elementary (n=102)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Acclamation	75	74%	14	70%
Voting	25	25%	6	30%
Both	2	2%	0	0%

QUESTION 2a: How many parent members did your School Council have this past year?

The responses to this question from Elementary School Councils ranged from 4 to 51 parent members with an average Council having 13 members. The responses from Secondary School Councils ranged from 5 to 30 with a mean value of 13.

Number of Parent Members	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1-5	3	3%	1	5%
6-10	30	29%	9	45%
11-15	50	49%	5	25%
16-20	14	14%	2	10%
21+	5	5%	3	15%

QUESTION 2b: How many of those members were new to the School Council?

The responses to this question from Elementary School Councils ranged from 0 to 17 new members with a mean value of 4. The responses from Secondary School Councils ranged from 1 to 25 with a mean value of 5.

Number of New Parent Members	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0	3	3%	0	0%
1-2	28	27%	5	25%
3-5	49	48%	11	55%
6-10	18	18%	3	15%
11+	4	4%	1	5%

Decision-Making

QUESTION 3a: To what extent has your School Council had opportunities to provide input into the School Plan for Continuous Improvement during the past school year?

Across both panels, a majority of Elementary and Secondary School Councils provided input into the SPCI during the 2009-2010 year. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils had opportunities to provide input where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 101)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	4	4%	0	0%
2	16	16%	4	19%
3	28	28%	8	38%
4	37	37%	8	38%
5 (A Great Extent)	16	16%	1	5%

QUESTION 3b: If yes, in what ways has your School Council been involved with providing input into the content of the Plan?

In both panels, the most selected method of input into the SPCI was direct **collaboration with school administrators** (92% of Elementary and 84% of Secondary). As well, more than half of Elementary and Secondary School Councils indicated that they had **sent feedback to school administrators** (51% of Elementary and 63% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n= 96)		Secondary (n= 19)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Collaboration with school administrator (i.e. principal, vice-principal)	88	92%	16	84%
Discussion of SPCI content with teaching staff	32	33%	3	16%
Responded to survey or questionnaire	25	26%	5	26%
Committee directly involved in drafting or updating SPCI	25	26%	2	11%
Sent feedback to school administration	49	51%	12	63%
Other	6	6%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

QUESTION 3c: To what extent do your goals and priorities align with the School Plan for Continuous Improvement?

Across both panels, the vast majority of School Councils are aligning their goals and priorities with the School Plan for Continuous Improvement. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were aligning their goals and priorities with their SPCI where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 97)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	0	0%	1	5%
2	7	7%	1	5%
3	12	12%	2	10%
4	41	42%	12	57%
5 (A Great Extent)	37	38%	5	24%

QUESTION 3d: In what ways has your School Council supported the implementation of priorities and goals set out in the School Plan for Continuous Improvement?

Curriculum Implementation

A large majority of School Councils from both panels indicated that they had supported the implementation of SPCI priorities and goals through encouraging and supporting **parental engagement** (99% of Elementary and 100% of Secondary Councils). Most Elementary School Councils also indicated that they had supported the SPCI through **volunteers in the school** (89%) and **support for the arts** (88%).

Curriculum Implementation	Elementary (n= 101)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Parental engagement through communication and events (e.g., meet the teacher, Welcome to Kindergarten, technology in the classroom, guest speakers, Literacy Night, Curriculum Night, Snuggle-up-and-Read, school or council website, newsletter, teachers speaking at SC)	100	99%	20	100%
Support for the arts (e.g., musical presentations, Junior Arts Night, dance program, spotlight, microphones, risers, musical instruments, sound systems)	89	88%	8	40%
Volunteers in the school (e.g., guided reading, book clubs, in library, field trips)	90	89%	4	20%
Financial support for literacy (e.g., books, Silver Birch & Red Maple, boys' literacy initiatives, parent/family literacy corner, literacy resource room, classroom libraries, book clubs)	87	86%	3	15%
Financial support for math and science (e.g., math manipulatives, Scientist in the School, science equipment, microscopes, math cart)	52	52%	4	20%
Financial support for technology resources (e.g., media literacy, SmartBoards, computers, cost sharing, AV equipment)	87	86%	5	25%
Financial support for student health and welfare (e.g., nutrition and food programs, Healthy Schools, school safety programs, gym/sports equipment, swimming program)	78	77%	6	30%
Financial support for other things (e.g., unspecified classroom resources, supply teachers, field trips, social science materials, student recognition programs, character education)	83	82%	6	30%
Other	3	3%	1	5%

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Parent, Family and Community Engagement

The most selected response for both panels indicates that School Councils **kept parents and the community informed** of school events as a means of supporting the Parent, Family and Community Engagement goals and priorities in their school's Plan for Continuous Improvement (98% of Elementary and 95% of Secondary Councils). Both panels also made efforts in the **recruitment of more parents for the School Council** (85% of Elementary and 84% of Secondary Councils). A large majority of Elementary School Councils (91%) used **workshops, presentations and/or social events** to achieve this support. The percentage of Secondary School Councils who indicated the same was much lower (74%).

