

School Council Forum Fall 2008

Agenda

6:00 – 6:45 *Dinner*

6:45 – 6:50 *Welcome - Introductions*

6:50 – 7:00 *School Councils – Overview*

7:00 – 7:30 *Workshops*

7:40 – 8:10 *Workshops (repeated)*

8:15 – 9:00 *Trustee Dialogue:* Informal conversation between
Trustees, Councils and Superintendents

School Councils - Purpose

“School Councils are not an end – but are the means to the greater ends.”

- Support student learning
- Support and enhance parent, family and community engagement

School Councils – Role

- Advisory
 - to principal
 - to Board (eg provide input on policies/procedures being revised)
- School Plan for Continuous Improvement as the foundation
- Strategies for parents, families and school communities to support student achievement

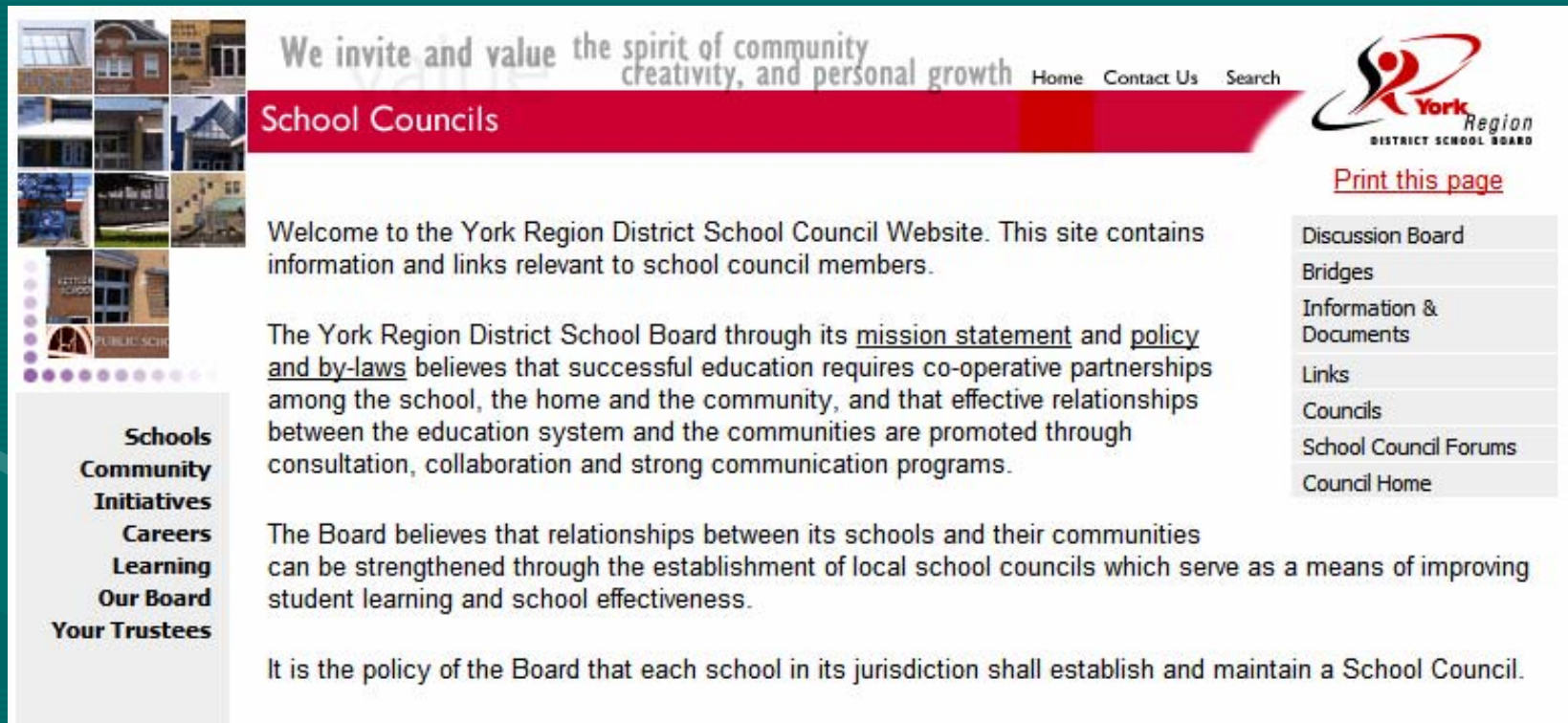
What if we need help?

- Principals – first line of clarity on relevant board policies, procedures and resources
- Chair and experienced members – internal and neighbouring schools
- Board resource documents (<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=SSC000004>)
- School superintendent – clarification and support in school specific matters
- Superintendent with portfolio responsibility – further clarification of policy, procedure and regulations
- Business Services – financial management and reporting

Fundamentals of School Councils

- School Council Website

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=SSC000001>



The screenshot shows the website for York Region District School Councils. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Contact Us, and Search. The main heading is "School Councils" in a red banner. Below this, a welcome message states: "Welcome to the York Region District School Council Website. This site contains information and links relevant to school council members." The central text explains the Board's belief in co-operative partnerships and the role of school councils in improving student learning. A sidebar on the left lists various school initiatives, and a sidebar on the right provides links to a Discussion Board, Bridges, Information & Documents, Links, Councils, School Council Forums, and Council Home.

