

School Councils

READY • SET • ENGAGE

November 21 & 22, 2020

Workshop Descriptions

1. Accessing Community Resources, Services & Programs

Participants will have a better understanding on how to assess the needs of their family, school and community. They will learn how to navigate and access community resources and mental health support. During this session, learning programs and resources will be reviewed to support your children and youth's learning.

Presenters: Omar & Colleen Huggins

One Session: Saturday November 21, 2020 @ 12:15 pm

2. Co-parenting in Education

Fathers and male role models have an important role in education both with intact and separated families. This workshop will focus on parent engagement for the male role models and shared parenting in the TDSB. We will cover topics for removing barriers for fathers, all divorced or separated parents, blended families, guardians and single parents. Topics include Parental Involvement in the schools, Parental Alienation, online learning tools, OSR, non-custodial rights, Parent Concern Protocol, communication with TDSB staff, legal remedies and resources.

Presenters: Christopher Levien & Sylvester Witter

Two sessions: Sunday November 22, 2020 @12:15 & @1:30 pm

3. Coding in the new K-8 Math Curriculum

This session will introduce parents to the foundations of the new Coding curriculum, including the basics of block coding, and will highlight connections to strands across the Math curriculum.

Presenters: Caireen Ryan & Jason To

One Session: Saturday November 21, 2020 @1:30 pm

4. Creating successful school fundraising campaigns

Is your school planning a fundraising campaign? Not sure where to start? Please join us in this session to learn about approved fundraising vendors, grant opportunities and to review examples of successful initiatives. Leave the session with tools and resources to support your fundraising efforts.

Presenter: Michelle Davis

Two sessions: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 & @1:30 pm

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5. FSLAC and Changes to FSL Programs

Join us to learn about the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee (FSLAC), the group of parents who meet regularly with TDSB Staff and Trustees to discuss and make recommendations on Core, Extended and Immersion French programs. Learn about the new Middle French Immersion program which starts in September 2021 and the new JK entry to Early French Immersion which starts in September 2022.

Presenters: Lynne Leblanc & Lisa McAvoy

Two sessions: Saturday November 21, 2020 @12:15 & Sunday November 22, 2020 @12:15

6. Learning in, about and for the Outdoors in the midst of a pandemic

Join us to find out what the TDSB's Outdoor Education Department does and how we deliver rich inquiry based experiential learning to students. Understand how the department has pivoted to continue to deliver programs during the pandemic by working in schoolyards and local greenspaces as well as teaching virtually, and providing many other services. Discover how parent councils can support schools in encouraging outdoor learning.

Presenters: Michelle Blackie, David Hawker-Budlovsky, Lori Yez, Sean West, Veronica Uzielli

One Session: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 pm

7. Making your School Council Meaningful - Parent Engagement vs Parent Involvement

Are your parents really engaged in their children's learning? Or are they involved in the school's parent agenda? Many School Councils are busy with the work of involving parents in fundraising events and not so much with improving student achievement. Now is the ideal time to think differently about the work of School Councils. In this workshop, we will consider how to make your School Council more meaningful to your community by focussing on authentic engagement and accessing the two arms of the School Council mandate to build partner relationships between home and school.

Presenter: Nicole Herbert

One Session: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 pm

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8. Nutrition Programs - What You Need To Know

The impact of COVID-19 on student nutrition programs across TDSB schools. Calling for parent voices in developing the Local Nutrition Program Committees.

Presenters: Angela Dozi, Michelle Murdock; Mary Molinaro; Lynne Martens; Durward Anthony

Four Session: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 pm & 1:30 pm

Sunday, November 22, 2020 @12:15 pm & 1:30 pm

9. Parent Power: Setting Up a Black Student Success Committee

How can you start a Black Student Success Committee at your school? Parents Debbie King and Tania Daley of the Queen Victoria Black Student Success Committee share actionable tips for parents of Black children to organize and support Black student achievement and well-being as a parent and school community. Learn and apply steps to engage families and educators, develop community-led programming and advocate for Black children within the school system.

Presenters: Debbie King & Tania Daley

Two Session: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 pm & 1:30 pm

10. Ready, Set, Consult: Policy Consultations 101

Not sure how TDSB Policies are developed? Learn about the TDSB's Policy Framework (P001) and the corresponding Policy Development and Management Procedure (PR501). Be ready the next time a Policy comes up for consultation.

Presenters: Kate Leuschen Millar

Two sessions: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 & Sunday November 22, 2020 @12:15

11. School Councils Basics

Not sure how Councils are supposed to work? Struggling to get everyone on the same page? This workshop looks at everything you need to know - from mandates to communication; committees to funding. Giving you a solid start for the year ahead.

Presenter: Nancy Angevine-Sands

One session: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @1:30 pm



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12. School Councils By-Laws

Any structure requires a strong foundation to avoid crumbling. School Councils are no different. Bylaws are their foundation. This workshop will take the fear and confusion out of the process. Whether you need to create bylaws or are looking to up-date old ones, this hour will start you on road to building that strong foundation.

Presenter: Nancy Angevine-Sands

One sessions: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 pm

13. School Councils Open Discussion

An open discussion of the trials of having a parent council

Presenter: John Bakous & Jess Hungate

Two sessions: Sunday, November 22, 2020 @12:15 pm & @ 1:30 pm

14. School Councils Communications 101

Conveying and exchanging information is a key role of School Councils. We will go over WHY good communication is important, HOW to use different platforms to engage your audience and WHAT tools you can explore with your School Council. Join this workshop if you want to learn and share!

Presenter: Nazerah Shaikh & Jenny Gannon

Two sessions: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @1:30 pm & Sunday November 22, 2020 @1:30 pm

15. School Statement of Needs - SSON

What is a School Statement of Needs and what is its purpose? What is the Procedure to completing it? Who gets involved? How do parents know what to put on the form?

Presenter: Helen Fisher

One sessions: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 pm

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16. Successful Parent Engagement – A School Council Diagnostic

"Why don't more parents come out for our School Council?" If you are having trouble attracting parent volunteers to your council, this session is for you. We will analyze the work of School Council to consider why your council isn't drawing new members. We will look at how to engage parents and work together with the school to build a thriving, active School Council for your community. It's not about doing more, it's about doing differently.

Presenter: Nicole Herbert

One sessions: Sunday, November 22, 2020 @12:15 pm

17. Supporting Math Learning at Home

This session will provide an introduction to the new Ontario elementary mathematics curriculum, as well as share digital resources for parents and families to support math learning at home.

Presenters: Jason To & Marc Husband

One sessions: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 pm

18. Who Is Your Village? Building a Future for Your Child with Special Needs

One needs to start early to build a healthy village and circle of support for their child with special needs. In this session, we will discuss the importance of self-care, taking care of other typically developing children, accessing services and working with the school and other professionals.

Presenters: Sherron Grant & Clovis Grant

Two sessions: Saturday, November 21, 2020 @12:15 pm & Sunday November 22, 2020 @12:15 pm