Parent, Family and Community Engagement	Elementary (n= 101)		Secondary (n= 19)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Hosted or supported workshops, presentations, and/or social events (e.g., Parents as Partners, guest speakers, Literacy Night, Numeracy Night, parenting classes community breakfast, barbeques, Fun Fairs, Triple P, concerts, cultural holiday celebrations)	92	91%	14	74%
Funded initiatives and resources for school (e.g., staff websites, playground, take-home resources, PRO grant)	84	83%	6	32%
Kept parents and community informed (e.g., flyers, school and council newsletters, electronic bulletins, email, council meetings)	99	98%	18	95%
Parent and SC involvement in school policies and practices (e.g., involvement in cell-phone policy, dress code, attendance policy, homework policy, student success initiatives)	54	54%	12	63%
Requested input from parents (e.g., surveys, focus groups, forums, at council meetings)	78	77%	13	68%
Community partnerships (e.g., Catholic schools, feeder schools, child services organizations, Toastmasters)	32	32%	7	37%
Community and charity work (e.g., food drives, community members in need, food programs for students, fundraising)	74	73%	5	26%
Recruitment of more parents for School Council (e.g., invitations to meetings, to make their opinions heard)	86	85%	16	84%
Communication Improvements (e.g., with administration and staff, forums, common language, parent survey, more input)	60	59%	8	42%
Language support for parents (e.g., translation, dual language books)	26	26%	4	21%
Other	2	2%	2	11%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

School and Workplace Climate

The majority of Elementary School Councils indicated that they had supported the School and Workplace Climate goals of their SPCI through **promoting healthy living** (91%), **school spirit and student social events** (91%), **financial support** (88%) and **supporting and appreciating school staff** (87%). The most common responses from Secondary School Councils were **school safety efforts** and **financial support for resources and programs** though both were selected by only half (50%) of the responding Councils.

School and Workplace Climate	Elementary (n= 100)		Secondary (n= 18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Environmental initiatives and “greening” (e.g., Eco-League, tree planting, beautification, outdoor classroom)	68	68%	6	33%
School safety efforts (e.g., traffic issues, yard safety and supervision, Restorative Approaches, reviewed school Code of Conduct, anti-bullying initiatives)	79	79%	9	50%
School spirit and student social events (e.g., lunches, barbeques, fun fundraising activities, yearbook, spirit days, assemblies, student recognition, field trips, extracurriculars)	91	91%	8	44%
Promoted healthy living to students (e.g., funded purchase of sports equipment, funded athletic programs, Healthy Schools, hot lunch programs, healthy snacks, lice screening, Breakfast Program)	91	91%	6	33%
Support and appreciation of staff (e.g., appreciation events, funding for classrooms)	87	87%	4	22%
Character education (e.g., Character Matters initiative, Caught you Caring)	33	33%	1	6%
Improvements to school grounds (e.g., improved signage, yard enhancement, carpeting, playground)	59	59%	2	11%
Financial support for resources and programs (e.g., technology, computers, fans, AV equipment, defibrillator, arts program, microwaves, Battle of the Books, CPR training)	88	88%	9	50%
Other	1	1%	1	6%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

QUESTION 4: Identify documents developed or revised by your School Council this year:

The document that School Councils most commonly developed or revised in the past year was their **School Plan for Continuous Improvement** and related priorities (45% of Elementary and 50% of Secondary). As well, 55% of Elementary School Councils indicated that they developed or revised documents related their **goals and objectives**.

	Elementary (n= 94)		Secondary (n= 16)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Constitution / By-Laws	44	47%	5	31%
School Profile	17	18%	3	19%
School Plan for Continuous Improvement / Set of Priorities	42	45%	8	50%
Administrator Profile	32	34%	5	31%
Dress Code	22	23%	4	25%
Code of Behaviour / School Safety Policies	21	22%	4	25%
Council Website	42	45%	7	44%
Homework Policy	13	14%	0	0%
School Council goals and objectives	52	55%	5	31%
School Council orientation package	19	20%	1	6%
Parent handbook / welcome packages	25	27%	4	25%
Other	2	2%	1	6%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

Communication

QUESTION 5a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support home-school communication with parents/families?

