

Derrydown Public School School Council Regulations/By-laws

(ONTARIO REGULATION 612/00 <u>www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/000612</u>)

Core Implementation Values: MUTUAL RESPECT, Transparency and Constructive Mechanism are the core/guiding values of this By-Laws.

The school council is an advisory body which consists of elected parents, teacher(s), principal/vice principal, support staff, community representative(s), secondary school students, (elementary where appropriate) and a representative from the Ontario Home and School Association, if such a group exists in the school. (Reg. 612/3.8)

The purpose of the school council is, through the active participation of parents, to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. (Reg.612/2.1)

RESPONSIBILITIES

The School Council shall:

- Consult with parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school about matters under consideration by the council. (Reg.612/23)
- Develop by-laws that govern election procedures, filling vacancies, a conflict of interest, and a conflict resolution process. (Reg. 612/15.2)
- Keep minutes of meetings and records of financial transactions available at the school for a period of four years, for examination without charge by any person. (Reg. 612/16)
- Produce an annual written report of the council activities, including financial activities, to be submitted to the Principal and the Board. (Reg.612/24)

The PRINCIPAL SHALL

- Act as a resource person to the school council, and assist the council in obtaining information relevant to its functions, including information relating to relevant legislation and policies. (Reg.613/20)
- Solicit the views of the school council with respect to:
 - School policies and guidelines that relate to student achievement or to the accountability of the education system to parents.
 - > A local code of conduct and a local student dress code.
 - New education initiatives that relate to students or to the accountability of the education system to parents.
 - School action plans for improvement based on EQAO results and communication of those plans to the public. (Reg.613/1-3)

- Consider each recommendation made by the council and advise the council of the action taken in response to the recommendation. (Reg. 613/12.1)
- Distribute the school council's annual report to every parent/guardian and post it in an accessible location. (Reg. 613/24.3)
- Distribute materials intended for school councils from the Ministry of Education to school council members and post them in an accessible location. (Reg.613/12.1)
- Give written notice of the elections to parents at least 14 days before the election and post such notice in an accessible location. (Reg.612)
- > Attend every meeting of the school council. (Reg.613/3.16)

ELECTIONS

- The chair or co-chair shall be a parent member of the council and shall be elected by council members. (Reg. 612/7.1)
- A person is qualified to be a parent member of a school council if he /she is a parent of a student who is enrolled in the school. (Reg. 612/4.1)
- A person is qualified to vote in an election of parent members if he/she is a parent of a student who is enrolled in the school. (Reg.612/4.3)
- Election of all school council members shall be held during the first 30 days of each school year, with 14 days advance notice. (Reg. 612/4.4 and Reg.612/12.4)
- Elections of parent members shall be by secret ballot. (Reg. 612/4.8)
- The term of office is one year (members may be re-elected for more than one term). (Reg. 612/6.1)
- A vacancy in the membership of a School Council shall be filled by election or appointment, in accordance with the By-Laws of the council. (Reg. 612/7.1)
- Teacher member(s) are elected by teachers, support staffs are elected by support staff; student members are elected by students; community members are appointed by the council. (Reg. 612/5.1-4)

MEMBERSHIP

The majority of school council members must be parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school. The specific numbers of members in each category are determined by the

by-laws. (Reg.612/3.4)

- Board employees who work at their child's school are not eligible for election as School Council parent members in that school (Reg.612/3.5, 4.2)
- Board employees who stand for school council election as parent members in their child's school (where they do not work), must disclose their employment with the board. (Reg. 612/3.5, 4.2)
- Board employees are not eligible to be Chair or Co-chair of any school council in that Board. (Reg. 612/8.3)
- A school trustee is not eligible to be a member of a school council. (Reg.612/3.6)
- <u>Sub-committees may include non-elected members of the school community and must include at least one parent member of the school council. (Reg. 612/13.2.3)</u>

MEETINGS

- The school council shall meet at least four times during the school year to discuss and decide on matters that it has the authority to consider. (Reg.612/12.1)
- A majority of parents must be present to have a duly constituted meeting of the school council (quorum). (Reg. 612/12.3)

