

Questions & Answers about School Councils

What is a School Council??

The School Council is a representative advisory body within the school.

School Councils were created by the Ontario Ministry of Education through Ontario Regulation 612/00 and are supported by ADSB School Councils Policy.

Ontario Regulation 612/00 states that the purpose of School Councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

ADSB policy states that a School Council is a body through which parents, teachers and administrative staff work cooperatively together in mutual respect and understanding to further the educational experiences of the children attending ADSB schools.

What is the purpose of the School Council ???

The Council is an advisory body which offers its opinion and advice on matters within the mandate of this Council.

This advice goes to the school principal, and where appropriate, the school board in accordance with ADSB School Councils Policy.

The Council is bound by the rules as outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education through Ontario Regulation 612/00 and ADSB School Councils Policy.

What are some examples of this advice???

- provide input into the development of school improvement plans
- support and enhance the communication between school and home
- provide input on the code of conduct and appropriate dress code
- create a principal profile

Who can be a member of the School Council???

Ontario Regulation 612/00 stipulates that parent members must hold a majority of seats of the membership of the Council. The ADSB School Council Policy 1.2(11) stipulates that the total of elected parent members must be greater than the total of all other members.

The Council shall consist of:

- parents and guardians of students enrolled in the school. This group has to be the majority of the members on a council
- the school principal
- teacher on staff at the school
- one or more student(s) (optional at elementary level)
- support staff member at the school (non-teaching)
- community representative(s)

How does one become a member???

Each parent/guardian is eligible to stand for election and is eligible to vote for all of the parent/guardian members of the School Council.

Each term is for one year with the possibility of reelection.

When are elections held???

The election of parent members of a School Council shall be held during the first 30 calendar days of each school year.

The date is fixed by the chair or co-chairs of the School Council after consulting with the principal of the school.

The principal of a school shall, at least 14 days before the date of the election of parent members, on behalf of the school council, give written notice of the date, time and location of the election to every parent of a pupil who, on the date the notice is given, is enrolled in the school.

The written notice shall be given to the parent's child for delivery to his or her parent and posted in the school in a location that is accessible to parents.

(from Ontario Regulation 612/00)

Why get involved in the School Council???

Parental involvement is a significant predictor of student success.

Parents who are involved in some way are more likely to have children that perform better in school.

What are some of the duties of a School Council member?

All members of the Council shall place the overall interest of the students and the school first.

They shall maintain a school wide perspective on issues and participate in Council meetings.

The members act as a link between the Council and the broader school community.

The members try to encourage the participation of people within the broader community.

The members may from time to time initiate ad hoc or standing sub committees for specific purposes.

Any recommendations from these committees should be brought to the Council for ratification and implementation.

How often does the School Council meet???

- Each school sets their own meeting cycle.
- The Council must hold no less than 4 meetings a year. (Ont Reg. 612/00)
- The first meeting takes place within the first thirty-five (35) calendar days of the school year.

How do I get more information about the School Council in our school???

Contact the Principal of your school or the current chair person of the School Council.

The school office will provide you with that person's name and contact number.

*When parents are involved
children do better in school,
and they go to better schools.*