



**WELCOME**

**to our 1st School Council Meeting**

October 5th, 2017

# York Region District School Board



- **third largest school district in Ontario – one of the largest in Canada**
- **over 123,000 students**
- **177 elementary schools**
- **33 secondary schools**
- **our Board has [12 Trustees](#) – Mr. Billy Pang represents SJAM**



# Sir John A Macdonald Public School



- 683 students; 31 homeroom classes
- 52 teachers and support staff, 4 caretakers, 5 in the office = 61 adult SJAM lead learners
- Our SJAM School Website is [here](#)

*...all working together to support our staff, students and parent community*

## The Evidence Is Overwhelming

“Parental involvement is one of the *most significant* factors contributing to a child’s success in school. When parents are involved in their education, the level of student achievement *increases.*”

# Policies School Councils should be familiar with –

[#262.0 School Councils](#)

[#280.0 Volunteers in our Schools](#)

[#668.0 Caring and Safe Schools](#)

[#676.0 School Fundraising and Administration of School Generated Funds](#)

## **Policies & Procedures**

Policies and procedures are important resources which govern the operation of York Region schools. They provide belief statements and operating guidelines for parents and staff regarding the administration of program, property, student, staff and Board matters.



# SCHOOL COUNCIL HANDBOOK

*Building family and community partnerships in support  
of student achievement and well-being*

# School Council



**School Councils are set up to ensure parents have involvement in their child's education**

- **the goal of School Councils is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system**
- **any parent can be a member**

*(The role of School Council as defined by the Ministry of Education; by the YRDSB; by the Education Improvement Commission – all are outlined in the YRDSB School Council Handbook, pages 15–16)*

# Purpose of the School Council –



- ✓ provide positive and innovative advice into decisions made by school administration, the Board, and the Ministry – as an *advisory* body.
- ✓ Participate actively and support the School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (SIPSA) – and the BIPSA (Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement)
- ✓ Encourage shared responsibility for student learning among students, parents, and teachers.
- ✓ Support school, family, and community partnerships that assist and encourage effective parental involvement in the education of their children.



# Purpose of the School Council – *continued*

- ✓ **provide a means of regular communication and dialogue between all partners in education.**
- ✓ **encourage contact with other School Councils.**
- ✓ **fundraise to enhance the school life of our students.**

# School Council – SJAM Council Constitution

[SJAM School Council Constitution](#)

[Parent Resources links](#)

## **Article 2: Mission Statement**

Our school council believes that collaborative partnerships among the school, the family, and the community are essential to improving student learning and increasing a shared sense of accountability for public education.

# School Council – SJAM Council Constitution (cont'd)

## **Article 3: Purpose and Objectives**

The objectives of the School Council are to:

1. Encourage effective parental involvement in the education of their children.
2. Provide a means for regular communication and dialogue between all partners in education.
3. Participate in the school improvement planning process.
4. Provide meaningful consultation and extensive involvement of all members of the school community.
5. Foster parental and community involvement in education.

# School Council – SJAM Council Constitution (cont'd)

6. Encourage meaningful involvement of all members of the school community in support of student learning.
7. Provide input into decisions made by the school administration, the Board and the Ministry.
8. Encourage effective parental involvement by focusing on the following areas: parenting skills, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making and collaborating with community.
9. Help to co-ordinate the services for school, family and community partnerships related to social, health, recreational and nutrition programs that assist in the education of children.
10. Facilitate the building of a viable school community, which works together in the best interests of our students and their education.

# If you have a question...



- 1. Your child's teacher**
- 2. Principal or Vice-Principal**
- 3. Superintendent – Mr. Peter Tse**
- 4. Trustee – Mr. Billy Pang**

# **SJAM** – We want students to:



- **be recognized for their efforts – socially and academically**
- **be challenged, engaged and inspired**
- **have voice and choice in their learning and leadership opportunities**
- **have trust in our school staff as supports for their learning**
- **have a sense of belonging and school pride here in our SJAM Jungle**

# Let's build a word cloud!

**A peek inside of all of our classrooms at SJAM....**

**What thoughts and feelings come to mind after watching the [slide show](#)\* of our classrooms?**

(\*link only accessible within YRDSB)

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Go to **www.menti.com** and use the code **15 50 16**

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**We are partners in education  
and we look forward to working together!**



# School Council –



## General Members

### Executive Positions:

- Chair(s)
- Vice–Chair(s)
- Treasurer(s)
- Communications Officer(s)
- Community Member

**The Chair or 2 Co-Chairs of the School Council shall:**

- call School Council meetings (minimum 4 per year) in consultation with the principal
- communicate with parents about matters under consideration by the School Council
- in consultation with the principal and Executive members, prepare the agenda for School Council meetings and ensure it is distributed to School Council members seven days prior to an upcoming meeting
- chair School Council meetings according to the agenda
- ensure the minutes of School Council meetings are communicated appropriately to School Council members within 14 days (max) following each School Council meeting
- ensure the School Council Constitution by-laws are reviewed every two years and are readily available to the school community
- communicate with and provide advice to the school principal on behalf of the School Council
- participate in information sessions and Council Forums
- consult with senior Board staff and trustees, as required
- after consultation with the Executive and the principal, have the authority to approve expenditures up to \$300, between School Council meetings

**The Vice-Chair OR 2 Co-Vice Chairs of the School Council shall:**

- assist the Chair of the School Council in carrying out his/her responsibilities
- act on behalf of the Chair/Co-Chair in the event of his/her absence
- perform duties of Secretary and Treasurer in their absence

**The Communications Officer OR 2 Co-Communications Officers of the School Council shall:**

- provide School Council communications to the school for posting to our newsletter, to our SJAM twitter feed, etc.
- record, maintain and distribute minutes (final draft) of meetings to School Council members and the school community within 14 days (max) following each meeting
- prior to the final draft, provide a draft of minutes to the Executive for approval
- receive membership applications and establish the membership list for distribution
- maintain all Council communications in the School Council Documentation binder in the office
- keep School Council Executive and membership lists up to date
- determine who is eligible to vote at the outset of each meeting
- confirm that a quorum is present at a School Council meeting if a formal vote is required

**The Treasurer OR 2 Co-Treasurers of the Council shall:**

- request the school EOAA (Elementary Office Administrative Assistant) to prepare financial updates for the treasurer to report to council at each meeting
  - review the record of all receipts and disbursements of School Council, and the reconciliation of the School Council funds for the current fiscal year
  - collect all monies in the name and credit of Sir John A Macdonald School Council and provide these funds to the principal or their delegate to deposit
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- approve the disbursement of funds as voted by the School Council after reasonable consultation with the principal. In the event of an emergency, disbursements may be approved by the executive in consultation with the principal
  - school administration is responsible for providing a copy of the financial statements for current fiscal year (July - June) for school council's review

## 9.2: Agendas

Meeting agendas shall be prepared by the Council Chair/Co-Chairs and approved by the Principal a minimum of 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

The meeting agenda will be issued to Council Members prior to each meeting.

Members and Participants may request items be placed on the agenda by contacting the Chair/Co-Chairs within 10 days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Members and Participants may make presentations to the Council as scheduled on the agenda. The Chair/Co-Chairs will reserve the right to limit the number and length of presentations and discussions at any meeting.

## 9.3 Minutes

Minutes shall be posted on the school website **within 14 days** of the conclusion of the Council meeting.

# Let's vote on your **SJAM School Council Executive!**

**Chair(s)–**

**Vice–Chair(s)**

**Treasurer –**

**Communications Officer –**

**Community Member –**