- A newly elected school council shall meet within 35 days of the school year on a date set by the principal. (Reg. 612/12.2)
- Each elected member of the school council is entitled to one vote. Principals are not eligible to vote. (Reg.612/14.2-3)
- All school council meetings shall be open to the public. (Reg. 612/12.4)

FUNDRAISING

- A school council may engage in fundraising activities (Reg. 612/22.1)
- The fundraising activities of the school council shall be conducted in accordance with applicable Board policies, and for a purpose approved by the Board.
- A school council shall not be incorporated. (Reg.612/17)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- a. Place the overall interests of the students and school first.
- b. Participate in the SAC meetings.
- c. Participate in information and training programs, where appropriate.
- d. Act as a link between SAC and the community.
- e. Encourage the participation of parents and others within the community.
- f. Seek to reach a consensus in the decision-making processes of the SAC.
- g. Assist in the preparation of the annual report.
- h. Be mindful of any personal conflicts of interest and declare such conflicts.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE SAC

Officer positions are elected or acclaimed at the first meeting of the school year and should include:

- a. a Chair or, if determined by the council, two Co-Chairs
- b. a Vice-Chair
- c. a secretary or if determined by the council, two secretaries
- d. a Treasurer

ROLES OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Chair or Co-Chairs

a. There may be a Chair or two Co-Chairs of the SAC. Where there is more than one Chair, the division of responsibilities enumerated below shall be decided among the Co-Chairs.

b. Where there is more than one Chair during meetings of the SAC, one of the two Co- Chairs shall be designated as Chair of the meeting.

c. The Chair and/or the Co-Chairs of the School Advisory Council will:

- call council meetings
- set the agenda for meetings in consultation with the principal
- chair SAC meetings
- Communicate with the principal (i.e., involve the principal in the planning of all SAC activities and/or initiatives that will involve or have an impact on the school's staff or students).
- encourage diversity in ad hoc and sub-committees
- facilitate collaborative decision-making within a democratic framework and assist with conflict resolution
- ensure that there is regular communication with the school community
- consult with Board staff and trustees, as required
- Prepare an annual report on the activities of the SAC to the principal and the Board.
- deal with all correspondence and communications directed to or required of the Council in consultation with the Co-Chair and Vice-Chair as appropriate
- Report to council on recommended fundraising initiatives and report on activities and expenditures of the committee.
- Act as signing officer for the SAC bank account.

SECRETARY

a. There may be a secretary or two secretaries of the SAC. Where there is more than one secretary, the division of responsibilities enumerated below shall be decided among the secretaries.

b. Where there is more than one secretary during meetings of the SAC, one of the two secretaries shall be designated as secretary of the meeting.

The secretary will:

i. ensure that the minutes of the meetings are recorded, maintained and accessible

ii. print and distribute minutes of all council minutes to all council members

iii. post minutes on the school website through the principal and ensure that a copy of the minutes is kept in the minutes logbook and accessible to the school community

iv. act as signing officer for the SAC bank account if necessary.

TREASURER

The Treasurer of the School Advisory Council will:

a. Prepare an annual budget for the SAC, a copy of which shall be tabled by no later than the second meeting, for review and approval of the SAC

b. Prepare and present a balance sheet and the annual budget at the Annual General Meetings (June and September) for review and approval of the SAC

c. Prepare and present a balance sheet at each SAC meeting for review and approval of the SAC

d. Maintain a bank account and reconcile SAC funds

e. Prepare all necessary filings in compliance with all regulatory and/ or legislative requirements

f. Recommend, establish and implement appropriate policies and procedures for the management, security, accounting and reconciliation of funds raised and expended by SAC

g. Act as signing officer for the SAC bank account.

Fundraising (Board Policy P021)

Fundraising constitute a major activity of School Council. It is a collaborative effort among parents, students, school staff and the school community to raise funds to enhance the school program and support school initiatives. Fundraising activities may include sponsorships and donations.

