

All Things School Council Fall Issue

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Elections

All schools **are required** to have active school council elections within the first 30 days of September. These elections are for parents who wish to be voting members of the school council **ONLY**. Executive positions (chair, secretary etc.) are elected from the school council membership. For information visit the schools council page.

Council Chair E-mail Activation

TDSB has established school council e-mail accounts for school council chairs/co-chairs.

This shared account is to be activated by the school even if the council has already established its own external account. The TDSB account enables the council chair to receive valuable school council related information and events from the Board and the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC). Regulation also requires that the Board post the School council chair contact at the local school level and share the name and contact with the Parent Involvement Advisory Committee. In addition, the account enables councils to gain access to grant opportunities, and other school council chair. With a new password manager function and an annual activation period, accounts are now easier to

access and manage. Councils should contact the Principal to get the account activated. For further information contact John.manalo@tdsb.on.ca

Workshops & Training

Throughout the school year there will be varied online and face to face training opportunities. For workshop dates online training visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/School-Councils/Workshops>



Funds & Grants

School Councils are allocated funds by the Board to support their work. The Board has allocated \$1.25/student with a minimum of \$300.00 and a maximum of \$1,000 to all councils. The funds can be accessed by contacting the Principal

- The **Ministry allocate \$500.00 each year** support activities that are geared to reaching parents who are not accessing council/school activities. These funds will be arriving in the school by December and can be accessed by contacting the Principal

- TDSB Business Services has researched a number of **grants that councils** may explore. To access this list of grants school council chairs must request that the school activate the school council TDSB e-mail account. Once the account is activated councils may visit: <https://oursite.tdsb.on.ca/org/DOM/page/Contests,%20Grants,%20Scholarships.aspx> for a list of grants.

NEWSFLASH!

School Council Permit Fee Waiver

Great News! The Board has approved no cost permits for additional school council meetings provided that:

- (i) the meeting adheres to the mandate of the school council as outlined in Ontario Regulation 612/00;
 - (ii) Caretaking staff is regularly scheduled at the site
 - (iii) there is appropriate insurance coverage for the activity;
- (c) sufficient caretaking staff regularly scheduled to provide access for the permit is available if not the school council be granted a no cost permit at a nearby school with available space.

School councils may start requesting for School council permits by:

- Viewing the e-base Orientation Video at: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Permits>
- Activating an e-base account at: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/Permits>

[mits](#)

When creating the account councils must:

- Create a new organization using the school name
- Use TDSB school council e-mail address

For questions or assistance regarding setting up your eBase Permit Account please contact the Permit Unit via email: permits@tdsb.on.ca or call 416 395 7666

School Council Financial Quick Guide

Need information on all things school council financials? This is the guide for you. You may view the guide at:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/School-Councils>



School Council and the School Improvement Process (SIP)

One of the Boards Multi-year Strategic Plan goals focuses on **Building Strong Relationships and Partnerships within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being**. This goal aims to:

- strengthen relationships among our students, staff, families and communities to create a culture that supports all students and leads to improved learning and well-being.
- **involve parents/guardians and school council in the school improvement process to ensure their voices and perspectives inform our work.**
- Continue to build both formal and informal community partnerships to support the needs of all students and families.
- Continue to create an environment of shared leadership where everyone's expertise and experience is invited and every voice has influence.

If you have not yet received information or had the opportunity to provide input into the SIP please connect with the school principal.

For further information on the multi-year strategic plan visit:

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Leadership/Boardroom/Multi-Year-Strategic-Plan>



School Statement of Need (SSON)

The SSON is the form completed by the school council/caregiver representative of every school each fall. It outlines the parent/community priorities for the school that the superintendent will take into consideration when filling a principal vacancy.

It is a record of the main priorities of the caregiver community and the school board for that specific school. The council is provided the form by the Principal in early fall and it is to be completed and submitted to the Superintendent by the end of October. For further information on the SSON visit: http://www.torontopiac.com/uploads/3/4/8/1/34816230/piac_sson_parent_guild.pdf

Fundraising

The Toronto District School Board recognizes that school-based fundraising is a local activity, and believes that the goals of fundraising go beyond money to reflect the creative and collaborative efforts of parents, students, teachers and the school community.

All TDSB fundraising initiatives must be approved by the school principal before they move forward.

When considering any school-based or board-wide fundraising activity please visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/Fundraising/Fundraising-Guide>

Insurance

Many school councils are very active in their community and on occasion, participate or organize events that are not under the control of the school board. In these situations, the board's liability policy may not provide

protection to the school council, its members or volunteers acting on behalf of the school council. As such, it is important to ensure that your school council has appropriate coverage in place to protect the council, its members, and volunteers accordingly.

For policy coverage, risk management or claims related questions, or if you would like to purchase additional coverage extensions contact: risk.management@tdsb.on.ca

TDSB Policy Consultation

School Councils are encouraged to engage in the review of Boards policies. For information on the Boards policy review schedule visit: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Policies-Procedures-Forms/Policy-Consultations>



<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Community/How-to-Get-Involved/School-Councils>

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