SCHOOL COUNCILS 2007-2008 YEAR IN REVIEW

DATA ANALYSIS SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORTS

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Acknowledgements

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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 178 School Council reports were summarized: 151 Elementary and 27 Secondary. The response rate for Elementary schools was 97% and for Secondary schools it was 90%. 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	40	98%
East	40	93%
North	32	100%
West	39	100%
Total	**151**	**97%**

Table 2

Secondary	
Count	**Response Rate**
27	90%

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 Council were selected by **acclamation**:

	Elementary (n=149)		Secondary (n=27)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Acclamation	116	78%	23	85%
Voting	30	20%	3	11%
Both	3	2%	1	4%

QUESTION 3: Do you have a co-chair?

The majority of Elementary and Secondary School Councils (62% and 56% respectively) have a co-chair.

	Elementary (n=148)		Secondary (n=27)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	91	62%	15	56%
No	57	39%	12	44%

QUESTION 4: If yes, was he / she a returning co-chair?

Across both panels, more than two thirds (67% and 83% respectively) of the School Councils responded that the co-chair was not a returning chair.

	Elementary (n=101)		Secondary (n=18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Yes	33	33%	3	17%
No	68	67%	15	83%

QUESTION 5: How many new School Council members were there in the past year?

Of the School Councils that responded, the range of new School Council members in the Elementary panel was 0-22 persons, and in the Secondary panel the range was 0-45 persons. Please note the high number of missing responses to this particular question (14 Elementary and 3 Secondary). Of the new schools that responded the range was 6-14 new School Council members in the past year. The mode (the value that occurs most frequently in a data set) response was 3 new members in the past year. Below is a table showing the response categories for schools that responded to this question.

	Elementary (n=137)		Secondary (n=24)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0-1	15	11%	3	13%
2-4	65	47%	10	42%
5-7	24	18%	3	13%
8-10	20	15%	2	8%
11+	13	9%	6	25%

Decision-Making

QUESTION 6a: 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 School Councils and Secondary School Councils provided input into the SPCI during the 2007-2008 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=144)		Secondary (n=25)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	20	14%	4	16%
2	13	9%	4	16%
3	47	33%	4	16%
4	38	26%	6	24%
5 (A Great Extent)	26	18%	7	28%

QUESTION 6b: If yes, in what ways has your School Council been involved with providing input into the Plan?

The most common responses to this question dealt with the **review or discussion of the SPCI** by the School Council and **providing comments and feedback** based on those discussions.

There seems to have been some confusion with this question as many School Councils included responses that related to the implementation or use of the School Plan and not to the Council's involvement in the content of the document. To that end, many School Councils reported to have **planned activities and initiatives** using the SPCI. Many also discussed **fundraising and budget planning** around SPCI priorities.

	Elementary (n=118)		Secondary (n=21)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Review or discussion of the School Plan at School Council meetings	67	57%	14	67%
Provided comments and feedback based on presentation of SPCI to School Council	41	35%	10	48%
Collaboration of SC with administrator(s) (e.g., working with principal or vice-principal, administrator presenting at SC meetings and requesting feedback)	18	15%	1	5%
Collaboration of SC with teaching staff (e.g., teacher participation in SPCI discussions, teacher presentations related to SPCI)	4	3%	0	0%
Surveys or questionnaires (e.g., electronic or in paper form)	5	4%	3	14%
SC committee or outside school committee involved in developing / revising the SPCI	5	4%	2	10%
Planned activities and initiatives around SPCI priorities (e.g., guest speakers, presentations, parental engagement, safe schools, literacy initiatives, healthy schools initiatives)	25	21%	4	19%
Fundraising and budget planning around SPCI priorities (e.g., purchase of literacy resources, technology, arts programs, PRO grant)	16	14%	1	5%
Unspecified support for SPCI and its implementation in general	4	3%	1	5%
New school so no SPCI yet	1	1%	1	5%
Nothing	1	1%	2	10%

* % 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 6c: 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 the School Plan for Continuous Improvement where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n=143)		Secondary (n=24)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	3	2%	2	8%
2	2	1%	0	0%
3	33	23%	4	17%
4	46	32%	11	46%
5 (A Great Extent)	59	41%	7	29%

QUESTION 6d: 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

As can be seen in the table below, the most prevalent theme in this question's responses is financial support provided by the School Council to fund resources and programs in the school. This general theme occurred in 69% of the Elementary school responses but was not mentioned by any of the fourteen Secondary School Councils who answered this question. In the table below, financial support is disaggregated to show the areas that the School Councils reported targeting with their funds including **literacy** (46% of Elementary School Councils), **math and science** (13%), **technology resources** (19%), and **student health and welfare** (7%). Also common in the Elementary panel but absent from the Secondary panel is **support for the arts** (11% of Elementary).

The most common responses from Secondary School Councils dealt with encouraging **parental engagement** through communication and hosting events (57% of Secondary School Councils). This was also common among Elementary School Councils (22%). Other reoccurring themes in the Secondary panel are the School Council's **involvement in school policies and initiatives** (21%) and **review and discussion of the SPCI** by the School Council (21%).

Elementary School Council responses concentrate on financial support for resources and programs at their respective schools, while Secondary Councils focus on the involvement of parents in the school community.

Curriculum Implementation	Elementary (n=114)		Secondary (n=14)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
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)	53	46%	0	0%
Financial support for math and science (e.g., math manipulatives, Scientist in the School, science equipment, microscopes, math cart)	15	13%	0	0%
Financial support for technology resources (e.g., media literacy, SmartBoards, computers, cost sharing, AV equipment)	22	19%	0	0%
Financial support for student health and welfare (e.g., nutrition and food programs, Healthy Schools, school safety programs, gym/sports equipment, swimming program)	8	7%	0	0%
Financial support for other things (e.g., unspecified classroom resources, supply teachers, field trips, social science materials, student recognition programs, character education)	25	22%	0	0%
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)	25	22%	8	57%
Support for the arts (e.g., musical presentations, Junior Arts Night, dance program, spotlight, microphones, risers, musical instruments, sound systems)	12	11%	0	0%
Involvement in school policies and initiatives (e.g., revision of homework policy, student success initiative, helped develop pre-applied math, planning of outdoor classroom)	10	9%	3	21%
Review and discussion of SPCI or achievement results at School Council meetings	8	7%	3	21%
Parent and School Council volunteers in classroom (e.g., reading recovery)	6	5%	1	7%
Miscellaneous (e.g., "student achievement", "attendance at Quest")	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.