Policy of Fundraising

- 1. To ensure equity, a central equity fund shall be maintained that will hold funds voluntarily donated through a system-wide, curriculum –based fundraising criteria.
- 2. Door-to door canvassing by junior elementary school students shall not be permitted without written parental/guardian consent and when accompanied.
- 3. No products to be sold for fundraising purposes shall be sent home with students without written parental consent.
- 4. Products used for school fundraising shall be of good quality and provided by reputed companies as defined by the Board's purchasing guidelines, appropriate for student consumption or use; in keeping with the school community's standard of propriety; and reflective of the Board's values.
- 5. Secondary school students shall be encouraged to work in a group of at least three students and during daylight hours when fundraising in the community.
- 6. Where incentives are warranted, class or group awards are acceptable.
- 7. Parent and student participation in any fundraising activity shall be voluntary.
- 8. Local charitable foundations affiliated with schools shall conform to Board policy.
- 9. Money raised through fundraising is not to be used to provide resources necessary for the delivery of curriculum or a safe learning environment, i.e. structural repair; sanitation, emergency repair, textbooks required to deliver curriculum, school administration, staff positions covered under collective agreements.

Exception: Funds raised or donations received for special purpose areas of a school (Policy P047, Naming schools and Special Purpose Areas, section 4.7)

10. The Director is authorized to issue operational procedures to implement this policy.

School Committee Participation

There are presently three [3] school committees open to parent/guardian and school council participation:

- 1. Caring and Safe Schools Committee (PPM 144, 145 & Operational Procedure PR,703)
 - The school has a Caring and Safe Schools Team, composed of at least one student (where appropriate), one parent, one teacher, one support staff, one community partner, the school positive space rep, the school equity rep, and the principal. An existing school committee can assume this role.
 - The parent/guardian representative's role on the committee is to provide:
 - Input/recommendations on the behalf of parents/guardians of the school. Where feasible, it is encouraged that the parent/guardian representative be connected to the school council for the purposes of soliciting parent input and providing updates of the committee's work to parents/guardians.

Staffing Committee

To maximize parent engagement, and to minimize parent sourced questions and concerns, it is highly recommended to elementary principals that parents/guardians are engaged in the staffing process and work toward ensuring that:

- A parent/guardian group of at **least two parents**, identified by the School Council, have the opportunity to review and understand the staff allocation numbers and projected enrolment for the school.;
- Development of possible program organization models, and any such staffing models are considered by the school staffing committee in their deliberations;
- The final model is discussed and reviewed with the parent group, and presented to the school council prior to forwarding to the Superintendent of Education for approval, identifying rationale for the model chosen; and
- Parents/guardians are engaged in any changes and re-organization.

Budget Committees:

Regulation 612 requires schools (Principals) to consult with Parents/Guardians on school budget priorities. The Board encourages schools (Principals) to establish a school budget committee and must include school council representatives in developing their expenditure plan. However a Principal may opt to consult through other means such as presentation/discussion with school council/parents versus a committee.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

- Every school is required to develop, implement, and monitor school improvement actions that meet the needs of every learner. The SIP is to align with the Family of School Improvement Plan and the Board Improvement Plan. All parents are informed as to the requirements and purpose of a SIP, the opportunity to contribute to the plan, and the leadership role of the council on behalf of parents/guardians (e.g., council will identify representatives to participate on the team and report back to council.
- The principal leads the development of a SIP team. The purpose of the team is to organize and implement the planning process leading to the development of a SIP.
- School council representatives are to be identified for the SIP. The role of the school council representative is to solicit feedback from council/parents/guardians and provide feedback to the team.
- A draft of the SIP is to be presented to the school council for feedback. The final SIP should be presented to the council and define the role of the stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the plan.

CODE OF ETHICS

Toronto District School Board, Operational Procedure PR585

BOARD CODE OF CONDUCT Adopted: June 25, 2008, Revised: May 6, 2011, February 20, 2013.

