

PIAC POST

SUPPORTING PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

JUNE 2019 | VOL 18-19 | ISSUE 7

#EFFECTIVE SCHOOL COUNCILS

SCHOOL COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS: YEAR-END REVIEW

The year-end is a great time for your School Council to review the year's efforts and evaluate. This gives your team a chance to look at what worked and what didn't, and gives you a chance to celebrate your successes.:

- Did your council support families in improving student achievement?
- Did your council match its fundraising plan?
- Did your council have a diverse parent voice and representation?
- List your accomplishments and share with your school community.

PLAN NOW FOR YOUR FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE YEAR!

The first meeting of the school year draws a lot of families who want to see what council is about. To make them feel welcome will increase your chance of attracting and retaining new members. Your first council meeting of the year should strike a balance between information sharing and information collecting, in a comfortable atmosphere.

New families should receive relevant information about their school community, what School Council does and what parents may be asked to help with. New parents should also have the opportunity to tell you what they are looking for to help them support their children's learning.

Have a casual snack (or even organized potluck) time where existing council members can walk around and chat to newcomers. This allows for informal conversation about School Council in a less intimidating way than typical meeting formats.

YOUR FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MAY INCLUDE

SHARE INFORMATION:

- Principal gives your School Profile (information about your community)
- Describe School Council mandate (e.g. improving student achievement)
- Give an overview of typical council activities (e.g. community events, speakers)

COLLECT INFORMATION:

- Open the floor to questions
- Conduct a short survey of what parents want (within the council mandate)
- Talk to each other (e.g. welcome, idea sharing)

TIPS: For elementary schools, consider developing a half-page flyer to give to all new families, or consider running a Kindergarten Parent Orientation Night. For secondary schools, consider running a Gr. 9 Parent Orientation Night. Consider offering a school tour where students can be the guides!

UPDATED PARENT ACTION NETWORKS & GROUPS

- Building Better Schools (www.buildingbetterschools.ca)
- Campaign for Public Education (Facebook, Twitter, campaignforpubliceducation.ca)
- Coalition for a Fair Ontario (Facebook)
- Don Valley Support Group for Public Education (Facebook)
- East End Parents 4 Public Education (Facebook)
- Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) (Twitter, www.etfo.ca)
- Etobicoke Parent Network (Facebook)
- Equal Parenting for Children (EPFC) (Facebook)
- Fix Our Schools (Facebook, Twitter, www.fixourschools.ca)
- GTA Parent Action Network for Public Education (Facebook)
- GTA School Councils (formerly TDSB School Councils) (Facebook)
- Mothers for Better Education – Ontario (Facebook)
- Ontario Families for Public Education (Facebook)
- Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) (Facebook, www.osstf.on.ca)
- Parents4Education (Facebook, www.parents4education.ca)
- Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) (Facebook, Twitter, www.torontopiac.com)
- Parents for Diversity (Facebook, Twitter, www.parentsfordiversity.com)
- Scarborough Parents Network: Defending Public Education (Facebook)
- Toronto Public School Councils (Facebook)
- West End Parents for Public Education Toronto (Facebook, www.weppe.org)

Looking for additional resources?
Visit: <http://torontopiac.com/resources.html>

#HAVEYOURSAY: TDSB CONSULTATIONS 2019/2020

Thank you all for your lending your voice to consultations this year.

Looking towards 2019/2020 school year, the TDSB has the following policies slated for revision:

- Accountability for Student Achievement (P040)
 - Arts Foundations (P005)
 - Community Engagement (P078)
 - Community Planning & Partnerships (P076)
 - Continuing Education (P019)
 - Directional Statements: Middle Level Education,
 - Special Education Low (P046)
 - Employee and Trustee Expenses (P016)
 - Employee Conflict of Interest (P057)
 - French as-a-Second Language Programs (P080)
 - Gender-based Violence (P021)
 - Hiring of Students (P015)
 - Homework (P036)
 - Leasing of Surplus School Properties (P010)
 - Nutrition Foundation (P035)
 - Respectful Learning and Working Environment (P073)
 - Selection, Promotion and Placement of School Principals and Vice-principals (P052)
 - Student Trustee and SuperCouncil Communications (P053)



BECOME A PIAC VOLUNTEER!

Do you have passion for supporting parents as partners in education?

The following vacancies are available at PIAC:

- Ward 10 (Trustee Moise) – 1 position
- Ward 15 (Trustee Story) – 1 position
- Ward 16 (Trustee Aarts) – 1 position
- Ward 17 (Trustee Smith) – 2 positions
- Ward 19 (Trustee Patel) – 2 positions
- Ward 21 (Trustee Rajakulasingam) – 1 position
- Ward 22 (Trustee Srisandarajah) – 1 position

Contact your Trustee or info@torontopiac.com

CONTACT US

-  info@torontopiac.com
-  [Facebook.com/PIACToronto](https://www.facebook.com/PIACToronto)
-  [@TorontoPIAC](https://twitter.com/TorontoPIAC)
-  416-395-5040

www.torontopiac.com

PIAC
Toronto District School Board
Parent Involvement Advisory Committee