

School Council Annual Report 2020 - 2021

Note:1. Use **Ctrl + P** or **Cmd + P** (Mac) to print .2. File a hard copy in your school file.

School and Council Information

<i>School Name</i>	<input type="text" value="Legacy Public School"/>	<i>Survey Completed By</i>	<input type="text" value="Shelley Jones and Diba Bot-Roche"/>
<i>CEC</i>	<input type="text" value="E"/>	<i>Your Role on Council</i>	<input style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;" type="text" value="Administrator"/>
<i>Principal's Email Address</i>	<input type="text" value="shelley.jones@yrdsb.ca"/>	<i>Number of times School Council meet this year</i>	<input type="text" value="4 to 6 times"/>

A. Parent, Family and Community Engagement

1. In this past year, did your school council engage in the following activities that supported parent, family and community involvement and/or engagement? (Please select all that apply)

- a. Workshops - hosted, supported, presented - for information / learning (e.g., mental health campaign presentation, Math strategy presentation, virtual workshops, virtual social events)*
- b. Social events (e.g., cultural celebrations; spring fairs; etc.)*
- c. Out going communications to parents (e.g., flyers, newsletters, e-bulletin, e-mails)*
- d. In coming communications/requesting input from parents (e.g., survey, focus groups)*
- e. Support from parents to the school (e.g., fundraising activities)*
- f. Support for parents from the school (e.g., interpreters in meetings, virtual meetings)*
- g. Actions to support equity and inclusion in the [Indigenous Education and Equity Strategy \(IEES\)](#)*
- h. Specific strategies to improve parent, family and community involvement and engagement, please explain:*
- i. Other Activities:*

2. PRO Grants for School Councils support projects that focus on engaging parents within their school community who may experience barriers in becoming involved in their children's learning. The Parents Reaching Out Grants for School Councils application was available to school this year (maximum \$500.00).

Did your School Council receive approval for funds through the Parent Reaching Out Grant (\$500.00)

- Yes
 No

Since your School Council PRO Grant Application was approved, which of the priorities did your school community focus on improving? (Please select all the options that apply to your PRO Grant focus)

- a. providing a safe and welcoming school environment*
- b. building and supporting mental health and well-being*
- c. maintaining open communication with teachers*

d. respecting parents as valued partners within the education system in relation to decisions about their child's education

e. Informing parents about the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum

f. Other:

Engaging Parents in understanding how to support their children with safe use of technology at home.

Was your school able to use the approved PRO Grant this school year?

Yes

No

Please describe any issues, challenges or promising practices when organizing and implementing the above activities.

Community Involvement and Engagement was a challenge this year due to COVID concerns, observing social distancing protocols and families adjusting to lockdowns. All Council activities and initiatives were held virtually and were focused on maintaining school unity between all of our Face to Face and EVS students. Our virtual meetings were very successful and we will strive to include a virtual option for families to attend meetings and events once we return to a face to face model.

To communicate and promote our initiatives we used our School Twitter account, our Legacy School Council Twitter Account and school e-newsletter and email. We continue to observe that Twitter was not a popular platform for our school community and we decided to request that the school begin an Instagram account. The new Legacy Instagram account has more community member followers than Twitter and has proven to be an important way to communicate with our Legacy Community.

In an effort to involve the community we used student artwork to promote our initiatives. We saw participation from a different demographic of the school. Certificates of participation were sent to these students for their contributions to show our appreciation. This recognition was well received and we will continue this approach in the future.

B. Positive School Environment

A positive school environment is an essential component of parent/family engagement and well-being. In this past year, did your School Council engage in the following activities that supported the building of a positive school environment? (Please select all that apply)

a. Physical environment improvement efforts (e.g., school grounds improvement, signage, carpeting playground)

b. Environmental initiatives (e.g., eco-league, tree planting, beautification, outdoor classroom)

c. School safety (e.g., traffic issues, yard safety and supervision, restorative practices, anti-bullying initiatives)

d. Community-building and student social events (e.g., lunches, inclusion activities/events, assemblies, collaborative community events, field trips, extracurricular activities)

e. Healthy Living and Wellness activities (e.g., athletic programs, healthy school initiative, mental health, healthy snacks, hot lunch programs, lice screening)

f. Appreciation events (e.g., student recognition, staff recognition, community recognition events)

g. Enhancements to programs(e.g., technology, equipment, arts program, workshops)

h. Strategies to better include students (e.g., equity and inclusive learning environment)

i. Collaboration with local business and organizations

j. Other Activities:

Please describe any issues, challenges or promising practices when organizing and implementing the above activities

In order to create a positive school environment this year, we engaged our students and our school community in a 12 Days of Giving and Gratitude Campaign. This Campaign included encouraging our school community to give back to families in need by donating money, toys or grocery items to the YRP, the Markham Fire Stations or any grocery store. We communicated this event using both School and School Council Twitter Accounts and during morning announcements. We used encouraging messages to give along with student artwork and messages of gratitude.

As this was a challenging year for our Grade 8 Graduates we chose to gift each graduate with a special memento. we purchased a pen for each student that would help them to remember their time spent learning at Legacy public school. The pen in Legacy Blue, stated "Graduate of Legacy Public School 2020-2021". The LSC also contributed funds to purchase the balloons and decorations that would help make the Drive through Graduation a special event for our graduates.

Legacy School Council, in an effort to continue our tradition of showing our appreciation to Legacy Staff orgnized a staff appreciation e-card. We invited all students to create messages of appreciation in art or written form. These pieces were assembled into a appreciation slide show that was sent to both the School Staff and the School Community. This e-card had representation from all grades and classes at Legacy.