Parent, Family and Community Engagement

In their responses to this question, a good majority of School Councils in both panels who responded to this question mentioned that they had **hosted or supported events** at their school (76% of Elementary and 60% of Secondary). These events included workshops for parents and community members like Triple P, information evenings and presentations including Literacy and Numeracy Nights, as well as more social events like barbeques and Fun-Fairs.

Other common themes include how the School Council **kept parents and the community informed** through newsletters, flyers and other similar methods (19% of Elementary, 25% of Secondary). Elementary School Councils also frequently discussed how they **funded initiatives and resources in the school** (22%).

Parent, Family and Community Engagement	Elementary (n=134)		Secondary (n=20)	
	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)	101	76%	12	60%
Funded initiatives and resources for school (e.g., staff websites, playground, take-home resources, PRO grant)	29	22%	2	10%
Kept parents and community informed (e.g., flyers, school and council newsletters, electronic bulletins, email, council meetings)	25	19%	5	25%
Volunteered with school initiatives and in classrooms (e.g., book clubs, guided reading, in library, field trips)	17	13%	0	0%
School Council discussions (e.g., Parent Engagement Committee, reviewed SPCI, brainstorming ideas for engagement)	12	9%	0	0%
Requested input from parents (e.g., surveys, focus groups, forums, at council meetings)	6	4%	3	15%
Community partnerships (e.g., Catholic schools, feeder schools, child services organizations, Toastmasters)	6	4%	1	5%
Community and charity work (e.g., Angels for Hair, food drives, community members in need, food programs for students, fundraising)	6	4%	0	0%
Input into school programming and events	5	4%	1	5%
Recruitment of more parents for School Council (e.g., invitations to meetings, to make their opinions heard)	3	2%	2	10%
Language support for parents (e.g., translation, dual language books)	2	1%	1	5%

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School and Workplace Climate

The most common theme cited in both panels was School Council involvement in **school safety efforts** (25% of Elementary and 36% of Secondary) including school yard safety, anti-bullying initiatives and traffic issues. Also commonly cited in the Secondary panel is **parent and School Council involvement and engagement** in school activities and policies (36%). Many of the themes in the responses relate to student behavior and attitudes including **school spirit and student social events** (24% of Elementary and 7% of Secondary) which involve events such as special lunches and assemblies as well as extracurricular activities and student recognition programs. Similarly, School Councils were involved in **promoting healthy living to students** (17% of Elementary and 7% of Secondary) through financing of sports equipment, athletics, hot lunch programs and the Healthy Schools initiative, among other things. **Character education** programs were also mentioned by 8% of Elementary School Councils. Themes focusing on the physical elements of school climate included **environmental initiatives and "greening"** of school grounds as well as **other improvements to school grounds**.

School and Workplace Climate	Elementary (n=102)		Secondary (n=14)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
School safety efforts (e.g., traffic issues, yard safety and supervision, Restorative Approaches, reviewed school Code of Conduct, anti-bullying initiatives)	26	25%	5	36%
School spirit and student social events (e.g., lunches, barbeques, fun fundraising activities, yearbook, spirit days, assemblies, student recognition, field trips, extracurriculars)	24	24%	1	7%
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)	17	17%	1	7%
Support and appreciation of staff (e.g., appreciation events, funding for classrooms)	16	16%	0	0%
Environmental initiatives and "greening" (e.g., Eco-League, tree planting, beautification, outdoor classroom)	9	9%	1	7%
Character education (e.g., Character Matters initiative, Caught you Caring)	8	8%	0	0%
Other improvements to school grounds (e.g., improved signage, yard enhancement, carpeting, playground committee)	8	8%	0	0%
Financial support for other resources and programs (e.g., technology, computers, fans, AV equipment, defibrillator, arts program, microwaves, Battle of the Books, CPR training)	15	15%	2	14%
Parent / SC involvement and engagement (e.g., presentations, guest speakers, volunteers, Parent's Night, participation and support of school events, involvement in cell-phone policy, dress code, attendance policy)	16	16%	5	36%
Communication Improvements (e.g., with administration and staff, forums, common language, parent survey, feedback, input)	13	13%	1	7%
None	2	2%	1	7%
Miscellaneous (e.g., Giving Tree, Peace Tree, Pathways planning support, community coordinator/community room)	4	4%	1	7%

* % 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.

Other:

Most of the responses that School Councils wrote in the "other" area likely could have been included in one of the previous three sections of the SPCI. **Fundraising and purchasing resources** was the most commonly reported theme and included things such as literacy resources, extracurricular activities and gates for the parking lot. The most frequent theme cited in the Secondary panel involved **outreach to parents** by the School Council. These responses refer to presentations and events for parents and communication to parents through newsletters, bulletin boards or other means.

Other	Elementary (n=37) Count	Secondary (n=4) Count
Fundraising / purchase of resources (e.g., gym equipment, defibrillator, multi-media and technology resources, books, library & literacy resources, playground maintenance, extracurricular activities, gates for parking lot)	19	1
Outreach to parents (e.g., presentations/events/meetings, guest speakers, newsletters or other direct communications, information board, applied for PRO Grant)	9	2
Collaboration with the school administration (e.g., content and/or implementation of SPCI)	4	1
Events for students (e.g., transition activity, Healthy Kids Program, book-fairs, pizza days, milk days, Team Camp)	4	1
School Council management (e.g., "revised role of community coordinator", "succession planning", "constitution revisions")	3	0
Miscellaneous (e.g., "safety", representation on the Building Healthy Relationships Committee, procedure changes in our parking lot, Art Project)	4	0

* # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.

QUESTION 7a: Identify documents developed or revised by your School Council this year:

In both panels, the most frequent response was **School Plan for Continuous Improvement / Set of Priorities**. The three most frequently occurring responses were the same in both the Elementary and Secondary School Councils: **School Plan for Continuous Improvement / Set of Priorities**, **Constitution/By-Laws** and **Administrator Profile**.

