The Board believes that school councils play an important role in building school, family and community partnerships by providing input into relevant school level and Board decisions and by encouraging the meaningful involvement of all members of the school community in support of student learning.

Board Policy #262.0

Parents play the first and most important role in their children’s education and are key partners in building a quality education system. One purpose of the school council is to promote and support the involvement of all parents in their children’s learning.
CEC West
School Council Forum

Monday, October 29, 2012
Emily Carr Secondary School
6-8 pm
CEC WEST
Fall School Council Forum
PEAC

PEAC Rep: Colin Ninvalle
PEAC
( Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Committee)

PURPOSE

♦ Providing information and advice on parent engagement to the board
♦ Communicating with and supporting School Councils of schools with the board;
♦ Undertaking activities to help parents of pupils of the board support their children’s learning at home and at school
Framework for Parent Engagement

- Each plays a role in shaping the experiences and attitudes of a student.
- How well the resources work together (or not) has an impact on student learning.
Epstein’s Six Types of Involvement

- Communicating
- Participating In Decision Making
- Learning At Home
- Volunteering
- Parenting
- Collaborating With Community

"Multiple forms of particular involvement, deliberately fostered developed and supported" - Dr. Michael Fullan
Adapted for Ontario

Communicating

Participating In Decision Making

Helping At Home

Volunteering

Building Parenting Skills

Collaborating With Community

Attending School Events

Fundraising
An Common Organizing Framework Establishes a Common Working Language

A Common Goal: Improved Student Learning

The Use of a Common Working Language

School (Educators)  Community  Family (Parents)
PEAC Structure

PEAC Committee

- Director of Education
- 1 Trustee
- 1 Secondary Parent/CEC
- 2 Elementary Parents/CEC
- 1 Principal/Vice Principal Elementary & Secondary
- 2 staff (other than Principal/Vice Principal)
- 1 Teacher Elementary/Secondary (may)
- 2-3 Community Members (SEAC, EIAC etc…)

7-8 Meetings/Year
PEAC Newsletter

- Parent, Family and Community Engagement Advisory Newsletter
  - Quarterly Communication
  - Sent electronically to all schools and SC Chairs

- PEAC Website
  - [http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=PEAC00001](http://www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca/page.cfm?id=PEAC00001)
School Fees Information

Superintendent of Schools - Operations:
Allan Hoyle
Overview

- Ministry guidelines do not allow schools to charge fees for required course work
- Fees may be charged for enhancements
- Secondary schools may charge a voluntary school activity fee up to $50
- Differentiated fee structure
Each student must have an equal opportunity to benefit from the education system without being required to pay a fee for basic services.

Fees may be charged for enhanced materials that are voluntary enrichments beyond what is necessary to meet the curriculum expectations.

In most cases, fees may be charged for extracurricular activities.
What does this mean for schools?

- Scope of some programs may change
- Enhancements are optional
- Fee breakdowns are available
- Enhancements are pre-approved by the principal
Fundraising

- Fundraising may be used to enhance learning opportunities and co-curricular activities
- Funds raised should not be used to support items funded through provincial grants
- Fundraising is optional
What does this mean for students?

- Classes continue as usual
- Scope of some programs will change,
- Anything for which a fee is charged must be optional
- Regional programs may charge a fee for their program
Field Trips

- Field trips are considered enhancements
- A fee will be charged to participate
- While field trips are connected to course expectations, assessment of learning will *not* be attached to field trips in which not all students can participate
Extracurricular Activities

- Expenses are recovered from participating students for extracurricular activities
- May include athletics, clubs, etc.
- Differentiated fee structure
Key Messages

- YRDSB is committed to equity and excellence in education for all students
- Given the new fee guidelines from the Ministry, there will be a change in our ability to collect fees
- We will continue to deliver a high quality program
Questions?
Effective School Councils

School Council Forum Planning Team
Why School Councils?

School councils build school, family and community partnerships through a variety of strategies including:

- ongoing dialogue with and advice to the principal
- participation in the development and support of the school improvement plan
- volunteering in various capacities
- promoting parent education and learning at home
- coordinating, supporting and empowering community resources
The Role of School Councils

What Are School Councils?

- School councils are advisory bodies
- They can make recommendations to the PRINCIPAL and/or the Board on ANY matter (with the exception of confidential personnel matters)

What is the Role of School Councils?

- The role of the schools councils is to improve student learning and to develop a shared sense of accountability for the public education system among both parents and educators
Assessing Your School Council’s Effectiveness

What are 2 or 3 things that make your school council effective?

Post one idea on each post it note in Lino (iPad App).
Using the resources provided in the bin at your table, reflect upon the key questions as they relate to your school community.
School Council Forum Feedback Form

To help us plan effectively for future forums, please complete a feedback form individually or as a group and leave it in the bin on your table.
Trustee Breakout Sessions

Cafeteria: Joel Hertz

Library: Anna DeBartolo
Thank you!
Additional Slides/Information
Effective school councils

- focus on student learning and the best interests of ALL students
- are actively involved in setting school priorities for improving student achievement and well-being
- promote meaningful parental and community involvement and engagement, actively seeking the views of ALL members of their school communities
- have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities
Effective School Councils

- include members who represent the diverse views of their school communities
- keep well informed about school and board policies and procedures
- have clear and consistent processes for decision making
- communicate with the community about their activities
- maintain high ethical standards
- have members who have developed mutual trust and respect for one another
Questions to Consider Regarding an Effective School Council

In order to effectively serve the school community the school council will need to learn about its members. To learn about your community your council might consider the following questions:

- **Who makes up our school community?**
- **Who in the community is present or not present at school council, school, community events and activities?**
- **What information does your school community receive and need?**
- **What is the faith, racial and ethno-cultural composition of the community?**
- **What other dimensions/characteristics of the community do we need to consider (e.g. Socio-economic status, language etc...)? What organizations exist?**
- **Who are the leaders in the community?**
Questions, continued

- What information does the school communicate to our community? (How does this need to be done more effectively e.g. translation, electronic, hard copy etc...)
- Does the information satisfy all of the diverse needs of the community?
- What do the members of our community need to know?
- How do the school and the school council currently exchange information with the diverse elements of our community?
- Does the school or the school council have a contact person in each outside organization or network?
- Is two-way communication promoted?