The majority of Elementary and Secondary School Councils were engaged in activities to support home-school communication with parents/families. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were engaged in activities to support home-school communication with parents/families where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	4	4%	2	10%
2	5	5%	3	14%
3	33	32%	8	38%
4	38	37%	6	29%
5 (A Great Extent)	22	22%	2	10%

QUESTION 5b: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in providing opportunities for parents/families to provide input and feedback?

The majority of Elementary School Councils and Secondary School Councils were engaged in providing opportunities for parents and families to provide input and feedback. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils are engaged in providing opportunities for parents/families to provide input and feedback where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	1	1%	1	5%
2	10	10%	2	10%
3	27	27%	9	43%
4	41	40%	6	29%
5 (A Great Extent)	23	23%	3	14%

QUESTION 5c: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in effectively addressing feedback from parents/families?

The majority of Elementary and Secondary School Councils were engaged in effectively addressing feedback from parents and families. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were engaged in effectively addressing feedback from parents/families where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 101)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	2	2%	1	5%
2	9	9%	2	10%
3	26	26%	8	38%
4	37	37%	5	24%
5 (A Great Extent)	27	27%	5	24%

QUESTION 5d: How has the School Council engaged parents/families and the school community to obtain feedback?

The most common methods for seeking feedback from parents utilized by School Councils in both panels were the allotment of **time during Council meetings** (90% of Elementary and 86% of Secondary) and the maintenance of an available **Council email** (74% of Elementary and 71% of Secondary). Also fairly common in the Elementary panel was **Memberships on sub-committees** (77%).

	Elementary (n= 101)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Surveys	54	54%	5	24%
Memberships on sub-committees	78	77%	7	33%
Focus groups	12	12%	0	0%
Coffee meetings	27	27%	0	0%
Town hall	6	6%	0	0%
Time during Council meetings	91	90%	18	86%
Suggestion / comment forms	32	32%	3	14%
Council email available	75	74%	15	71%
Other	14	14%	1	5%

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A few school councils (8 Elementary and 1 Secondary) added that they utilized their School Council phone extension and/or voicemail to obtain feedback.

QUESTION 5e: In what specific areas have families been asked to provide input or feedback?

The majority of Elementary School Councils indicated that they sought feedback from families relating to **fundraising** (84%), **parental involvement and volunteering** (80%) and **School Council events** (79%). Secondary School Councils focused on **School Council events** (78%) and **how best to communicate with parents** (67%).

	Elementary (n= 94)		Secondary (n= 18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fundraising	79	84%	3	17%
School Council events	74	79%	14	78%
School safety	40	43%	4	22%
School policies (e.g., SPCI, dress code)	25	27%	6	33%
Field trips	25	27%	2	11%
School site improvements	31	33%	3	17%
Parental involvement and volunteering	75	80%	6	33%
How best to communicate with parents	48	51%	12	67%
Other	2	2%	2	11%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

Learning at Home

QUESTION 6a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support parents with their children’s learning at home?

The majority of Elementary School Councils affirmed that they had been engaged in activities to support parents with their children’s learning at home. Secondary School Councils were less likely to indicate this with 43% responding **Not at all**. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were engaged in activities to support parents with their children’s learning at home where ‘1’ indicates not at all and ‘5’ indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 100)		Secondary (n=21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	10	10%	9	43%
2	21	21%	2	10%
3	37	37%	5	24%
4	23	23%	4	19%
5 (A Great Extent)	9	9%	1	5%

QUESTION 6b: If yes, how has the School Council assisted parents in supporting their children’s learning at home? Please check all that apply.

The most common method used by Elementary School Councils to assist parents was **keeping parents informed of school events and policies** (86%). Only about half of Secondary School Councils responded to this question though a majority of those that did noted providing **guest speakers** (77%) and **keeping parents informed of school events and policies** (62%).

	Elementary (n= 91)		Secondary (n= 13)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Guest speakers	54	59%	10	77%
Book exchange programs	25	28%	0	0%
Tip sheets for parents	27	30%	3	23%
Forums for exchanging best practices	18	20%	2	15%
Workshops (e.g., reading at home, Pathways and course selection)	48	53%	6	46%
Family activity events (e.g., Snuggle-up-and-Read)	42	46%	0	0%
Access to learning resources	39	43%	1	8%
Keeping parents informed of school events and policies	78	86%	8	62%
Other	3	3%	1	8%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

Collaboration with the Community

QUESTION 7a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to collaborate with the community to enhance student learning?