	Elementary (n=138)		Secondary (n=24)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Constitution/By-Laws	64	46%	10	42%
School Profile	26	19%	9	38%
School Plan for Continuous Improvement / Set of Priorities	67	49%	17	71%
Administrator Profile	55	40%	12	50%
Dress Code	38	28%	8	33%
Code of Behaviour	33	24%	10	42%
Council Website	51	37%	5	21%
Homework Policy	36	26%	4	17%
Other	43	31%	3	13%

* % 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.

Other:

The most common theme in the "Other" responses from the Elementary panel is the revision of documents related to the **organization of the School Council**. Also relatively common is the mention of documents meant to **keep parents informed**. As well, four Elementary schools commented that they had **no need** as documents had been revised in the recent past. Secondary School Councils did not include responses that were exclusive of those provided in the question.

Other Responses	Elementary (n=17) Count
School Council organizational documents (e.g., Council executive job descriptions, mandates of subcommittees, Code of Ethics, School Council orientation package, School Council goals and objectives)	9
Parent information documents (e.g., Parent handbooks, welcome packages, School Website)	4
Reviewed Safe School Policy	1
Reviewed School Nutrition Policy	1
No need – all important documents were updated in recent years	4

Note: # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.
Note: Responses that were redundant to the originally provided categories were omitted from the 'other' analysis.

Communication

QUESTION 8a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support home-school communication with parents/families?

The vast majority of Elementary School Councils 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=150)		Secondary (n=27)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	5	3%	1	4%
2	11	7%	0	0%
3	44	29%	12	44%
4	53	35%	13	48%
5 (A Great Extent)	37	25%	1	4%

QUESTION 8b: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in providing opportunities for parents/families to provide input and feedback?

The vast majority of Elementary School Councils and School Councils were engaged in providing opportunities for parents/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=151)		Secondary (n=27)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	3	2%	1	4%
2	13	9%	1	4%
3	48	32%	10	37%
4	64	42%	8	30%
5 (A Great Extent)	23	15%	7	26%

QUESTION 8c: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in effectively addressing feedback from parents/families?

The majority of Elementary School Councils and Secondary School Councils were engaged in effectively addressing feedback from parents/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=150)		Secondary (n=26)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	7	5%	1	4%
2	14	9%	3	12%
3	43	29%	8	31%
4	58	39%	8	31%
5 (A Great Extent)	28	19%	6	23%

QUESTION 8d: How has the School Council engaged parents/families and the school community in such communication? Please check all that apply.

Of those who responded to this item, the most frequently selected response for Elementary School Councils was **Memberships on sub-committees** and the two most frequently selected responses for Secondary School Councils were **Surveys** and **Memberships on sub-committees**.

	Elementary (n=142)		Secondary (n=25)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Surveys	79	56%	11	44%
Memberships on sub-committees	108	76%	11	44%
Focus groups	26	18%	2	8%
Coffee meetings	49	35%	3	12%
Town hall	9	6%	3	12%
Other	89	63%	18	72%

* % 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.

Other:

As can be seen in the following table, the most common "Other" responses tended to refer to **communication to parents** from the School Council through newsletters, websites and other means as well as **family events for engagement and/or education**.

Other Responses	Elementary (n=69) Count	Secondary (n=18) Count
Time during School Council meetings for feedback/questions	9	2
Informal conversations (e.g., in school yard, parking lot, at school events)	9	0
Electronic communication (e.g., council/member email, interactive websites)	6	2
School Council phone-line / voicemail	4	0
Written suggestion/comment forms (e.g., on newsletters, bulletin boards)	2	0
Parent events specifically to seek input (e.g., Forums)	1	3
Family events for engagement and/or education (e.g., BBQs, Snuggle-up and Read)	17	7
Communication to parents (e.g., newsletter, council/school website, emails, phone calls, bulletin board)	42	8
Active presence of council members at school events (e.g., Kindergarten orientations, Grade 9 night, Parents' Night)	9	4

Note: # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.
Note: Responses that were redundant to the originally provided categories were omitted from the 'other' analysis.

QUESTION 8e: In what areas have families been asked to provide input or feedback (e.g., fieldtrip planning, fundraising priorities)?

Among Elementary School Councils, the most common response by a large margin was requesting feedback on **fundraising** (76% of Elementary and 31% of Secondary) which includes both how to raise money and priorities for spending the funds that are raised. Relatively common in both panels were responses related to **school events**. In the table below, school events are separated based on whether they were **Council hosted activities** (e.g., information evenings and social events) or **school events** with which the School Council may or may not have helped (e.g., graduation and transition). The most common response from the Secondary panel was the solicitation of feedback on **school policies** like the SPCI and dress codes.

	Elementary (n=108)		Secondary (n=13)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fundraising - How best to raise and spend funds	82	76%	4	31%
School Council hosted events and initiatives (e.g., literacy initiative, information evenings, social events, parent resource center, PRO Event)	17	16%	3	23%
School events (e.g., orientation day, transition events, graduation)	7	6%	2	15%
School policies (e.g., SPCI, cell phones, dress code, administrator profile, homework policies)	15	14%	5	38%
Health and wellness (e.g., nutrition initiatives, Healthy Schools, breakfast/lunch programs)	13	12%	0	0%
Field trips (e.g., grade eight trip)	12	11%	2	15%
Communication with parents (e.g., how best to contact parents, newsletter ideas)	12	11%	1	8%
School site improvements (e.g., garden, beautification, playground improvements)	10	9%	0	0%
School safety (e.g., anti-bullying programs, anti-violence programs, restorative approaches)	8	7%	1	8%
Parental engagement / involvement / volunteerism	9	8%	1	8%
Use of technology in classrooms	2	2%	0	0%
School / class pictures	2	2%	0	0%
Daycare Survey	1	1%	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.

Learning at Home

QUESTION 9a: 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 and Secondary School Councils affirmed that they had been engaged in activities to support parents with their children's learning at home. 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=144)		Secondary (n=25)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	23	16%	8	32%
2	24	17%	3	12%
3	47	33%	7	28%
4	35	24%	6	24%
5 (A Great Extent)	15	10%	1	4%

QUESTION 9b: If yes, how has the School Council assisted parents in supporting their children's learning at home? Please check all that apply.

