




SCHOOL COUNCILS



WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL

- ▶ -School Councils are committees which play a vital role in education in Ontario
 - ▶ -Established by the Ministry of Education, Education Act and ON Regulation 612/00 and Regulation 298
 - ▶ -Provide forum for parents/guardians to contribute to improving student achievement and school performance
 - ▶ -Councils are able to consult with Principals and School Boards on any matter
 - ▶ -Principals and Boards must consult with Councils on a variety of matters concerning student learning
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School Councils

A Guide for Members



2001
Revised 2002



What *MUST* the School Consult on

- ▶ All initiatives related to student achievement
- ▶ Enhancing system accountability to parents
- ▶ Code of conduct
- ▶ Actions plans based on EQAO results
- ▶ School Improvement Plan
- ▶ Scheduling special school events
- ▶ Review of safe arrival policy
- ▶ Homework policies
- ▶ School organization
- ▶ School budget priorities

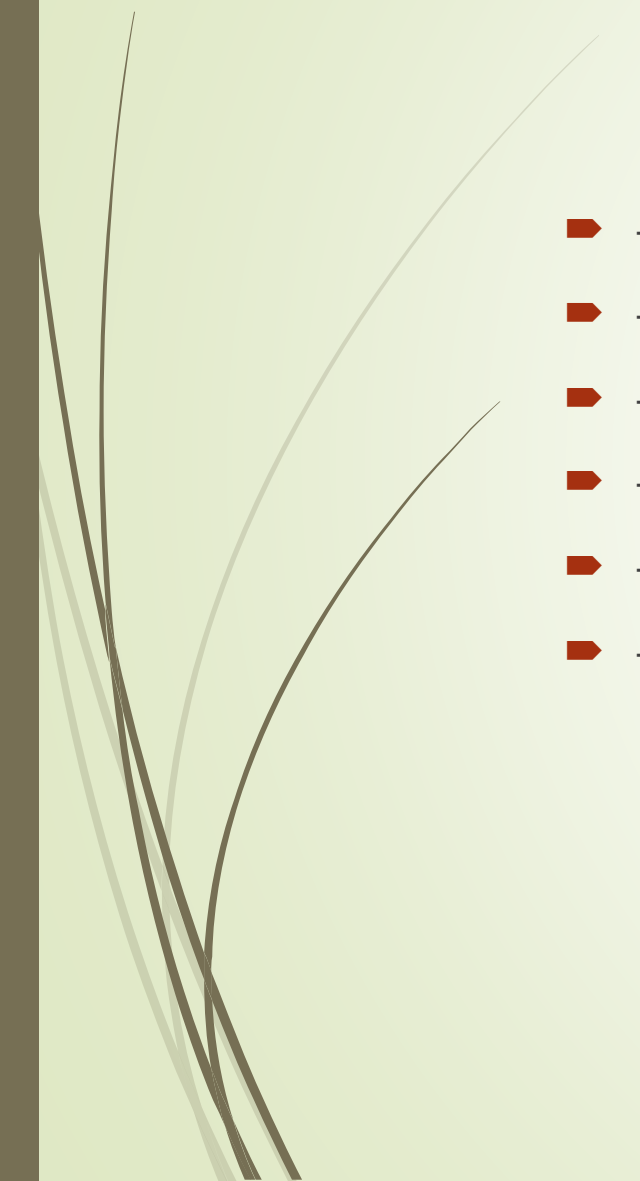


What the DSBN *MUST* Consult Parents on

- Board Improvement Plan
- Code of Conduct including dress codes
- School year calendar
- School closures or twinning of schools (DSBN Policy F2)
- Capital improvements
- Busing
- School boundaries
- Funding for school councils



Council Members

- ▶ -Majority must be parents/guardians
 - ▶ -Principal or Vice Principal (upon delegation)
 - ▶ -Teacher at the school
 - ▶ -Student (optional for elementary schools)
 - ▶ -Community member
 - ▶ -Non-teaching staff at school
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Role of Chair