The majority of Elementary School Councils and Secondary School Councils affirmed they had been engaged in activities to collaborate with the community to enhance student learning. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils were engaged in activities to collaborate with the community to enhance student learning where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 98)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	4	4%	4	19%
2	12	12%	3	14%
3	33	34%	8	38%
4	36	37%	5	24%
5 (A Great Extent)	13	13%	1	5%

QUESTION 7b: If yes, please describe the community partnerships / collaboration in which your School Council has been engaged. Please check all that apply.

A large majority of Elementary School Councils indicated that they had been engaged in collaboration with the community through **fundraising** (93%) while approximately three-quarters of respondents also noted support for **hot lunch programs** (71%). Secondary School Councils who responded to this question tended to be engaged through providing **guest speakers** on community issues (75%).

	Elementary (n= 96)		Secondary (n= 16)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Breakfast programs	23	24%	1	6%
Milk programs	38	40%	0	0%
Hot lunch programs	68	71%	0	0%
Sportswear	37	39%	1	6%
Guest speakers	63	66%	12	75%
Fundraising	89	93%	1	6%
Collaborative community events/charities	55	57%	4	25%
Collaborating with community agencies to support students in the school	27	28%	5	31%
Cultural diversity outreach	17	18%	3	19%
Workshops and events are open to the community	53	55%	10	63%
Association with local businesses and organizations	49	51%	5	31%
Other	4	4%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

QUESTION 7c: What activities has your School Council undertaken in order to engage the community in supporting the cultural diversity of your school community?

The activity to support cultural diversity selected most frequently by both Elementary and Secondary School Councils was an effort to **respect religious holidays when planning events** (87% of Elementary and 92% of Secondary). Half of the responding Councils also indicated **efforts to ensure diverse representation on their SC** (49% of Elementary and 50% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n= 87)		Secondary (n= 12)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Multicultural (i.e. culturally sensitive) School Events	31	36%	4	33%
Reducing Language Barriers (e.g. translations, interpreters, dual language books)	30	35%	3	25%
Respect religious holidays when planning events	76	87%	11	92%
Direct resources & funding to supporting cultural diversity	18	21%	0	0%
Efforts to ensure diverse representation on SC	43	49%	6	50%
Other	0	0%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

Parenting

QUESTION 8a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support parents and families with parenting skills? (i.e., assisting families with strategies to create an environment at home that supports children’s learning)

As illustrated in the table below, the extent to which both Elementary and Secondary School Councils have been involved in supporting parents and families with parenting skills varies greatly. Responses from both panels are distributed between “Not At All” (1) and “A Great Extent” (5).

	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	20	20%	6	29%
2	18	18%	3	14%
3	25	25%	2	10%
4	29	28%	8	38%
5 (A Great Extent)	10	10%	2	10%

QUESTION 8b: If yes, how has the School Council assisted families with strategies to create an environment that supports children’s learning?

Due to the responses to the previous question, 8a, the response rate for this question is low in both panels with participation from only 73% of Elementary School Councils and 81% of Secondary School Councils. The most popular response from those who did answer this question in both panels was providing **guest speakers** to discuss important issues (81% of Elementary and 77% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n= 74)		Secondary (n= 17)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Guest speakers (e.g., cyber bullying, nutrition, parenting skills)	60	81%	13	77%
Information evenings and presentations (e.g., Triple P, Tribes, transitions, homework)	37	50%	9	53%
Access to parenting resources	41	55%	10	59%
Other	2	3%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

Volunteering

QUESTION 9a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support volunteering?

A large majority of Elementary School Councils affirmed that they had been engaged in activities to support volunteering. In contrast, Secondary School Councils tended to state that they had not been involved in promoting volunteering. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils are engaged in activities to support volunteering where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	1	1%	7	33%
2	7	7%	6	29%
3	23	23%	5	24%
4	33	32%	3	14%
5 (A Great Extent)	38	37%	0	0%

QUESTION 9b: If yes, how has the School Council supported volunteering? Please check all that apply.

The most commonly indicated methods utilized by Elementary School Councils to support volunteerism in their schools were **recruitment and promotion of volunteers** (92%) and **modeling by example** (92%). In the previous question, 9a, many Secondary School Councils indicated a lack of involvement in promoting volunteerism at their school resulting in a low response rate for this question (52%). Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Secondary Councils who did respond indicated their attempts at **modeling by example**.