SCHOOL COUNCIL CODE OF ETHICS

- 1. A member shall consider the best interests of all students.
- 2. A member shall be guided by the school's and the school board's mission statements.
- 3. A member shall act within the limits of the roles and responsibilities of a school council, as identified by the school's operating guidelines, the school board, and the Ontario Ministry of Education.
- 4. A member shall become familiar with the school's policies and operating practices and act in accordance with them.
- 5. A member shall maintain the highest standards of integrity.
- 6. A member shall recognize and respect the personal integrity of each member of the school community.
- 7. A member shall treat all other members with respect and allow for diverse opinions to be shared without interruption.
- 8. A member shall encourage a positive environment in which individual contributions are encouraged and valued.
- 9. A member shall acknowledge democratic principles and accept the consensus of the council.
- 10. A member shall respect the confidential nature of some school business and respect limitations this may place on the operation of the school council.
- 11. A member shall not disclose confidential information.
- 12. A member shall limit discussions at school council meetings to matters of concern to the school community as a whole.

- 13. A member shall use established communication channels when questions or concerns arise.
- 14. A member shall promote high standards of ethical practice within the school community. A member shall declare any conflict of interest.
- 15. A member shall not accept any payment or benefit financially through school council involvement.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest refers to a situation in which private interests or personal considerations may affect an executive's judgment in acting in the best interest of the school and the SAC.

1. It includes using a member's position, confidential information, material or facilities for private gain or advancement or the expectation of private gain or advancement.

2. A conflict may occur when an interest benefits any person(s) or the person(s)' family, friends or business associates.

3. In the event that a person has a conflict of interest with respect to a matter under consideration at a SAC meeting, the member shall:

a. Declare the conflict of interest at the beginning of the meeting and before the matter is discussed.

b. Refrain from participating in the discussion of the matter.

c. Refrain from voting on the matter.

d. Refrain from attempting to influence another attendee of the SAC before, during or after the consideration of the matter.

4. The declaration of the conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

5. A member shall not accept favours or economic benefits from any individual organizations or entities known to be seeking business contracts with the school.

6. It is acceptable for the council to accept or pay for services from a member of council or parent of a student of the school, as long as proper conflict of interest protocols are conducted.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 1. Attendees of the SAC and associated committees shall receive no remuneration for the execution of their duties.
- 2. Cheques must contain the signatures of more than one person from the Executive Council who should not be from the same family. The principal may choose to be a signing officer.
- 3. In accordance with the TDSB Board Policy SM.04 (Fundraising in Schools), funds raised by the SAC shall be used only for school-related activities and to pay for the general expenses of carrying out the SAC's business (approved reimbursements). Funds raised by the SAC

and all associated bookkeeping are to be audited by the SAC and subject to the rules and regulations set out by the TDSB and the Ontario Ministry of Education guidelines.

4. The budgets, balance sheets, financial reports, banking transactions and statements prepared and handled by the Treasurer, may be subject to financial review, as required from time to time, as directed by resolution of the SAC.

FUNDRAISING

A school council may engage in fundraising activities.

2. A school council shall not engage in fundraising activities unless a. the activities are conducted in accordance with any applicable policies established by the Board; and

b. the activities are to raise funds for a purpose approved by the Board or authorized by any applicable policies established by the Board.

3. A school council shall ensure that the funds raised by it are used in accordance with any applicable policies established by the Board.

4. All expenditures of the council require prior approval of the council, with the exception of those outlined in Article 15.5.

5. Expenditure decisions of up to \$200 can be made by the Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the Treasurer and/or Principal, to support Council/School activities that arise during the year. These expenditures must be reported in the Treasurer's Report.

BY-LAWS

A school council may make by-laws governing the conduct of its affairs.

2. Every school council shall make the following by-laws:

a. A by-law that governs election procedures and the filling of vacancies in the membership of the school council.

b. A by-law that establishes rules respecting participation in school council proceedings in cases of conflict of interest.

c. A by-law that, in accordance with any applicable policies established by the Board, establishes a conflict resolution process for internal school council disputes.

AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

These By-laws may be amended in accordance with this section by a special resolution by the Members, at a general meeting or annual general meeting of the SAC.

2. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing, to the Chair/Co-Chairs/Vice Chair in writing at least 14 days in advance of any general meeting or annual general meeting of the SAC by any member of SAC.

3. The Chair/Co-Chairs/Vice Chair must publish any proposed amendment to this Constitution, on the school's public website and newsletter, at least 7 days in advance of any meeting or annual general meeting of the SAC.

4. The special resolution amending this Constitution shall be endorsed by at least two thirds of the parents present at a general meeting or annual general meeting, in order to have been deemed to have passed.

5. A constitutional amendment takes effect on the on the date specified in the amendment.

6. The SAC shall be empowered to make any minor changes to a proposed constitutional amendment which shall be ratified at the next SAC meeting that

a. Renumber the provisions of this Constitution to accommodate the changes that have been made.

b. Correct cross-references between provisions which may no longer be accurate.

c. Correct errors that may be purely typographical.

d. Correct errors in spelling.

e. Replace gender-based language with gender neutral language.

MOTIONS AND VOTING

1. All motions must be moved by a member of the SAC and **seconded by another member**. The Chair will ensure sufficient discussion is allowed on the motion. The Chair of the meeting may not move or second a motion. The Chair of the meeting shall not vote or be recorded as having voted except in the case of breaking a tie.

Following the **democratic process**, the SAC will make every attempt to reach a consensus on motions. When consensus is not possible, the council will decide the matter through a simple majority vote with the following exceptions:

a. amendments to the by-laws with the procedures stipulated more specifically in section 17

b. removal of a member as outlined in section 10

REMOVAL OF A MEMBER

Under a notice of motion with one meeting notice, a member of the SAC may be removed from office, under the following conditions, by simple majority:

a. A member who misses three or more meetings in a school year

b. A member whose conduct is detrimental to the purpose of the SAC

c. A member deemed to have committed a breach of trust or whose conduct is deemed to be inappropriate (as outlined in the standards of behaviour in the Board Code of Conduct.

VACANCIES IN MEMBERSHIP

Vacancies occur when:

a. positions on the SAC have not been filled after election

b. a member resigns

c. a member is unable or unwilling to fulfil the roles and responsibilities of their position

d. a member has been removed from the SAC

2. The SAC Executive in consultation with the principal may appoint a representative to fill any vacancy until the next election.

3. A vacancy in the membership of the SAC does not prevent the council from exercising its authority unless all of the executive positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Co-Chair are vacant. An election would have to be called for the following SAC meeting.

COMMITTEES

The SAC may establish committees as required.

2. All committees will have a Chair who will provide a progress report at monthly SAC meetings as required.

3. Committee reports are presented to the SAC for discussion and follow-up at monthly meetings.

4. The SAC may appoint any parent of a child enrolled at the school to serve on a committee(s).

5. The executive SAC members can be members of any committee.

6. Committee(s) do not have voting authority on initiatives. They must maintain minutes and present findings/advice at the monthly SAC meeting. SAC must vote on the initiative before it is implemented. Committees must seek SAC approval on any expenses related to their initiatives.

7. Chairs of the committee may be an executive member or any at large member.

8. A committee of a school council may include persons who are not members of the council.

9. Each member of a committee of a school council is entitled to one vote at committee meetings.

CURRICULUM PLANNING

School Council members can actively participate in the curriculum review, planning and implementation. In addition, the school has different extra-curricular activities and members can participate as judges

MOTIONS AND VOTING PROCEDURES

THERE ARE FOUR BASIC TYPES OF MOTIONS:

A motion is a proposal that the entire membership take action or a stand on an issue.

Main Motions:

The purpose of a main motion is to introduce items to the membership for their consideration. They cannot be made when any other motion is on the floor, and yield to privileged, subsidiary, and incidental motions.

Subsidiary Motions:

Their purpose is to change or affect how a main motion is handled, and is voted on before a main motion.

Privileged Motions:

Their purpose is to bring up items that are urgent about special or important matters unrelated to pending business.

