TDSB STUDENT SUPERCOUNCIL ELECTIONS CONFERENCE - 2016



**SuperCouncil Election Protocols**

**Criteria for Candidate Participation/Application Process**

*As a Board, we are committed to ensuring fairness, equity and inclusion as essential principles that are integrated into all of our policies, procedures, operations and programs and that all of our students are provided with equitable opportunities in our system.*

*Therefore, schools are required to support candidates by ensuring equity of access and opportunity to participate in the elections, reflecting the contribution of our diverse community of students.*

1. Schools must adhere to the elections application deadline (as communicated in System Leaders’ Bulletin). No application packages sent after the deadline will be considered.
2. Schools can send a maximum of three (3) students (candidates, delegates or a combination of the two (2)).
3. It is the responsibility of the individual school’s administration to short-list/select the three (3) students. (Only three (3) Voting members are allowed per school).
4. Criteria for candidates may include: leadership experience within and beyond the school community, time commitment availability to the SuperCouncil.
5. Candidates must be aware that participation on SuperCouncil is a serious time commitment and that participation on SuperCouncil must not place in jeopardy the candidate’s academic standing.
6. The elections application package shall be made available and sent to schools the first

week after March Break.

1. The elections application package shall include the application deadline, the date for the All-Candidates meeting, the approval process and deadlines for the poster and speech and the campaigning timeline.

**All Candidates Meeting**

i.   Once the candidates have been selected and approved by their schools, the candidates must attend the mandatory All-Candidates meeting to be held at a central location as outlined in the elections application package.

ii.   Candidates who miss this meeting will not be allowed to run in the elections unless there is an extenuating circumstance that prevents them from attending.

iii.   This circumstance must be communicated in writing to the Staff Advisors in advance of the meeting.

iv.   If the circumstance is indeed determined to be extenuating by the Staff Advisors, the student will be allowed to participate in the elections and arrangements will be made for candidates to receive all information that was shared at the All Candidates meeting.

**Campaigning and the Approval Processes for Posters and Speeches**

1. All candidate’s posters and speeches must be approved by Staff Advisors before they can be used as part of their campaign.
2. The deadline for the candidate’s poster will be approximately three (3) weeks before the Elections Day on a specific day determined each year, as outlined in the elections application package.
3. Once the poster has been approved by Staff Advisors candidates are then allowed to campaign on a specific launch day as indicated the elections application package.
4. Approved posters may not be modified and/or altered in any way.
5. Candidates cannot make promises they are unable to keep or add to their platform once approved by a Staff Advisor.
6. Only approved posters and campaign platforms are allowed on Facebook or any Social media sites. No banners or additional graphics/pictures (other than approved posters) can be posted on Social media sites.
7. If candidates are using social media for campaigning the links or pages should be available upon request from Staff Advisors.
8. Campaigning officially ends on social media platforms by 12 (midnight) the day before elections including the sharing of social media content by others.
9. If any candidate is unsure of how to conduct themselves during campaigning or on the day of the elections they should consult with staff advisors immediately.

**Elections Day Expectations**

1. Elections are facilitated by staff advisors with the leadership of students
2. Candidates are expected to arrive to the event location one (1) hour prior to the start of the conference.
3. Campaigning officially ends on social media platforms by 12 (midnight) the day before elections including the sharing of social media content by others.
4. Candidates are expected to dress in a neat and professional manner.
5. Candidates are to demonstrate respect and integrity at all times.
6. Candidates must run independently for each position as a single candidate.
7. Candidates must not speak negatively about the other candidates, delegates or schools.
8. Students who wish to campaign for the candidates must adhere to the same guidelines and standards and be consistent with the values and expectations of TDSB students.
9. The use of props, enhancements, and/or additional supports (such as friend/delegate) is not permitted as part of a candidate’s speech or at any time on the day of the conference.
10. No buttons or other campaigning props can be distributed on the day of the election.
11. Each school may only have three (3) voting members on the day of the elections.
12. Candidates who run for Executive positions and are unsuccessful may run for an Area Co-Chair or Secretary position later on in the afternoon of the Elections.
13. Delegates may also run for Area Co-Chair and Secretary positions at the Elections.
14. Parents who wish to attend may do so, but they cannot participate in the voting process.

**Procedures for Morning SuperCouncil Elections**

The following SuperCouncil Executive positions are elected in the morning:

* 1 President
* 1 Vice-President
* 1 Secretary/Treasurer
* 1 Communications Officer
* 1 Conference Chair
* **1 Student Trustee for Two Terms (Must be a current Grade 10 student)\*\***
* **ONLY FOR 2016-2017: 1 Student Trustee for One Term (Must be a current Grade 10/11 Student)**

