



EFFECTIVE SCHOOL COUNCILS

Roles, Responsibilities and Results



What is School Council?

- Committees playing a vital role in the Ontario Education System
- Established by the Education Act, Reg 612/00
- Forum for parents/guardians to contribute to improving student achievement and school performance
- Advisory in nature
- Councils may consult on any matter
- Boards and Schools are ***required*** to consult on several issues

Chair

- Arrange meeting dates in conjunction with council and principal
- Prepare agenda prioritizing items of importance with principal
- Present Chair Report
- Ensure accurate minutes are taken
- Follow-up with any action that is required
- Sit as ex-officio of all committees established by Council
- Facilitate conflict resolution
- Communicate with principal regarding Council concerns
- Direct concerns of members to the right channel
- Additional duties established by DSBN or Ministry of Education, i.e. potential ARC Committee Member
- Must be a parent member and *not* an employee of the Board

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
- Considers 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

Areas Requiring Consultation

- All initiatives related to student achievement (School and Board)
- Enhancing system accountability to parents (School and Board)
- Code of conduct and Dress Code (School and Board)
- Actions plans based on EQAO results (School and Board)
- School Improvement Plan (School)
- Board Improvement Plan (Board)
- School closures or twinning of schools (DSBN Policy F2) (Board)
- New education initiatives at Board or School Level (School and Board)

Potential Areas for Consultation

- Safe Arrival Policies (School and Board)
- Homework policies (School and Board)
- School organization (School)
- School budget priorities (School)
- School year calendar (School and Board)
- Capital improvements for schools (School and Board)
- Busing (School and Board)
- School boundaries (School and Board)

Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

- 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
- Communicates with Chairs of School Council via email
- www.dsbn.org/pic

Group Questions

- What barriers to engagement do you face?
- What communication strategies work best for you?
- How can PIC help your council?
- What are your School Council Goals?