We invite and value the spirit of community creativity, and personal growth

Home Contact Us Search

School Councils

Print this page

Discussion Board
Bridges
Information & Documents
Links
Councils
School Council Forums
Council Home

**Schools
Community
Initiatives
Careers
Learning
Our Board
Your Trustees**

Welcome to the York Region District School Council Website. This site contains information and links relevant to school council members.

The York Region District School Board through its mission statement and policy and by-laws believes that successful education requires co-operative partnerships among the school, the home and the community, and that effective relationships between the education system and the communities are promoted through consultation, collaboration and strong communication programs.

The Board believes that relationships between its schools and their communities can be strengthened through the establishment of local school councils which serve as a means of improving student learning and school effectiveness.

It is the policy of the Board that each school in its jurisdiction shall establish and maintain a School Council.

Fundamentals of School Councils

<http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=SSC000004>



Information & Documents

- [Parent Engagement Advisory Committee - Application Form](#) [MS Word]
- [2006-07 School Council Annual Report Template](#) [MS Word]
- [PRO Grants – 2007 Application Information](#)
- [School Council Orientation Sessions Feedback-Oct 2005](#)
- [Stimulating Parent Involvement to Stimulate Student Success](#)
- [Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment: Information for Community Partners](#)
- [School Council and Parent Involvement in School Improvement Planning](#)
- [School Council Handbook](#)
- School Council Orientation
 - [Power Point Presentation - by section](#)
 - [Booklet - Version 2](#)
- [2007 Committee Meeting Dates](#)
- [Parental Involvement Guide](#)
- [A Handbook of Information for Volunteers](#)
- [Board and Committee Information](#)
- [School Council Budget](#)
- [School Council Website Q&As](#)
- [Efforts to Improve Communication with School Councils](#)

Fundamentals of School Councils

- How can school administrators stimulate parent involvement to support student success?
Gord Kerr, Director - The Parent Engagement Centre

Part 1 - Length: 00:14:05

- [Windows Media Format](#) (15 Mb)
- [Quicktime Format](#) (24 Mb)

Part 2 - Length: 00:12:00

- [Windows Media Format](#) (11.9 Mb)
- [Quicktime Format](#) (20.3 Mb)

Part 3 - Length: 00:07:32

- [Windows Media Format](#) (9.2 Mb)

School Council Yearly Summaries

- [School Year In Review - Summary of Annual Reports](#) by year
- School Council 2001-2002 Year in Review
 - [Summary](#)
 - [Presentation](#)

Fundamentals of School Councils

Policies

- [#262.0 School Councils](#)
- [#280.0 Volunteers in Our Schools](#)
- [#635.0 Dress Code](#)
- [#668.0 Safe Schools](#)
- [#676.0 Student Funds and Student Projects Involving Funds](#)
- [Policy and By-Laws](#)

Procedures

- [P676.0](#) - School Fundraising
- [Monthly School Council Treasurer's Report](#)
- [P262.0](#) - School Councils

Fundamentals of School Councils

From Ministry of Education

- Parent Voice in Education Project
 - [Minister's Letter to Parent](#)
 - [Discussion Guide](#)
- [Ontario Knowledge Network for Learning](#)
- [Education Act, Ontario Regulation 612/00, No Amendments, School Councils](#)
- [Other provincial statutes and regulations](#)
- [School Council Guide](#)
- [School Council Handbook: A Resource for Members of School Councils, 1996](#)

School Council Orientation Course

- [Introduction](#)
- [Part 1 - The Fundamentals of School Councils](#)
- [Part 2 - Operational Guidelines for School Councils](#)
- [Part 3 - Strategies for Making Your School Council More Effective](#)
- [Part 4 - About the Board](#)

Ontario Parent Involvement Policy

- Supports Ministry's three key goals:
 - improving student achievement;
 - increasing student engagement/graduation rates; and
 - increasing public confidence in education.
- New grant programs support boards and schools (through their school councils) to engage parents and to ensure that diverse parent voices are heard.

Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee

– Role:

- to advise on strategies to support Parent, Family and Community engagement
- provide feedback on proposals and initiatives (eg. Board Plan for Continuous Improvement, Parent Engagement policy, School Council Forum planning)

– 3-5 meetings per year

– 13 parent members from across board

– Community, SEAC and Race Relations representatives

– 3 or more Trustees, Director, 1 Superintendent, 3 Principals, Chair and Vice-chair (ex-officio)

Board Level Initiatives

- Parent, Family and Community Engagement Steering Committee (co-chairs -Sharon Moss/Margaret Roberts) - subcommittees
- Establish a common understanding of Parent, Family and Community Engagement
- Planning to date:
 - Policy development
 - Coordination of related portfolios and initiatives
 - Development of draft Key Messages
 - Identification and sharing of effective practices
 - System Supports - training
 - Coordination of efforts
 - Contribution to Board Plan for Continuous Improvement

Key Messages/Guiding Principles

Draft

- Parent, family and community engagement is fundamental to student engagement and learning
- Parent, family and community engagement is everyone's responsibility
- Involvement and engagement are steps on a continuously evolving continuum
- Our core business is education, but we are interconnected with our families and community partners
- We are committed to finding ways and means to meet our goal of engaging *all* parents, families and communities.

Workshops

1. Financial Management for School Councils (at least 1 council member to attend)
2. Multi-lingual Toolkit for school councils (elementary)
3. Action Teams for Parent Engagement
4. Parent Engagement Journal
5. Welcome to Kindergarten program
6. Open Space – parent engagement strategy sharing