Of those who responded to this item, the most frequently selected response was **Guest Speakers** for both Elementary School Councils (62%) and Secondary School Councils (83%). The second most frequent response for both panels was **tip sheets for parents** (48% of Elementary, 56% of Secondary).

	Elementary (n=118)		Secondary (n=18)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Guest speakers	73	62%	15	83%
Book exchange programs	45	38%	0	0%
Tip sheets for parents	56	48%	10	56%
Forums for exchanging best practices	12	10%	2	11%
Workshops	49	42%	7	39%
Other	56	48%	6	33%

* % 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.

Other:

The most common "other" response in the Elementary panel refers to **fundraising and providing resources** including parenting materials and take-home activities. Also common in the Elementary Panel are responses on **keeping parents informed** of school events and policies and **hosting family activity evenings.**

Other Responses	Elementary (n=50) Count	Secondary (n=4) Count
Fundraising / providing resources (e.g., Parenting resources for library, take-home activities)	22	0
Parents kept informed of school events and policies (e.g., email, newsletters)	11	1
Hosted family activity evenings (e.g., Snuggle-Up and Read)	16	1
Hosted information evenings for parents (e.g., Literacy Night, Grade Nine Orientation. Parent Talk Evening)	6	1
Council members are accessible to parents and active / visible at school events	7	0
Parents provided with links to online resources	4	0
Parent support groups	0	1
Translators provided for parent meetings / interviews	0	1
Notices regarding **speakers/workshops in the community**	1	0

Note: # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.
Note: Responses that were redundant to the originally provided categories were omitted from the 'other' analysis.

Collaboration with the Community

QUESTION 10 a: 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=142)		Secondary (n=26)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	5	4%	5	19%
2	11	8%	3	12%
3	47	33%	12	46%
4	58	41%	4	15%
5 (A Great Extent)	21	15%	2	8%

QUESTION 10b: If yes, please describe the community partnerships / collaboration in which your School Council has been engaged. Please check all that apply.

Of those who responded to this item, the most frequently selected response for Elementary School Councils was **Fundraising** (90%), followed by **Hot lunch programs** (77%) and for Secondary School Councils the most frequently occurring response was **Guest Speakers** (64%) followed by **fundraising** (32%) and **collaborating with community agencies** (32%).

	Elementary (n=146)		Secondary (n=22)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Breakfast programs	25	17%	3	14%
Milk programs	58	40%	0	0%
Hot lunch programs	112	77%	0	0%
Sportswear	49	34%	2	9%
Guest speakers	88	60%	14	64%
Fundraising	132	90%	7	32%
Collaborative community events/charities	89	61%	6	27%
Collaborating with community agencies to support students in the school	55	38%	7	32%
Cultural diversity outreach	46	32%	3	14%
Other	37	25%	8	36%

* % 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.

Other:

Please see the following table for the "other" responses. Secondary School Councils did not include responses that were exclusive of those provided in the question.

Other Responses	Elementary (n=21) Count
Workshops and events open to community (e.g., parenting seminar, French classes, Spring Fair)	**10**
Association with local businesses/organizations	**7**
Environmental initiatives/clubs in school	**5**
Community charity work / fundraising for community families (e.g., Food bank)	**2**
Fundraising - joint projects for resources in the community (e.g., playgrounds)	**2**

Note: # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.
Note: Responses that were redundant to the originally provided categories were omitted from the 'other' analysis.

QUESTION 10c: Which of these activities has your School Council undertaken in order to engage the community in supporting the cultural diversity of your school community?

The most frequently cited activity (83%) for both the Elementary and Secondary panel was **respecting religious holidays when planning events**. The second most frequently occurring theme in both Elementary and Secondary panels was **multicultural school events** (41% and 35% respectively). Similarly, both panels frequently mentioned efforts to ensure diverse representation on the School Council.

	Elementary (n=143)		Secondary (n=23)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Multicultural (i.e. culturally sensitive) School Events	58	41%	8	35%
Reducing Language Barriers (e.g. translations, interpreters, dual language books)	41	29%	5	22%
Respect religious holidays when planning events	119	83%	19	83%
Direct resources & funding to supporting cultural diversity	35	25%	3	13%
Efforts to ensure diverse representation on SC	54	38%	8	35%
None	12	8%	1	4%
Other	28	20%	1	4%

* % 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.

Other:

Please see the following table for "other" responses. Secondary School Councils did not include responses that were exclusive of those provided in the question.

Other Responses	Elementary (n=12) Count
Food at events/programs is culturally diverse/sensitive	**5**
Very little diversity in community	**4**
Keep community informed of diversity related events/issues (e.g., bulletin boards, school sign/Community Screen, direct communications)	**3**
Miscellaneous	**2**

Note: # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.
Note: Responses that were redundant to the originally provided categories were omitted from the 'other' analysis.

Parenting

QUESTION 11a: 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)

More than one third of the Secondary School Councils (35%) and more than one quarter of the Elementary School Councils (26%) have not been engaged in activities to support parents and families with parenting skills. The table below shows the extent to which School Councils are engaged activities to support parents and families with parenting skills where '1' indicates not at all and '5' indicates to a great extent.

	Elementary (n=149)		Secondary (n=26)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	39	26%	9	35%
2	24	16%	5	19%
3	40	27%	8	31%
4	35	24%	3	12%
5 (A Great Extent)	11	7%	1	4%

QUESTION 11b: If yes, how has the School Council assisted families with strategies to create an environment that supports children's learning?

A large portion of the School Councils that answered this question mentioned various evening events for parents (72% of Elementary and 92% of Secondary) including inviting **guest speakers**, hosting **information evenings and presentations**, and hosting **workshops.** The different formats of these events were kept separate in the table of results below. The other popular theme in the responses was School Councils providing parents with physical resources including **written information** in the form of tip sheets or newsletters and **parenting resources** through various activity kits and resources libraries.