	Elementary (n= 98)		Secondary (n= 11)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Modeling by example	90	92%	8	73%
Recruitment and promotion of volunteers	90	92%	7	64%
Adapting volunteer handbook provided by the Board to the needs of your school	10	10%	0	0%
Assisting with training volunteers	42	43%	0	0%
Hosting a volunteer appreciation tea, lunch or other event	53	54%	0	0%
Community partnerships	35	36%	2	18%
Other	2	2%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

QUESTION 10a: To what extent do you feel that the learning environment at your school is respectful?

A great majority of School Councils in both panels stated their belief that their school's learning environment is respectful. The table below shows the distributions of their responses where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	0	0%	0	0%
2	0	0%	0	0%
3	9	9%	2	10%
4	42	41%	15	75%
5 (A Great Extent)	51	50%	3	15%

QUESTION 10b: To what extent do you feel that the learning environment at your school is safe?

A great majority of School Councils in both panels stated their belief that their school's learning environment is safe. The table below shows the distributions of their responses where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	0	0%	0	0%
2	0	0%	0	0%
3	8	8%	1	5%
4	40	39%	12	60%
5 (A Great Extent)	54	53%	7	35%

QUESTION 10c: To what extent do you feel that the learning environment at your school is equitable?

A great majority of School Councils in both panels stated their belief that their school's learning environment is equitable. The table below shows the distributions of their responses where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n= 102)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	0	0%	0	%
2	1	1%	0	0%
3	7	7%	1	5%
4	47	46%	12	60%
5 (A Great Extent)	47	46%	7	35%

QUESTION 11: Identify the activities below which were successful or challenging for your School Council this year.

As illustrated in the table below, a large majority of Elementary School Councils noted their successes in the **purchase of school resources** (92%) and **fundraising** initiatives (87%). The most common area where Elementary Councils were challenged was in their attempts at **maintaining and attracting volunteers** (58%). Also notable is the high number of councils who stated they were not involved in activities surrounding student **transition to secondary** (81%).

Elementary School Council Activities (N= 102)	Success	Challenge	Not involved
Support of Literacy Initiatives (e.g., workshops; primary leveled readers; reading circle; homework club; math/science programs; snuggle up and read; literacy café)	72%	4%	22%
Parental/Community Support of School Activities/Programs (e.g., career fair; curriculum night; meet the teacher; safety awareness; safe arrivals program; parenting workshops; Character Matters initiatives; environment program; graduation; assemblies, engaging parents of diverse backgrounds, translators for Parent Info Night)	85%	8%	9%
Consultation/Input into School Policy Development/Review (e.g., dress code; code of behaviour; head lice policy; school council constitution; SPCI; tech review; uniform survey)	65%	13%	24%
Fundraising (e.g., reaching goals; specific projects; how to spend money)	87%	13%	1%
Purchase of School Resources (e.g., computers; media; robotics; teachers' wish list)	92%	4%	4%
School Site Improvements (e.g., repair/replace playground equipment; beautification; outdoor classroom)	60%	15%	26%
Collaboration/Recognition of School Council (e.g., creation of School Council; surveys; meeting format; identifying goals and priorities; networking)	81%	17%	4%
Health/Wellness Activities (e.g., hot lunch, milk, breakfast, nutrition and/or snack programs; health & wellness/nutrition committees)	79%	6%	17%
Promoting Community Partnerships (e.g., Parks & Recreation; Health Services; Community events)	46%	9%	48%
Improvement in Fine Arts Programs (e.g., Music; Visual Arts)	59%	3%	35%
Development/Launch/Improvement of School Council Website	33%	18%	49%
Transition to Secondary (e.g., working with feeder schools; attending Grade 8/9 meetings; transition planning; support groups)	15%	1%	81%
School Council meetings/membership (e.g., involvement on subcommittees; goal setting early in year with new members; increasing parental involvement; attendance at meetings; focusing SC meeting on Agenda & keeping within time limits; ensuring cultural diverse representation on SC; keeping proper documentation; succession planning)	79%	27%	3%
Maintaining and Attracting Volunteers (e.g., difficulty engaging volunteers; lack of active volunteer participation)	46%	58%	1%
Communication/Collaboration (e.g., to parents; to Board; to community; between council and parents; between councils; coming to understand the roles of administrators, parents, and SC; open networking between councils; starting SC newsletter; understanding how council contributes to student life; consistency in communication protocols)	69%	35%	0%
Safety Matters (e.g., safe walking community; parking safety; snow removal policy; traffic problems; safety and public access to school; schoolyard safety/bullying)	49%	25%	26%

As illustrated in the table below, a large majority of Secondary School Councils noted their successes in supporting student **transition to Secondary** (71%). Similar to the Elementary Councils, the most common area where Secondary Councils were challenged was in their attempts at **maintaining and attracting volunteers** (43%) and **School Council meetings/membership** was also a concern (43%). A high proportion of Secondary Councils noted not being involved in **Fine arts programs** and **safety matters** (both 81%).