- ▶ -arrange meetings
- ▶ -prepare agenda
- ▶ -chair meetings
- ▶ -ensure accurate minutes are taken at each meeting
- ▶ -sit as ex-officio of all committees established by Council
- ▶ -facilitate conflict resolution
- ▶ -communicate with principal regarding Council concerns
- ▶ -additional duties established by DSBN, i.e. potential ARC Committee Member
- ▶ -non-voting member



Role of Principal



- ▶ -informs council and school community of material from the Ministry of Education
- ▶ -resource to council for laws, by-laws, regulations, and DSBN policies
- ▶ -attends council meetings
- ▶ -concerns councils recommendations and informs council as to action taken
- ▶ -solicits views regarding school improvements in areas of student achievement
- ▶ -solicits views on accountability of education system
- ▶ -non-voting member

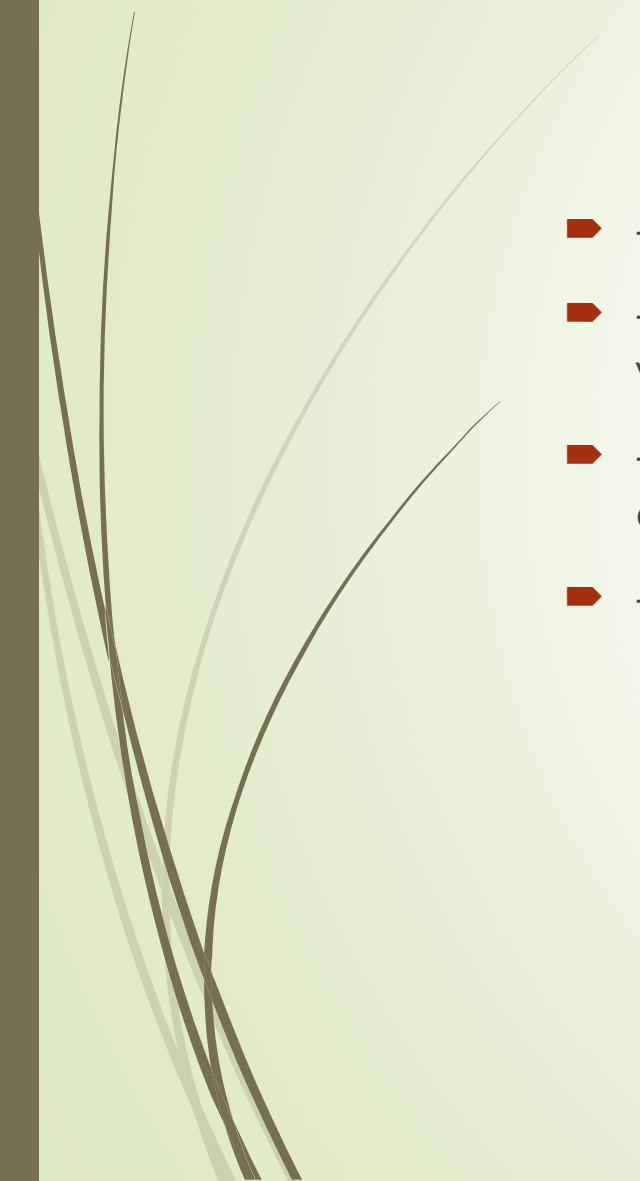


Council Members

- ▶ -solicit views and opinions of other parents/guardians
- ▶ -choose to participate on subcommittees established by Council
- ▶ -contribute to discussions at Council meetings
- ▶ -observe council's bylaws and/or code of ethics



Parent Involvement Committee

- -established in 2010 by Ministry of Education
 - -providing information and advice to DSBN on parent engagement and ways to communicate with parents
 - -developing ways DSBN could use to help more parents support their children's learning at home and at school
 - -assists councils when called upon
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Group Questions?

- Have you implemented a strategy to increase parent involvement at School Council?
 - What are some of barriers to engagement you face?
 - What are some of the successes you have accomplished with your School Council?
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