	Elementary (n=87)		Secondary (n=12)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Guest speakers (e.g., nutrition, parenting skills, cyber bullying)	21	24%	8	67%
Information evenings and presentations (e.g., transitions, reading strategies, Welcome to Kindergarten)	27	31%	3	25%
Workshops (e.g., Tribes, Triple P, parenting skills, nutrition)	26	30%	2	17%
Provided written information (e.g., tip sheets, pamphlets, newsletters)	21	24%	1	8%
Provided access to parenting / learning resources (e.g., resources library, activity kits)	21	24%	0	0%
Directed parents to external online resources	6	7%	0	0%
Encouraged parental involvement (e.g., reading at home, Snuggle-up-and-Read, promoted volunteerism)	10	11%	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.

The topics that School Councils reported to have covered in their events, resources or other forms of assistance to families often pertained to parenting skills development including discipline and communication themed events as well as mention of specific programs like Triple P and Tribes workshops. Other common topics covered included how to help kids in their schooling (e.g., homework support, literacy/reading strategies, Transitions/Pathways) and health and welfare issues (e.g., nutrition, anti-smoking and drugs, internet safety, psychological help).

Volunteering

QUESTION 12a: To what extent has your School Council been engaged in activities to support volunteering?

The majority of Elementary School Councils affirmed that they had been engaged in activities to support volunteering. However, nearly one third of the Secondary School Councils (29%) reported not being engaged at all in activities to support volunteering. The table below show 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=147)		Secondary (n=24)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
1 (Not At All)	6	4%	7	29%
2	9	6%	6	25%
3	30	20%	6	25%
4	53	36%	3	13%
5 (A Great Extent)	49	33%	2	8%

QUESTION 12b: If yes, how has the School Council supported volunteering? Please check all that apply.

The three most frequently selected responses from Elementary and Secondary School Councils were the same: **Fundraising** (93% and 47%), **Recruitment and promotion of volunteers** (83% and 53%) and **Modeling by example** (79% and 53%).

	Elementary (n=145)		Secondary (n=15)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fundraising	135	93%	7	47%
Modeling by example	114	79%	8	53%
Recruitment and promotion of volunteers	121	83%	8	53%
Adapting volunteer handbook provided by the Board to the needs of your school	21	15%	1	7%
Assisting with training volunteers	59	41%	2	13%
Other	35	24%	3	20%

* % 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.

Other:

Please see the table below for the "other" responses. Note the small numbers for some of the responses.

Other Responses	Elementary (n=18) Count	Secondary (n=3) Count
Held volunteer appreciation event (e.g., tea, luncheon)	5	0
Community Partnerships (e.g., other schools, churches)	3	0
Created opportunities for volunteering (e.g., Graduation Events, in classrooms, tutoring, Fun Fair, Pizza Day)	9	3
Miscellaneous (e.g., Identified priorities and areas of volunteer need, succession planning)	1	0

Note: # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.
Note: Responses that were redundant to the originally provided categories were omitted from the 'other' analysis.

QUESTION 13: Identify the activities below in which the council was successfully engaged this year?

The majority of Elementary and Secondary School Councils who responded to this question (93% and 89% respectively) were engaged in **Parental/Community Support of School Activities/Programs**. Interestingly, the majority of Elementary School Councils (93%) were involved in **fundraising** this year and 30% of Secondary School Councils were involved in **fundraising** this year.

	Elementary (n=149)		Secondary (n=27)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Fundraising - e.g., achieved goals; magazine sales; pizza lunches; fun fair; movie night; popcorn Fridays; spring/fall fling; school BBQ; new volunteers; what/how to spend money	138	93%	8	30%
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	138	93%	24	89%
Consultation/Input into School Policy Development/Review - e.g., dress code; code of behavior; head lice policy; School Council constitution; SPCI; tech review; uniform survey	100	67%	16	59%
Support of Literacy Initiatives - e.g., workshops; primary leveled readers; reading circle; homework club; math/science programs; snuggle up and read; literacy café	114	77%	6	22%
School Site Improvements - e.g., repair/replace playground equipment; beautification; outdoor classroom	104	70%	11	41%
Collaboration/Recognition of School Council - e.g., creation of School Council; surveys; meeting format; identifying goals and priorities; networking	109	73%	18	67%
Health/Wellness Activities - e.g., hot lunch, milk, breakfast, nutrition and/or snack programs; health & wellness/nutrition committees	116	78%	4	15%
Promoting Community Partnerships - e.g., Parks & Recreation; Health Services; Community events	82	55%	8	30%
Communication - e.g., school needs; community information; monthly newsletters; website content	119	80%	16	59%
Improvement in Fine Arts Programs - e.g., Music; Visual Arts	95	64%	4	15%
Purchase of School Resources - e.g., computers; media; robotics; teachers' wish list	129	87%	6	22%
Increasing Attendance/Participation in School Council - e.g., recruiting new volunteers; positive, productive meetings	120	81%	19	70%
Development/Launch/Improvement of School Council Website	49	33%	7	26%
Transition to Secondary - e.g., working with feeder schools; attending Grade 8/9 meetings; transition planning; teen support groups	28	19%	14	52%
Other	12	8%	1	4%

* % 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.

Other:

Please see the following table for "other" responses. Secondary School Councils did not include responses that were exclusive of those provided in the question.

Other Responses	Elementary (n=3) Count
Attended workshops/forums (e.g., School Council Forum, Board hosted information presentations)	2
"Social awareness: promoting the idea that there are other less fortunate than us; we can help them."	1

Note: # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.
Note: Responses that were redundant to the originally provided categories were omitted from the 'other' analysis.

QUESTION 14: Identify the activities below which the council found challenging this year.

The two most frequently reported activities which Elementary and Secondary School Councils found challenging this year were **Attracting/Maintaining School Council Members and Attendance**, and **Maintaining or Lack of Volunteers**.