Secondary School Council Activities (N= 21)	Success	Challenge	Not involved
Support of Literacy Initiatives (e.g., workshops; primary leveled readers; reading circle; homework club; math/science programs; snuggle up and read; literacy café)	24%	0%	71%
Parental/Community Support of School Activities/Programs (e.g., career fair; curriculum night; meet the teacher; safety awareness; safe arrivals program; parenting workshops; Character Matters initiatives; environment program; graduation; assemblies, engaging parents of diverse backgrounds, translators for Parent Info Night)	67%	10%	19%
Consultation/Input into School Policy Development/Review (e.g., dress code; code of behaviour; head lice policy; school council constitution; SPCI; tech review; uniform survey)	67%	0%	33%
Fundraising (e.g., reaching goals; specific projects; how to spend money)	24%	10%	67%
Purchase of School Resources (e.g., computers; media; robotics; teachers' wish list)	38%	5%	57%
School Site Improvements (e.g., repair/replace playground equipment; beautification; outdoor classroom)	19%	5%	71%
Collaboration/Recognition of School Council (e.g., creation of School Council; surveys; meeting format; identifying goals and priorities; networking)	57%	19%	24%
Health/Wellness Activities (e.g., hot lunch, milk, breakfast, nutrition and/or snack programs; health & wellness/nutrition committees)	14%	5%	71%
Promoting Community Partnerships (e.g., Parks & Recreation; Health Services; Community events)	29%	0%	67%
Improvement in Fine Arts Programs (e.g., Music; Visual Arts)	14%	0%	81%
Development/Launch/Improvement of School Council Website	19%	14%	57%
Transition to Secondary (e.g., working with feeder schools; attending Grade 8/9 meetings; transition planning; support groups)	71%	0%	29%
School Council meetings/membership (e.g., involvement on subcommittees; goal setting early in year with new members; increasing parental involvement; attendance at meetings; focusing SC meeting on Agenda & keeping within time limits; ensuring cultural diverse representation on SC; keeping proper documentation; succession planning)	52%	43%	5%
Maintaining and Attracting Volunteers (e.g., difficulty engaging volunteers; lack of active volunteer participation)	24%	43%	29%
Communication/Collaboration (e.g., to parents; to Board; to community; between council and parents; between councils; coming to understand the roles of administrators, parents, and SC; open networking between councils; starting SC newsletter; understanding how council contributes to student life; consistency in communication protocols)	52%	38%	10%
Safety Matters (e.g., safe walking community; parking safety; snow removal policy; traffic problems; safety and public access to school; schoolyard safety/bullying)	14%	5%	81%

Building System Capacity

QUESTION 12: Identify below what additional support or training your council would like to receive in the next school year?

The most commonly indicated area for which School Councils requested additional support was **information regarding speakers, programs & available resources** (74% of Elementary and 70% of Secondary). Also relatively common in both panels was the selection of opportunities for **collaboration** (60% of Elementary and Secondary Councils) and **additional funding** (67% of elementary and 50% of secondary).

