

# ENCOURAGING MEMBERSHIP

INCREASING PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

# PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- Issue for most School Councils
- No easy or one size fits all solutions
- Remain positive
- Try new approaches
- Work with school
- Do not burn out

# MEETINGS

- Establish dates of meetings with council and principal that works for most people
- Send out reminders and agenda for upcoming meetings
- Start and finish on-time
- Begin meetings with introductions
- Arrange seating to encourage discussion
- Remain on topic, place new discussion items in “parking lot”

# PUTTING OUT A WELCOME MAT

- Work with principal for opportunities for School Council to meet parents, i.e. Meet the Teacher Night, Kindergarten Open House or grade 9 Open House, etc
- Create a welcome package for parents new to the school, include newsletters, School Council meeting times, School calendar of events and other material relevant to your school
- Encourage new members

# BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

- Consider childcare options for meetings
- Offer a volunteer training evening
- Provide light supper for meetings (good use of PIC funds)

# INCREASE SCHOOL COUNCIL VISIBILITY

- Talk with Principal about possible space for School Council inside school, i.e. bulletin board, shelf in foyer, space in library
- School Website
- Host an event, i.e. school fair, family movie night, PRO Grant evening, etc.
- Invest in school council spirit wear (and wear it at events)



# RECOGNITION

- Thank volunteers
- Follow up with members
- Reach out to members who have not attended in a while
- Talk with parents about events council is organizing
- Host a volunteer thank you event

# BE REFLECTIVE

- Understand that parents have busy lives
- Try not to take it personally
- Discuss options with council members and principal
- Consult PIC members
- Ensure parents know there is a School Council