	Elementary (n=136)		Secondary (n=24)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Attracting/Maintaining SC Members and Attendance - e.g., no active involvement on subcommittees; difficult getting feedback from parents at Focus Group meetings; goal setting early in year with new members; difficulty increasing parental involvement; attendance at meetings; focusing SC meeting on Agenda & keeping within time limits, ensuring cultural diverse representation on SC, keeping proper documentation, interpersonal issues, conflict, succession planning, language issues	91	67%	17	71%
Maintaining or Lack of Volunteers - e.g., difficulty engaging volunteers; lack of active volunteer participation	90	66%	8	33%
Fundraising or Resource Challenges - e.g., lack of staff/parental support; opposition to initiatives; poor participation; no volunteers for fundraising events; allocation of funds	49	36%	3	13%
Communication/Collaboration - e.g., to parents; to Board; to community; ESL issues; 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; email addresses, website issues	43	32%	7	29%
Safety Matters - e.g., safe walking community; parking safety; snow removal policy; traffic problems; safety and public access to school (i.e. doors all closed except main doors); schoolyard safety/bullying	50	37%	4	17%
School Site Improvements - e.g., improvements to playground/equipment	28	21%	3	13%
Input into Policy Reviews - e.g., homework policy; SPCI issues- not enough discussion; lack of focus/accountability in SPCI	15	11%	4	17%
Other	10	7%	1	4%

* % 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.

Other:

Almost all of the responses to this question were covered by the closed options. Two Elementary schools, a joint Council, added that they had had difficulty with Teacher participation in extracurricular activities and finding lunch monitors.

QUESTION 15: List two potential objectives/priorities for next year's School Council:

In regards to Curriculum Implementation, 40% of the Elementary School Councils mentioned **supporting in school literacy initiatives** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council. 28% of Elementary School Councils mentioned **providing funding for resources** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council.

Curriculum Implementation – Elementary	Count n =96	Percent
Provide Funding / Fundraising for resources: musical instruments, technology, programs, field trips	27	28%
Focus on SPCI and targets	12	13%
Support Learning at home: reading at home, literacy nights, math nights	11	11%
Support in school Literacy initiatives: form sub-committees, involve parents as volunteer readers, support for ALL students	38	40%
Engage teachers and school personnel: support job-embedded Professional learning	4	4%
Homework: Homework Club, Review homework policy, less homework for some grades, independent study hall	6	6%
Collaboration between Parents and Administration: want to influence decisions in the school	4	4%
Volunteers	2	2%
Support (not necessarily financially) programs within the school: extra-curricular music, science and arts, physical education	11	11%
Miscellaneous	7	7%

* # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.

In regards to Parent, Family & Community Engagement, 34% of the Elementary School Councils mentioned **enhancing home-school partnerships** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council. 28% of Elementary School Councils mentioned **community/family building/engagement events** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council.

Parent, Family & Community Engagement – Elementary	Count n=130	Percent
Recruitment for council members, increase attendance & participations	17	13%
Encourage / Engage / Recruit Volunteers: school and classroom, develop training package, volunteer handbook	29	22%
Reach out to engage ALL members of the community / cultural diversity	10	8%
Community / Family building /engagement Events: Fun fair, Bingo, movie nights, workshops, guest speakers, Fundraising	37	28%
Enhance home-school partnerships: Engaging more parents, invite parental input and involvement, parent information nights, Parent engagement conference	44	34%
Improved communication: communication strategy, School Council website, newsletter	19	15%
Improve functioning of council	3	2%
Support programs: homework policy, support schools in engaging boys in literacy activities	5	4%
No change	3	2%
Miscellaneous	5	4%

* % 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.

In regards to School & Workplace Climate, 19% of the Elementary School Councils mentioned **safe schools** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council. 16% of Elementary School Councils mentioned **funding/support of purchases or programs** and also **staff/council/student rapport and engagement, collaboration, spirit** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council.

School & Workplace Climate – Elementary	Count n=77	Percent
School ground improvements: beautifying the grounds	10	13%
Safe schools: clear / defined bullying policy, environmental safety	15	19%
Enhancing environments initiatives: eco-school, eco-clubs, growing up green	8	10%
Healthy Schools / Living: Milk program, improve hot lunch program towards healthy eating, increase sense of body image, Healthy schools nutrition module, breakfast programs	7	9%
Community Partnerships: collaborate with community agencies	3	4%
Communication	7	9%
Funding / Support purchases or programs	12	16%
Staff / Council / Student rapport and engagement, collaboration, spirit	12	16%
School / Parent Relationships	8	10%
Miscellaneous	10	13%

* % 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.

Please see the table below for the "other" responses.

Other – Elementary	Count n = 33
Fundraising / Financial Support	13
Support of In-school Programs: team sports, arts, music, technology, character matters, anti-bullying	5
School ground improvements	4
Improve Functioning of School Council: increase attendance and diversity of council, increase involvement	4
Review Policies and Procedures	3
Engage and Support parent community	4
Miscellaneous	2

* # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.

In regards to Curriculum Implementation, 33% of the Secondary School Councils mentioned **department presentations/input** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council. Please note the low number of responses for this question.

Curriculum Implementation – Secondary	Count n= 9
Department Presentations / Input	3
Assessment and Evaluation	2
Grade 9 Transition / Parent Evenings	2
Miscelleous: continue to work with administrators for effective strategies, planning a career day, literacy implementation	3

* % 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.

In regards to Parent, Family & Community Engagement, 63% of the Secondary School Councils mentioned **increasing parent involvement** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council. 21% of Secondary School Councils mentioned **increasing communication with parents** as a potential objective and priority for next year's School Council.

Parent, Family & Community Engagement – Secondary	Count n=24	Percent
Educational Opportunities for Parents: Information Nights, Guest speakers	3	13%
Increase parent involvement, greater attendance at meetings, participation, engagement, School Council membership, recruit new members	15	63%
Increase communication with parents	5	21%
Encourage diversity of membership /attendance	3	13%
Miscellaneous	1	4%

* % 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.

In regards to School & Workplace Climate, only 10 Secondary School Councils responded to this question. All of the responses are included below.

School & Workplace Climate – Secondary	Count n=10
Work on engaging and improving	1
Library Improvement Initiative	1
Restorative Approaches	1
School image	1
Review dress code and attendance policy and evaluate implementation outcome	1
To promote A.M.H.S. in the community	1
Develop a school culture that focuses on whole student	1
Maintain old traditions/values in the new MDHS	1
Resolve traffic issues (second exit)	1
Safe Schools, limited student – student conflict	1

* % 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.

Only five Secondary School Councils responded in the "other" category. All of the responses are included below.