**\*\*Note: The two-term Student Trustee model allows for continuity in the position.**

1. The voting process is supervised by Staff Advisors.
2. All candidates arrive at 8:00 am for registration.
3. The speech order is determined by Staff Advisors by lottery one day before the Elections Conference in order to coordinate AV/Tech support (i.e. slide show of campaign posters, clicker set-up for voting).
4. The seating plan for candidates is arranged by the Staff Advisors the morning of the Elections day.
5. All candidates are registered prior to the day of Elections through the process of application as outlined in the Elections Conference Registration Package.
6. There are no nominations from the floor (i.e. last-minute nominations) on Elections day.
7. Each Student Trustee candidate has a maximum of 3 minutes for their speech (which has been pre-approved by the Staff Advisor by a specific deadline).
8. All other Executive candidates (President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Communications Officer, and Conference Chair) have a maximum of 2 minutes for their speech (which has been pre-approved by the Staff Advisor by a specific deadline).
9. There is no debate on any issues between candidates or questions from the floor by delegates or audience members.
10. Each position is voted on immediately after the speeches have been delivered by the candidates.
11. A maximum of 3 voting delegates per school is allowed to vote.
12. Clear instructions regarding the voting process for both the morning and afternoon elections will be explicitly communicated and reiterated for everyone (candidates, delegates, audience members and staff advisors).  Clickers are used to conduct the voting tabulation.
13. Staff Advisors will oversee and manage the voting/clicker process.
14. In the event that a problem arises as a result of either a technical glitch (an inherent risk when dealing with technology) or a human error, the Staff Advisors will reset the program and a revote will be conducted to ensure a transparent and fair process.
15. The candidate with the highest number of votes is determined the winner.
16. If the two-term Student Trustee abdicates after one year, then an election shall be conducted for a one-term Student Trustee to fill this position.
17. In the event that two Student Trustee positions are needed to be filled in one election year, elections for a one-term Student Trustee and a two-term Student Trustee are held separately. In this case, the one-term Student Trustee can be a student who is currently in Grade 10 or Grade 11.
18. For both morning and afternoon elections, in the event of a tie, the candidates that are tied will be allowed to speak again for 1 minute. The speaking order will be determined by a lottery system and a re-vote‎ will then take place. All votes will be recorded and saved.
19. Candidates are also permitted to vote for the position that they are running for as well as all other positions.
20. Successful candidates will be determined by staff and announced after lunch.

**Procedures for Afternoon SuperCouncil Elections**

The following SuperCouncil Executive positions are elected in the afternoon:

o 1 Alternative Schools Representative for all Areas

o 2 Co-Chairs per Area

o 1 Secretary per Area

o 1 Grade 7/8 Representative per Area

* + - 1. **Part A – One (1) Alternative Schools Representative for all Areas (Before the end of Lunch)**
1. The voting process is supervised by the Staff Advisors.
2. Candidates who were not successful in the morning elections can run for the Alternative Schools Representative position if they wish.
3. Any students wishing to run for this position can self-nominate.
4. The speech order is determined by the Staff Advisors once students self- nominate for the position.
5. There are no opportunities for students to debate or ask questions of the candidates.
6. Each candidate has 1 minute for their speech.
7. Before reconvening after lunch, all Alternative School delegates come together to listen to the Alternative Schools Representative candidates’ speeches.
8. Clear instructions regarding the voting process for both the morning and afternoon elections will be explicitly communicated and reiterated for everyone (candidates, delegates, audience members and staff advisors).
9. Delegates vote immediately after the speeches have been delivered by the candidates and the winner is announced to the group.
10. The successful candidates are determined by the number of votes.

**2.   Part B – Area (A, B, C, & D) Elections (After Lunch)**

o 2 Area Co-Chairs per Area

o 1 Area Secretary per Area

o 1 Grade 7/8 Representative per Area

1. The voting process is supervised by the Staff Advisors.
2. Candidates who were not successful in the morning elections or the
3. Alternative Schools Representative position can run for the Area positions if they wish.
4. For the Afternoon Elections, students who are unsuccessful in running for Co-Chairs, will then have the opportunity to run for the position of Secretary.  Any grade 6 or 7 students, who are unsuccessful in running for Secretary, will then have the opportunity to run for the position of Grade 7/8 Representative.  Ballots will be used for the Area positions (Afternoon Elections).  Students (including the candidates) will have the opportunity to vote for Area Co-Chairs, Secretary, and Grade 7/8 Representative.  For the positions of Co-Chairs, students (including the candidates) have an opportunity to vote for two candidates.  For the positions of Secretary and Grade 7/8 Representative, students can cast only one vote for each.
5. Any students wishing to run for any of the positions listed above can self- nominate in the individual Area group elections.
6. Candidates can only run on an individual platform and are not permitted to run in tandem or as part of a block candidacy with another candidate.
7. The speech order is determined by Staff Advisors once students self- nominate for the different positions.
8. There are no opportunities for students to debate or ask questions of the candidates.
9. Each candidate has a maximum of 1 minute for their speech.
10. Each position is voted on immediately after the speeches have been delivered by the candidates and the winner is announced to the group
11. Unsuccessful candidates are eligible to run for another position at that time. (eg. Candidates who are not successful for the Area Co-Chairs can choose to run for the Secretary position.)
12. The successful candidates are determined by the number of votes.
13. For Co-Chairs, the students with the highest and second highest number of votes win as there are two positions of Co- Chair.
14. Candidates are also permitted to vote for the position that they are running for as well as all other positions.

**Equitable Practices and Possible Conflicts of Interest**

1. Candidates who are participating in the elections may not be a member of the SuperCouncil Elections Conference Planning Committee.
2. Should the Elections Conference Chair be running for a position, he/she shall not be delivering the opening address on Elections Day.
3. No SuperCouncil Executive or student participating on the Elections Committee shall be privy to the Candidates List or Delegates List at any time before, after or during the Elections.
4. The candidate speaking order and seating will be determined by Staff Advisors through a lottery.
5. Candidates will be informed of their speaking order and seating on the day of the Election.

**Violations of the SuperCouncil Elections Protocols**

1. Distribution of harmful /hateful material
2. Distribution of materials contrary to the policies and procedures of the Toronto District School Board and applicable legislation and case law.
3. Distributing campaign materials on the day of the elections
4. Wilfully damaging the integrity of the SuperCouncil Elections process
5. Participation in any actions that are contrary to the spirit of a fair election process
6. Participating in actions that are contrary to the SuperCouncil Election Protocols
7. Failure to abide with any of the SuperCouncil elections processes and expectations, up to and including the day of the elections may result in disqualification of the candidate by staff advisors in consultation with the Director and appropriate staff.