

PIAC POST

SUPPORTING PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

MARCH 2023

#RELATIONSHIPS

SCHOOL COUNCIL & THE PRINCIPAL

Role of the Principal

The principal is your School Council collaborator. As a non-voting member of School Council and the leader of your school community, your principal can be a source of information and support.

The principal's duties regarding School Councils are laid out in the Ontario Education Act: [O. Reg. 298](#), [O. Reg. 613](#), [O. Reg. 612](#), and also by the TDSB. See the PIAC School Council Toolkit page on the [Role of the Principal](#) for more details.

COUNCIL'S COMMON PURPOSE

Council members communicate through discussion, goal setting and actions, that they:

- are working in the best interests of ALL students
- wish to work within the policies of the Board and maintain ethical standards
- understand their mandate under [O. Reg. 612](#)
- understand the role of the principal
- respect teacher and parent/caregiver knowledge
- wish to establish and support common goals

Developing a Good Relationship

It may sound obvious, but being on the same page is essential for an effective School Council. That means that the principal, staff and parents/caregivers all need to understand their purpose in School Council in order to work together towards a plan that supports the learning needs of their school. It begins and ends with relationships. And good relationships cannot develop without good communication. Start from a place of common goals for your council and school.

To build a good working relationship, council Chairs can begin their term by meeting one-on-one with the Principal. If Chairs share their hopes and visions for the year ahead, asking about those of their Principal, it is quite likely that they will find commonalities and areas where they may collaborate and support one another.

School Council can then set goals around their mandate with shared objectives. All council members can work together, bringing parent/caregiver and staff knowledge to the table. With common goals, mutual trust and respect, your council can be a productive team that supports students and families.

[Developing the TDSB 2023-24 Budget](#)
[Find out more about the Budget Process](#)

SCHOOLS UNDER STRAIN

People for Education's 2022-23 Annual Ontario School Survey



For over 20 years, public education advocate People for Education has been surveying schools annually to track the effects of policy and funding changes in Ontario's publicly funded schools.

More than 1,000 principals from all of Ontario's 72 school boards participated in the 2022-23 Annual Ontario School Survey. Recently, findings released from the survey focused on student mental health and well-being.

Among the findings from the 2022-23 Annual Ontario School Survey:

- 95% of schools report needing support for students' mental health and well-being.
- Only 9% of schools report they have regularly scheduled access to an in-person mental health/addiction specialist or nurse, and 46% of schools report no access at all.
- 28% of elementary and secondary schools report they have no access to a psychologist, either virtually or in-person; nearly double the percentage with no access in 2011.

SAVE THE DATE!

PIAC's 16th Annual Conference

**Ready-Set-Engage:
Bridging the Gap**

**Saturday May 6, 2023
9:00 am to 3:30 pm
Earl Haig Secondary School
100 Princess Ave. Toronto**

Join us as we return to our in-person conference, with speakers and workshops focused on bridging gaps in Parent Engagement and School Councils.

Staffing Allocations

This month, Principals should have school staffing numbers for next year. Schedule a discussion at your next School Council meeting to discuss the impact on next year's classes and how you can be involved in the elementary Staffing Model development.



BECOME A PIAC VOLUNTEER!

The following vacancies are open on PIAC:
Contact PIAC or your trustee about elections.

Ward 1 (Trustee Hastings) - 1 position
Ward 3 (Trustee Nunziata) - 1 position
Ward 6 (Trustee Hassan) - 1 position
Ward 16 (Trustee Aarts) - 1 position
Ward 19 (Trustee Patel) - 1 position
Ward 21 (Trustee Rajakulasingam) - 1 position

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