Incidental Motions:

Their purpose is to provide a means of questioning procedure concerning other motions and must be considered before the other motion.

VOTING ON A MOTION:

The method of vote on any motion depends on the situation and the by-laws of policy of your organization. There are five methods used to vote by most organizations, they are:

By Voice -- The Chair asks those in favour to say, "aye", those opposed to say "no". Any member may move for an exact count.

By Roll Call -- Each member answers "yes" or "no" as his name is called. This method is used when a record of each person's vote is required.

By General Consent -- When a motion is not likely to be opposed, the Chair says, "if there is no objection ..." The membership shows agreement by their silence, however if one member says, "I object," the item must be put to a vote.

By Division -- This is a slight verification of a voice vote. It does not require a count unless the Chair so desires. Members raise their hands or stand.

By Ballot -- Members write their vote on a slip of paper; this method is used when secrecy is desired.

There are two other motions that are commonly used that relate to voting.

Motion to Table -- This motion is often used in the attempt to "kill" a motion. The option is always present, however, to "take from the table", for reconsideration by the membership.

Motion to Postpone Indefinitely -- This is often used as a means of parliamentary strategy and allows opponents of motion to test their strength without an actual vote being taken. Also, debate is once again open on the main motion.

Parliamentary Procedure is the best way to get things done at our meetings. But, it will only work if you use it properly.

- Allow motions that are in order.
- Have members obtain the floor properly.
- Speak clearly and concisely.
- Obey the rules of debate.
- Most importantly, BE COURTEOUS.

WHAT IS PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE?

It is a set of rules for conduct at meetings that allows everyone to be heard and to make decisions without confusion.

WHY IS PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE IMPORTANT?

It's a time-tested method of conducting business at meetings and public gatherings. It can be adapted to fit the needs of any organization. Organizations using parliamentary procedure usually follow a fixed order of business.

School Council Resources:

- Ministry of Education Links
- School Council Regulations: ONTARIO REGULATION 612/00 www. Ontario.ca/laws/regulation/000612
- School Councils: A Guide for Members (Revised 2002). www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf
- Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant for School Councils. <u>www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.HTML</u>

School Council Webinars:

- Basics of School Councils, February 28, 2019
- School Council By-laws, March 26, 2019
- School Council Effectiveness, April 10, 2019
- School Council By-laws Comprehensive Workshop. January 16, 2021 of Executive School Council Summit, TDSB Ward 4
- School Council Town Hall, March 16, 2021

Ontario Curriculum

- Elementary (K-8): www. edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/subjects.html
- Secondary (9-12): www. edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/secondary/subjects.html

Where to go for help and information

- Steps to address questions and concerns
- Parent Concern Protocol
- Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC): <u>info@torontopiac.com</u>, www.torontopiac.com, <u>www.facebook.com/PIACToronto</u>, PIAC School Council Newsletter sign up
- TDSB Connects Parent Newsletter
- Ontario Ombudsman: <u>www.ombudsman.on.ca</u>

List of Related Websites

- For a more complete listing of education-related websites, follow the links provided on the Ministry of Education website.
- Ministry of Education: www.edu.gov.on.ca
- School finder: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/sbinfo
- Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c E.2: Ontario Regulation. 612/00: SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEES): www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/000612#BK15
- Statutes and regulations of the Government of Ontario: www.e-laws.gov.on.ca
- Toronto District School Board: www.tdsb.on.ca
- Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO): www.eqao.com
- Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE): www.osbie.on.ca
- Ontario College of Teachers (OCT): <u>www.oct.on.ca</u>

References:

Ontario Regulation 612/00, School Councils

Board Policy P021, Fundraising

Operational Procedure PR 508, Fundraising

Board Policy P047, Naming schools and Special Purpose Areas

Appendix:

Tenure of the School Council Chair/Co-chair can be of tenure track limited to two years. This term policy can be flexible if the school principal has not been facilitated by another parent volunteer to take up the Chair /Co-chair position. This term policy will have the advantage of creating opportunities for more involvement of parents towards leadership, mantling responsibilities and school improvement plans.