	Elementary (n= 96)		Secondary (n= 20)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Collaboration (e.g., opportunity to collaborate, network or share and interact with other SC (between all schools & between local family of schools); sharing best practices (e.g. successful initiatives at other schools would provide good insight, best parent programs, best fundraiser); more support for “family of schools” initiatives; partnering with high school councils; communication; building community partnerships)	58	60%	12	60%
Opportunity (& Financial Support) to Attend School Council/Board Forums, Conferences, Workshops on Topics of Interest (e.g., attendance at Quest; council input into P.D. topics; strategies to improve EQAO results; plan evening sessions; evaluation/report cards; student transition)	53	55%	6	30%
Training/Information & Strategies for Increasing Effectiveness of School Councils (e.g., training on how to support SPCI goals & priorities; P.D. on what and how SC should be involved in; P.D. to help SC understand school programs; how to expand involvement/support in school; P.D. re: completing SC annual/treasurer’s reports; maintain consistent attendance; orientation for new members; managing meetings; IT training)	60	63%	7	35%
Provide Information Regarding Speakers, Programs & Resources Available (e.g., anti-bullying; how to help our children; internet safety; provide information about available programs and resources such as <i>Character Matters, Restorative Approaches</i>)	71	74%	14	70%
Guidance on How to Recruit New School Council Members (e.g., parents; teachers; volunteer trainer)	62	65%	8	40%
Guidance on How to Involve Parents of Various Religious, Language and Cultural Backgrounds (e.g., translations of documents; interpreters, ESL challenges; multicultural sensitivity training)	53	55%	6	30%
Training in Fundraising and Planning Fundraisers (e.g., fundraising consultant (how to negotiate, with whom, where and when; other ideas for fundraising; do’s and don’ts; continued development & clarity around fundraising)	34	35%	2	10%
Guidance on How to Increase Parent Volunteer Involvement (e.g., more volunteer recognition events, training for parent volunteers to support early literacy, help with PRO grant proposals)	66	69%	7	35%
Additional Funding (e.g., IT resources-laptops; hardware; software; resources for libraries; textbook; tools for teachers to implement Living School initiatives; resources to assist with developing Parenting programs)	64	67%	10	50%
EcoSchool Initiatives (e.g., Ontario EcoSchools Program certification, tips on supporting environmental programs in the school)	45	47%	8	40%
Other	0	0%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

School / Board Delivery of Service

QUESTION 13: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your school has shown improvement during this school year?

Two of the most cited school improvements noted by School Councils dealt with improving lines of communication. **Communication with parents** was indicated by 65% of Elementary Councils and 81% of Secondary while improved **communication with the School Council** was indicated by 69% of Elementary and 62% of Secondary School Councils. The most common response from Elementary councils was improvements in school **resources** (77%).

	Elementary (n= 99)		Secondary (n= 21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Communication with parents (e.g., new voicemail, Synervoice, improved/new website, improved/new newsletter, new school sign)	64	65%	17	81%
Communication with the School Council (e.g., administrator availability, administrator or teacher attendance at SC meetings, more information at SC meetings)	68	69%	13	62%
Literacy initiatives (e.g., guided reading, literacy blocks, boys' literacy initiatives, Literacy through the Arts, Literacy through Technology, summer reading programs)	64	65%	11	52%
Numeracy initiatives (e.g., math contests, clubs)	18	18%	7	33%
Extracurricular activities (e.g., the arts - school musicals, animation programs; athletics - team performance, increased participation; others - general improvements, increased participation, yearbook)	67	68%	11	52%
Resources (e.g., more/better sports equipment, technology, musical instruments, playground equipment, other school materials)	76	77%	6	29%
Community partnerships (e.g., local business, community organizations, other schools)	35	35%	4	19%
Encouraging parental involvement and engagement (e.g., at events, in SC, volunteerism)	58	59%	9	43%
Student behavior and discipline (e.g., school spirit, anti-bullying initiatives, character education, RAYS)	45	46%	7	33%
Cultural inclusivity (e.g., events, increased language support)	27	27%	4	19%
Assessment indicators (e.g., literacy scores, numeracy scores, gender gap, graduation rate)	24	24%	6	29%
Support for struggling students (e.g., Intensive Support, support for at-risk learners, credit recover, case management)	28	28%	9	43%
Recognition (e.g., volunteers, student achievement, school staff)	57	58%	9	43%
Other	5	5%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

QUESTION 14: In which area(s) does your School Council feel the Board has shown improvement during this school year?

The areas of Board improvement noted by School Councils were fairly mixed with the most common response in both panels being **School Council forums and workshops** (67% of Elementary and 78% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n= 88)		Secondary (n= 18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Keeping parents and School Council informed (e.g., email communication, updates on Board meetings, newsletter, information from ministry through Board)	41	47%	10	56%
Listening and responding to feedback from parents and School Councils (e.g., open to discussion, quick responses, town hall meetings on new facilities, sensitivity to concerns of parents)	26	30%	9	50%
School Council forums and workshops (e.g., opportunity for networking, communication, professional learning, sharing ideas)	59	67%	14	78%
Funding for resources and initiatives (e.g., cost sharing for technology, playground, arts and sports, community classroom, healthy schools)	45	51%	1	6%
Support for volunteers and parental engagement (e.g., training on recruiting volunteers, training and workshops for SC, funding, support of PRO Grant application)	26	30%	1	6%
Focus on literacy (e.g., programming, funding, professional development, literacy collaborative, EQAO results)	30	34%	4	22%
Presence and helpfulness of Board personnel (e.g., Superintendents, Plant Services, trustees, Community Resource Facilitators, attended SC meetings, events, or were generally available)	37	42%	3	17%
Support for safe schools initiatives (e.g., bullying workshops, cyber-bullying, restorative approaches, RAYS)	25	28%	7	39%
Supporting community partnerships (e.g., theater groups, community organizations, communication with town or city)	10	11%	1	6%
Professional development for teachers (e.g., QUEST, training with technology, providing relief time for staff to attend PD)	28	32%	6	33%
General support and recognition (e.g., SC Awards, consistency, generally supportive, recognizing needs and wants of school)	18	21%	5	28%
Other	3	3%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