C. Diverse School Community

1. **Demographic Representation** -to what degree is your School Council representative of the school population:

- Highly representative
 Somewhat representative
 Is beginning to be representative

2. **Leadership Representation** - to what degree is your School Council's leadership (e.g., president, secretary, treasurer, formal voting positions) representative of the school population:

- Highly representative
 Somewhat representative
 Is beginning to be representative

3. In this past year, did your school council engage in the following activities that follow the guiding principles ([Policy #261.0, Equity and Inclusivity](#)) in the building of a diverse school community? (Please select all that apply)

- a. Reducing barriers (e.g., culturally responsive pedagogy; language, special needs, socio-economic, funding support)
- b. Respecting faith-based practices in planning events (e.g., observances and practices)
- c. Increasing diverse representation on school council
- d. Providing multi-lingual resources (e.g., newsletters; interpreters; translators)
- e. Holding school council meetings at different times of the day (e.g., alternating mornings after drop-off, afternoon before dismissal of students, and in the evenings- alternating for different families)
- f. Engaging in learning to increase understanding of the Board's Equity and Inclusivity goals (and/or IEES)
- g. Establishing Parent Ambassadors to welcome new families (reflective of the school's demographics)
- h. Inviting Community Partners/Organizations to share the ways in which they can partner with the school and support families with resources, etc.

i.. Other:

4. In the past year, how often did your school council engage with local Indigenous communities and families to integrate authentic experiences and content?

- Not at all
 1-2 times
 3-5 times
 6 times or more

5. In the past year, to what degree was your school council involved in providing opportunities for open dialogues with students, families and communities that were culturally responsive and relevant?

- Greatly involved
 Moderately involved
 Slightly involved
 Not Involved

6. In the past year, to what degree was your school council involved in fostering a school-community collaborative approach to identify and address discriminatory biases and systemic barriers to promote student achievement and well-being?

- Highly involved
 Somewhat involved
 Not involved

Please describe any issues, challenges or promising practices when organizing and implementing the above activities

Collectively, our Council represents all grade levels and both learning models. At the conclusion of our inaugural meeting, we set a clear goal to include all Legacy P.S. students in our initiatives, regardless of their learning model.

Ice Breaker topics at each Council Meeting gave everyone who joined the meeting time to share a story about the chosen topic. Topics were focused on reflecting back to our childhood and school experiences. This gave everyone a chance to remind ourselves what it was like when we were students and helped us make decisions based on those diverse reflections.

Our Principal made presentations about the work of the YRDSB with regards to Anti-Black Racism and the professional development that the teachers were engaged in with regards to understanding the impact that Anti-Black Racism and colonialism has had and continues to have on our school system and strategies to engage in the work to dismantle the impact on our Black and racialized students. The presentations sparked conversations about the importance of this work, the ways the work will be measured and how we as a School Council can support this ongoing work.

D. Fundraising

Was your School Council involved in fundraising activities in the past year?

- Yes
 No

E. Additional Support and Training

The [YRDSB Director's Action Plan](#) sets out six goals that align with the strategic plan and our Board's Mission, Vision and Values. Please indicate if there is a need for the Board to provide additional

support and training to your school in the next school year: (Please check all areas that apply for your school)

- a. Goal 1: Foster Well-Being and Mental Health (i.e., to build safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environments where students and staff feel they matter and belong)
- b. Goal 2: Champion Equity and Inclusivity (i.e., to build a collective understanding of: the ongoing impact of colonialism on Indigenous Communities, Anti-oppression, and Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy [CRRP])
- c. Goal 3: Champion Equity and Inclusivity (i.e., to provide comprehensive math programs that reflect students' identities, lived experiences, needs and interests)
- d. Goal 4: Build Collaborative Relationships (i.e., to build trust and collaborative relationships with students, families and staff through respectful and responsive communication focused on shared solutions)
- e. Goal 5: Empower Ethical Leadership (i.e., to elevate student voice in learning, assessment and decision-making)
- f. Goal 6: Empower Ethical Leadership (i.e., to build a collective understanding of ethical leadership)

Please also think about if there any additional support or training that you would like to receive for your school council next school year:

To help reduce confusion and communication issues, the Council Email Address should be ready for use within 2 weeks of the new Council being established. This year, the Chair received the passwords and information on the Email format in mid-December, well after communication channels were established.

F. Any other comments

Please share your school council's achievements and/or suggestions/feedback in the text box below:

With the ongoing pandemic, this has become a year of learning new ways to engage the school community. At Legacy PS, we decided to focus on three main themes while staying in line with current Public Health guidelines; Community OutReach, Learning For All and Student Focused Spirit Initiatives.

In December, our 12 Days of Giving Twitter Campaign aimed to raise funds for YRP Holiday Heroes. The Campaign also encouraged food or clothing donations at any Markham Fire Station location and any grocery store. During these 12 days of the campaign, Legacy PS student volunteers shared their artwork and sweet messages of gratitude.

In February, our Treasurer successfully applied for an Ontario Grant geared for School Councils to be used as a "Parent Reaching Out" Initiative. We used these funds to host a virtual evening focused on "Internet Safety" with Social Media Safety Expert Paul Davis. This was a well-attended session where we learned about online dangers which included the pitfalls of technology in the bedroom, the importance of observing the minimum age requirements for social media accounts and monitoring our children's social media and digital trails. After a conversation at School Council about engaging students in this learning as well, our Principal used other fundraised funds to engage Paul Davis in presenting to our students. He made a presentation to our students in Intermediate grades and to those in the Junior division. Our EVS students were invited and encouraged to attend the presentation for the students in the Junior division. We had good participation from students who attended EVS.

During the last few months, we were striving for a Student Focused Spirit Initiative in the form of offering Special Edition Spirit Wear apparel. Due to the lockdown and Public Health restrictions, we decided to deliver this initiative in September as a nice way to build school spirit for the return to school.