Other – Secondary	Count n= 5
Review/update existing documents	1
Re-evaluate advertising of ALL Parent Evenings to increase attendance at all sessions	1
Maintaining pressure in Vaughan Town Council to create a community library as part of community center development adjacent to Stephen Lewis Secondary	1
Opportunity to provide input to the " School plan for continuous improvement"	1
Succession planning: Continuity of the executive parent council base	1

* # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.

QUESTION 16: What strategies has your council used to support a smooth transition from this year's council to the next?

The two most frequently cited strategies both Elementary and Secondary School Councils are using to support a smooth transition from this year's council to the next are: **Return of the Same Council Members** and **Effective Communication**.

	Elementary (n=147)		Secondary (n=25)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Proactive Scheduling, Orientations and Training	68	46%	11	44%
Return of the Same Council Members	126	86%	21	84%
Co-Chair System	78	53%	9	36%
Effective Communication	95	65%	18	72%
Other	17	12%	4	16%

* % 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.

Other:

Please see the table below for the "other" responses.

Other Responses	Elementary (n=6) Count	Secondary (n=1) Count
Documentation and archiving of Council structure and planning outlines (e.g. updated council binder, purchased a Council computer)	**4**	**0**
Proactive recruiting of new members (e.g. Grade Nine Evening)	**3**	**1**
Advanced planning of goals and expectations for next year	**1**	**0**

Note: # in each column may sum to more than total 'n' due to multiple responses.
Note: Responses that were redundant to the originally provided categories were omitted from the 'other' analysis.

Building System Capacity

QUESTION 17: Identify below additional support or training your council would like to receive in the next school year?

The two most frequently identified support or training Elementary School Councils would like to receive in the next school year were: **Provide Information Regarding Speakers, Programs & Resources Available** (73%) and **Additional Funding** (69%). The two most frequently identified support or training Secondary School Councils would like to receive in the next school year were: **Opportunity (& Financial Support) to Attend School Council/Board Forums, Conferences, Workshops on Topics of Interest** (67%) and **Guidance on How to Recruit New School Council Members** (58%).

	Elementary (n=143)		Secondary (n=24)	
	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	93	65 %	13	54%
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	78	55%	16	67%
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	82	57%	11	46%
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 *Character Matters*, *Restorative Approaches*.	105	73%	13	54%
Guidance on How to Recruit New School Council Members - e.g., parents; teachers; volunteer trainer	82	57%	14	58%
Guidance on How to Involve Parents of Various Religious, Language and Cultural Backgrounds - e.g., translations of documents; interpreters, ESL challenges; multicultural sensitivity training	69	48%	11	46%
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	47	33%	3	13%
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	94	66%	9	38%
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	98	69%	10	42%
Other	12	8%	1	4%

* % 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.

Other:

Only six Elementary School Councils included "Other" in their response. Four Councils requested support for **website maintenance** and the other two want more information sent to School Councils on the **Eco-Schools** initiative.

School / Board Delivery of Service

QUESTION 18: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your school has shown improvement during this school year (e.g. program delivery – literacy, numeracy, arts, communication to parents; consultation; recognition; community partnerships; etc)? Give clear examples to support your statement.

One of the most common themes in the wide-ranging responses to this question is communication. Specifically, both Elementary and Secondary School Councils commented on the school and administration improving **communication with parents** (37% and 43% respectively) and **communication with the School Council** (8% and 17%). As well, two Elementary schools mentioned improvements in **communication among staff members** at the school.

Another important trend in the responses is the perceived importance and effectiveness of school initiatives aimed at improving student performance and wellbeing. **Literacy initiatives** like guided reading, literacy blocks and summer reading programs were highlighted by 41% of Elementary School Councils and 35% of Secondary councils. **Numeracy initiatives** were cited by 5% of Elementary and 17% of Secondary School Councils. Also, 10% of Elementary School Councils discussed the importance of **other school initiatives** including Healthy Schools, Eco-Schools and a focus on the use of technology.

	Elementary (n=131)		Secondary (n=23)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Communication with parents (e.g., new voicemail, Synervoice, improved/new website, improved/new newsletter, new school sign)	48	37%	10	43%
Communication with the School Council (e.g., administrator availability/openness, administrator or teacher attendance at SC meetings, more information at SC meetings)	10	8%	4	17%
Literacy initiatives (e.g., guided reading, literacy blocks, boys' literacy initiatives, Literacy through the Arts, Literacy through Technology, summer reading programs)	54	41%	8	35%
Numeracy initiatives (e.g., math contests)	6	5%	4	17%
Other school initiatives (e.g., Healthy Schools, Eco-Schools, Technology)	13	10%	0	0%
Extracurricular activities • The arts (e.g., school musicals, animation programs, other events) • Athletics (e.g., team performance, increased participation) • Other (e.g., general improvements, increased participation, yearbook)	33	25%	6	26%
Resources (e.g., more/better sports equipment, technology, musical instruments, playground equipment, other school materials)	29	22%	1	4%
Fundraising	17	13%	0	0%
Community partnerships (e.g., local business, community organizations, other schools)	18	14%	4	17%
Parental involvement (e.g., at events, in SC, volunteerism)	20	15%	4	17%
Student behavior and discipline (e.g., school spirit, anti-bullying initiatives, character education, RAYS)	14	11%	2	9%
Cultural inclusivity (e.g., events, increased language support)	7	5%	1	4%
Assessment indicators (e.g., literacy scores, numeracy scores, gender gap, graduation rate)	6	5%	3	13%
Support for struggling students (e.g., Intensive Support, support for at-risk learners, credit recover, case management)	5	4%	4	17%
School Council improvements (e.g., meetings, planning, events, communications)	9	7%	2	9%
Recognition (e.g., volunteers, student achievement, school staff)	8	6%	0	0%
None (e.g., nothing, same, not sure)	4	3%	1	4%
Miscellaneous	4	3%	2	9%

* % 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 19: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your Board has shown improvement during this school year (e.g. program delivery – literacy, numeracy, arts; communication to parents; consultation; support for School Councils; recognition; community partnerships; etc.)? Give clear examples to support your statement.

The most common theme from both Elementary (31%) and Secondary (47%) School Councils dealt with communication between the Board and the School Council and parents. Items in this broad category can be grouped into Board improvements in **keeping parents and the School Council informed** through emails and newsletters and comments on **generally good communication** between the Board and the School Council including references to open discussions and town hall meetings on important issues.

