

# School Council Forum Fall 2009

## Agenda

6:00 – 6:30 *Dinner*

6:45 – 7:00 *Welcome - Introductions , overview*

7:00 – 7:35 *Workshops*

7:45 – 8:20 *Workshops (repeated)*

8:30 – 9:00 *Trustee Dialogue:* Informal conversation between  
Trustees, Council members and Superintendents

# School Councils - Purpose

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

- Board Plan for Continuous Improvement
- Support student learning, achievement and success
- Support and enhance parent, family and community engagement
- Represent the interests of all parents (and students)

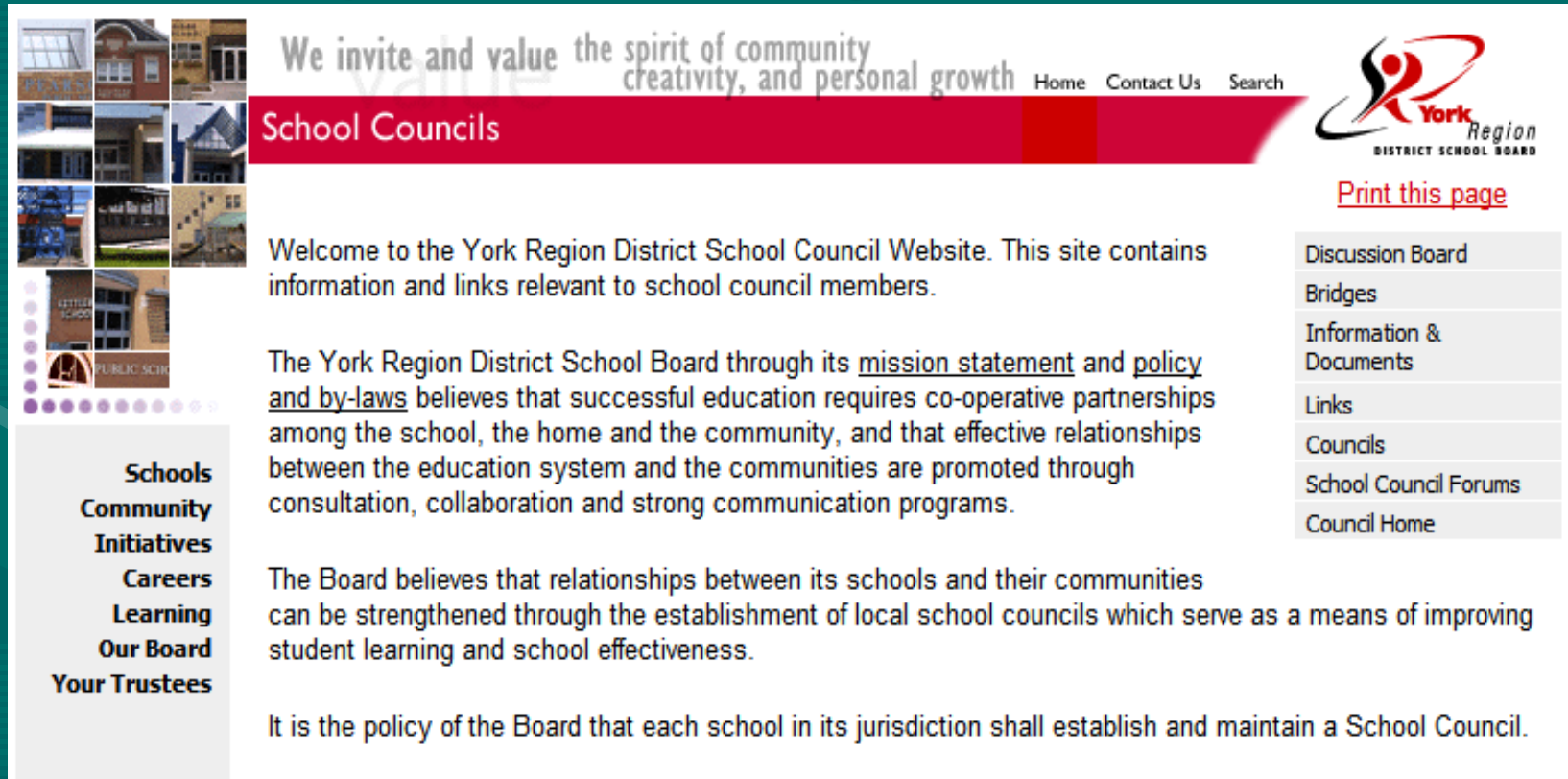
# School Councils – Role

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

# Fundamentals of School Councils

- School Council email accounts
- School Council Website

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



The screenshot shows the York Region District School Board's School Councils website. The header features a navigation bar with links for Home, Contact Us, and Search. A prominent red banner reads "We invite and value the spirit of community creativity, and personal growth". Below this, the "School Councils" section is highlighted. The main content area welcomes visitors and provides information about the Board's mission statement and policy. A sidebar on the left lists various school-related topics, and a sidebar on the right offers 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](#)

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.

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

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

# 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.

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)

# Workshops

- **Finances and the School Council** (elementary/secondary)  
Principles and strategies for school council treasurers, members and administrators
- **School Councils and School Plans for Continuous Improvement** (e/s)  
An overview of school improvement planning and the role that school councils can play
- **Effective School Council Meetings** (e/s)  
How to get the most from your meetings
- **Engaging Parents and Community Members** (e/s)  
Strategies for engaging parents and community members in ways that support students and their families
- **School Councils 101** (e/s)  
The basics for new members – a review of school councils' roles, and the supports available to council members
- **Communicating Effectively- Secondary**  
How secondary school councils can communicate effectively with parents and community members in order to achieve their goals
- **Open Space – elementary**  
Open dialogue among elementary school council members, facilitated by an elementary school administrator
- **Open Space – secondary**

# Orientation workshops

- To provide supports for new and experienced members
- To introduce some of the resources available to councils and administrators
- To reinforce the important role councils play in implementing School Plans for Continuous Improvement
- To share successful practices and ideas

# Comments, Questions?

[Engagement@yrdsb.edu.on.ca](mailto:Engagement@yrdsb.edu.on.ca)