QUESTION 15: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your school needs improvement?

The most commonly indicated area of need noted by School Councils was **parent involvement** (71% of Elementary and 50% of Secondary Councils). Also noted by nearly half of the responding councils was the need for increased **community engagement** (49% of Elementary and 50% of Secondary councils).

	Elementary (n= 96)		Secondary (n= 18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Academic performance (e.g., EQAO results, OSSLT results, graduation rates, gender gap)	33	34%	4	22%
Communication (e.g., better communication, more information on website, updated information, open communication, more frequent and timely communication)	39	41%	8	44%
Participation and visibility of teachers and principals (e.g., around the school, at events, at Council meetings)	20	21%	1	6%
Resources (e.g., computers, other technology, textbooks, teaching supplies)	39	41%	6	33%
Support of literacy initiatives (e.g., EQAO performance, differentiated instruction)	24	25%	2	11%
Parent involvement (e.g., greater parent engagement in student learning, increased volunteerism, increased attendance at events)	68	71%	9	50%
Community engagement (e.g., community partnerships)	47	49%	9	50%
School spirit and climate	18	19%	2	11%
Extra-curricular activities & sport teams (e.g., music, arts, chess clubs, media club, drama)	30	31%	2	11%
Cultural proficiency (e.g., language supports, more diversity involvement, multicultural awareness, religious celebrations)	25	26%	2	11%
Collaboration between SC and school policy / planning (e.g., input into SPCI, input into other policies)	33	34%	3	17%
School safety (e.g., safety concerns, respectful behaviour, anti-bullying, safe-inclusive & supportive environment, restorative practices)	24	25%	1	6%
Site improvements (e.g., playgrounds, beautification, greening, cleanliness)	45	47%	3	17%
Other	5	5%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.

QUESTION 16: In which area(s) does your School Council feel the Board needs improvement?

The most selected areas of Board improvement need dealt with funding and communication. **Funding improvements** in general were noted by 64% of Elementary and 47% of Secondary councils while the need for **increased support and funding of programs at school** was selected by roughly half of the responding councils (51% of Elementary and 47% of Secondary). **Communication** improvements were noted by 51% of Elementary and 42% of Secondary School Councils and direct **Board participation and involvement** was also selected by more than half of the Elementary schools (52% of Elementary and 26% of Secondary schools).

	Elementary (n= 96)		Secondary (n= 19)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Communication (e.g., more information, more timely, more direction at beginning of year, send council specific information directly to chair, board contact required, summary of board meetings, plain language, board website more friendly)	49	51%	8	42%
Board participation and involvement (e.g., attend random SC meetings, visibility, being more open and approachable)	50	52%	5	26%
Increase support and funding of programs at school (e.g., resources purchases, more equitable distribution, support for PRO Grant applications)	49	51%	9	47%
Support and training for SC members (e.g., leadership training, increasing effectiveness, how to be involved in SPCI, how to recruit new members/volunteers, more timely and relative materials, more direction at beginning of year)	41	43%	5	26%
Increased IT support (e.g., tech support for website, support for new equipment, user support)	33	34%	10	53%
Engaging our parent community (e.g., provide training in engaging parents, proactive involvement in community, availability of guest speakers)	52	54%	10	53%
Greater facilitation of collaboration among School Councils (e.g., more forums, highlights of best practices, ideas on fundraising, events and other initiatives)	47	49%	4	21%
Funding Improvements (e.g., physical resources, extracurricular support, mental health financing, staffing support)	61	64%	9	47%
Professional development opportunities for teachers (e.g., more variety, funding or supports, greater availability)	21	22%	4	21%
Site maintenance and improvements (e.g., playgrounds, beautification, greening, cleanliness)	48	50%	4	21%
Other	7	7%	0	0%

* % in each column may sum to more than 100 due to multiple responses. Percent is based only on School Councils that responded to this question.