More detailed results for this question can be found in the table below.

	Elementary (n=93)		Secondary (n=15)	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Keeping parents and School Council informed (e.g., email communication, updates on Board meetings, newsletter, information from ministry through Board)	20	22%	3	20%
Generally good communication (e.g., open to discussion, quick responses, town hall meetings on new facilities, sensitivity to concerns of parents)	9	10%	4	27%
School Council forums and workshops (e.g., opportunity for networking, communication, professional learning, sharing ideas)	28	30%	2	13%
Funding for resources and initiatives (e.g., cost sharing for technology, playground, arts and sports, community classroom, healthy schools)	19	20%	2	13%
Support for volunteers and parental engagement (e.g., training on recruiting volunteers, training and workshops for SC, funding, support of PRO Grant application)	18	19%	1	7%
Focus on Literacy (e.g., programming, funding, professional development, literacy collaborative, EQAO results)	14	15%	1	7%
Presence / helpfulness of Board personnel (e.g., Superintendents, Plant Services, trustees, Community Resource Facilitators, attended SC meetings, events, or were generally available)	11	12%	1	7%
Support for safe schools initiatives (e.g., bullying workshops, cyber-bullying, restorative approaches, RAYS)	7	8%	2	13%
Supporting Community Partnerships (e.g., Kingbridge, Richmond Hill Center for Performing Arts, communication with town or city)	6	6%	2	13%
Professional Development for Teachers (e.g., QUEST, training with technology, providing relief time for staff to attend PD)	4	4%	1	7%
General Support and Recognition (e.g., SC Awards, consistency, generally supportive, recognizing needs and wants of school)	4	4%	2	13%
Did not notice improvement (e.g., none, not sure, same, Board is behind in EQAO results)	9	10%	1	7%
Miscellaneous (e.g., Framework for posting minutes on website)	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 20: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your school needs improvement? Give clear examples and suggestions.

The most frequent area (29%) reported as needing improvement for Elementary School Councils was **Communication**. Similar to previous years, they indicated a need to continue to improve Communication, citing a variety of examples (e.g., increased and clearer communications between parents, employees, managers and principals; more interaction and communication between School Councils and Board; improve website; needing communication in a more timely manner).

The second most frequent area (21%) reported as needing improvement for Elementary School Councils was **Parent involvement**. School Councils indicated a need to obtain greater parent engagement in student leaning.

Q20 - Elementary	Count n =119	Percent
Site Improvements	23	19%
More volunteers	12	10%
Communication (better communication, more information on website, updated information, open communication, more frequent communication, more timely)	34	29%
More participation / visibility of teachers and principals	13	11%
Recruit more SC members / increase attendance / participation	7	6%
More resources (computers, textbooks, teaching supplies)	17	14%
Support of literacy initiatives (EQAO performance, Differentiated instruction)	13	11%
Parent involvement (greater parent engagement in student learning)	25	21%
Community engagement	8	7%
Fundraising	9	8%
Extra-curricular activities & sport teams (music, arts, chess clubs, media club, drama)	8	7%
Cultural proficiency (more diversity involvement, multicultural awareness, religious celebrations)	8	7%
Improve functioning of SC (involve students in SC meetings)	9	8%
Collaboration between SC and school policy / planning (input into SPCI)	11	9%
Better / consistent use of agendas	2	2%
Safe schools (safety concerns, respectful behaviour, antibullying, safe-inclusive & supportive environment, restorative practices)	20	17%
No suggestions	1	1%
Miscellaneous	18	15%

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The most frequent area (26%) reported as needing improvement for Secondary School Councils was **literacy results**. School Councils indicated a need to continue to **improve literacy results** for males vs. females as boys are underperforming; others felt they needed to improve math and literacy scores.

Q20 - Secondary	Count n =19	Percent
Increase / Improve Communication	4	21%
Improve literacy results (math, gender)	5	26%
Parent & Community Engagement	4	21%
Site improvements	2	11%
School spirit, environment & climate	4	21%
Effective instructional practices / resources	4	21%

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QUESTION 21: In which area(s) does your School Council feel your Board needs improvement? Give clear examples and suggestions.

The most frequent area (31%) reported as needing improvement for Elementary School Councils was **Communication**. Similar to previous years, they indicated a need to continue to improve Communication, citing a variety of examples (e.g., too little communication, timely communication, more direction at the beginning of the school year, council specific information could be sent directly to the council chair, request of a board contact, etc.).

The second most frequent area (28%) reported as needing improvement for Elementary School Councils was **increase support/funding of programs at school**.

Q21 - Elementary	Count n =94	Percent
Site Maintenance / Improvements (issues dealt with in a timely manner)	13	14%
Communication (too little, not 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)	29	31%
Board participation / involvement (attend random SC meetings, visibility, being more open and approachable)	15	16%
Increase support / funding of programs at school (resources purchases, more equitable distribution, more time to implement ProGrant - spend $ next year)	26	28%
Support / Training for SC members (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)	14	15%
Increased IT support (tech support for website, support for new equipment, user support)	7	7%
Engaging our parent community (provide training in engaging parents, proactive involvement in community, availability of guest speakers)	13	14%
Highlights of best practices from other schools / SC would be beneficial as a guide	6	6%
Collaboration between SCs (meeting opportunities with other SCs on common interests)	5	5%
Shorter survey (survey too long, too time consuming)	3	3%
No suggestions	3	3%
Miscellaneous	10	11%

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The most frequent area (40%) reported as needing improvement for Secondary School Councils was **Collaboration / Communication**. Similar to previous years, they indicated a need to continue to improve Communication and collaboration, citing a variety of examples (e.g., they received no information from the Board directly, greater Board presence at School Council meetings and school functions was suggested).

Q21 - Secondary	Count n =15	Percent
Collaboration / Communication (received no information from the Board directly, orientation package, collaboration between SC, greater presence at SC meetings/school functions)	6	40%
Funding Improvements (distinctive from Elementary because little to none fundraising at Secondary, mental health financing, staffing support)	3	20%
Site Improvements / Maintenance	2	13%
No suggestions	1	7%
Miscellaneous	5	33%

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