

Parent Representation

“Although the decision-making responsibilities of principals, trustees, and board and ministry officials are set out in legislation, the Parent Engagement Policy supports and encourages education leaders to solicit and consider parent opinions and input so that the recommendations of parents are weighed, along with other relevant factors, in the decision-making process.”

From [Parents in Partnership A PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY FOR ONTARIO SCHOOLS](#)
Ontario Ministry of Education 2010

School Committee Participation

Schools sometimes combine or break down school committees, as it suits their individual situation. Some schools bring the information to the school council to report in great detail, in effect creating a committee of the whole. I invite you to have a conversation with your school council and administrators about these committees and opportunities for parents to be involved in school decision-making.

The following is from *School Committee Participation* TDSB Employee Services, [no date]

“There are presently 3 school committees open to parent/guardian and school council participation:

***i. Caring and Safe Schools Committee** ([Policy/Program Memorandum No. 144 BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION](#) Ministry of Education 2012, [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 145 PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE AND PROMOTING POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR](#) Ministry of Education 2012, [Operational Procedure PR. 703 BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION](#) TDSB 2013)*

- *The school has a Caring and Safe Schools Team, composed of at least one student (where appropriate), one parent, one teacher, one support staff, one community partner, the school positive space rep, the school equity rep, and the principal. An existing school committee can assume this role.*
- *The parent/guardian representative’s role on the committee is to provide input/recommendations on the behalf of parents/guardians of the school. Where feasible, it is encouraged that the parent/guardian representative be connected to the school council for the purposes of soliciting parent input and providing updates of the committee’s work to parents/guardians.*

ii. Staffing Committee (TDSB Employee Services direction to principals)

To maximize parent engagement, and to minimize parent sourced questions and concerns, it is highly recommended to elementary principals that parents/guardians are engaged in the staffing process and work toward ensuring that:

- *A parent/guardian group of at least two parents, identified by the School Council, have the opportunity to review and understand the staff allocation numbers and projected enrolment for the school;*

- *Development of possible program organization models, and any such staffing models are considered by the school staffing committee in their deliberations;*
- *The final model is discussed and reviewed with the parent group, and presented to the school council prior to forwarding to the Superintendent of Education for approval, identifying rationale for the model chosen: and,*
- *Parents/guardians are engaged in any changes and reorganization.*

iii. School Improvement Plan (SIP) ([***Education Act ONTARIO REGULATION 612/00 SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEES](#) Government of Ontario 2010)

- *Every school is required to develop, implement, and monitor school improvement actions that meet the needs of every learner. The SIP is to align with the Family of School Improvement Plan and the Board Improvement Plan. All parents are informed as to the requirements and purpose of a SIP, the opportunity to contribute to the plan, and the leadership role of the council on behalf of parents/guardians (e.g., council will identify representatives to participate on the team and report back to council).*
- *The principal leads the development of a SIP team. The purpose of the team is to organize and implement the planning process leading to the development of a SIP.*
- *School council representative(s) are to be identified for the SIP. The role of the school council representative is to solicit feedback from council/parents/guardians and provide feedback to the team.*
- *A draft of the SIP is to be presented to the school council for feedback. The final SIP should be presented to the council and define the role of the stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the plan.*

NOTE: Budget Committees: ([***Education Act ONTARIO REGULATION 612/00 SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEES](#) Government of Ontario 2010) requires schools (Principals) to consult with Parents/Guardians on school budget priorities. The Board encourages schools (Principals) to establish a school budget committee and must include school council representatives in developing their expenditure plan. However a Principal may opt to consult through other means such as presentation/discussion with school council/parents versus a committee.”

***via Michelle Munroe, Central Coordinator, Parent and Community Engagement

Mental Health Team

- The TDSB Children and Youth Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy 2013-2017 includes the following focus: “*Parent and Community Partnerships--Establishing a school council committee to discuss and coordinate mental health initiatives in the school and community.*” [Children and Youth Mental Health and Well-Being](#) TDSB 2013
- [Mental Health Strategy](#) TDSB website

Toronto District School Board Committees

The Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) is an an important advisory body that operates as a direct link between parents and a board's director of education and its trustees. [Education Act ONTARIO](#)

[REGULATION 612/00 SCHOOL COUNCILS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEES](#) Government of Ontario 2010, requires all Ontario school boards to establish a PIC and outlines its composition, function and mandate.

Parent Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC)

- 2 Elected Parents from each of 22 [TDSB Wards](#) (voting)
- 1 Elected Parent from each of [TDSB Community Liaison Groups](#) (voting)
- 2 Elected Parent Co-chairs (non-voting)
- Unlimited Parent Observers at Regular Meetings (non-voting)
- Select Parent Members of [PIAC Working Groups](#) (non-voting)
- [About PIAC](#) Toronto PIAC website
- [Parent Involvement Advisory Committee](#) TDSB website
- [Parent Involvement Committees](#) Government of Ontario website

[Community advisory committees](#) have been established to improve parental and community input on policy and program issues. These committees will have the opportunity to advise the Board on its policies and programs, in addition to providing an advocacy role for parents and the community. If you are interested in participating on a Committee please e-mail your interest to outreach@tdsb.on.ca.

Community Advisory Committees (CACs) of the Board

- [Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee \(ACAC\)](#)
- [Alternative Schools Advisory Committee \(ASA\)](#)
- [Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee \(CUSAC\)](#)
- [Early Years Advisory Committee \(EYAC\)](#)
- [Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee \(ESAC\)](#)
- [Equity Policy Advisory Committee \(EPAC\)](#)
- [French as a Second Language Committee \(FSLAC\)](#)
 - 2 Elected Parents from each of 22 [TDSB Wards](#) (1 vote per Ward))
- [Inner City Advisory Committee \(ICAC\)](#)
- [Student Nutrition Advisory Committee \(SNAC\)](#)

Vice Principal Interview Teams

- Parent representatives identified through the Parental Involvement Advisory Committee (PIAC) who have volunteered to participate in vice-principal interviews
- Participate on TDSB teams interviewing teacher candidates for system-wide promotion to VP position (**note: NOT school-specific**)
- Training is required. Contact Cori Byberg to express your interest at cori.byberg@tdsb.on.ca

Information changes and mistakes do sometimes slip through. If you find an error of any kind, or if you have a suggestion to improve the document, please let us know! If you would like an electronic version of this handout with all the links, please send an email to Maxeen.Paabo@tdsb.on.ca.