

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS 4300

SCHOOL COUNCILS 4310

1. Rationale

It is in accordance with the Education Act and Ontario Regulation 612/00 that each school of the Simcoe Country District School Board (board) has a school council. The purpose of the school council is to improve student achievement and well-being and enhance the accountability of the education system by making recommendations to the school and the board. This is achieved through the on-going and valued parent/guardian, school staff, and community participation and communication for a shared sense of accountability for public education. Education is a partnership involving parents/guardians, students, teachers, principals, school boards, government, and the community.

2. Policy

It is the policy of the Simcoe County District School Board to enable school councils to be engaged community partners, in an advisory capacity, for the improvement of student achievement and well-being in safe and nurturing learning environments within the local school, board and throughout Ontario.

3. Definitions

3.1 School Council is an advisory body that makes recommendations to the school principal and/or the board on matters as stated in the Education Act, applicable legislation, and board policy.

3.2 Advisory Body is a group established to provide advice and recommendations. An advisory body does not have final decision-making power. (Ministry of Education, School Councils: A Guide for Members, 2001.)

3.3 School Community includes but is not limited to parents/guardians, school administrators, teaching staff, support staff, students, and members of the local community.

4. Guidelines

The Partnership

4.1 Ontario Government

4.1.1 Makes regulations regarding school councils;

4.1.2 The Ministry of Education reports annually to members of school councils on education in the province.

4.2 Board of Trustees

- 4.2.1 Makes board policy regarding school councils;
- 4.2.2 Consults with school councils to ensure that parents/guardians, through their school councils, are able to influence decisions affecting their children's education and responds to their recommendations;
- 4.2.3 Facilitates the communication and networking opportunities among school councils through a series of meetings for school council members organized by the Parent Involvement Committee.

4.3 Director of Education

- 4.3.1 Ensures the School Council Policy 4310 is implemented;
- 4.3.2 Consults with school councils on board planning processes and implementation plans that relate to student achievement, well-being, and the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians;
- 4.3.3 Responds to their recommendations.

4.4 Principal

- 4.4.1 Familiarizes the school council with the Education Act, Ontario Regulation 612/00 and related guidelines;
- 4.4.2 Collaborates with their school council to make the education system more accountable to the school community;
- 4.4.3 Promotes, supports, and guides the school council, in their advisory role, to be an effective voice for parents/guardians;
- 4.4.4 Encourages the school council to be as representative of the school community as is reasonable;
- 4.4.5 Receives and responds to their recommendations.

4.5 School Council

- 4.5.1 Acts within the scope of their duties as stated in legislation and board policy;
- 4.5.2 Promotes and improves student learning, in an advisory capacity, through active participation and communication;
- 4.5.3 Involves and represents the school community by consulting with all parents/guardians of the school's students;
- 4.5.4 Makes recommendations related to the school to the school principal;
- 4.5.5 Makes recommendations that are broader in scope than the local school to the school principal for direction or as appropriate to a board official or board committee;
- 4.5.6 Operates in accordance with Ontario Regulation 612/00.

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS 4300

SCHOOL COUNCILS 4310

Page 3

5. **Administrative Procedures**

The Director of Education is authorized to provide administrative procedures to implement this policy.

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