

<b>Topic:</b>	<b>School Councils and Parent Involvement Committee</b>
<b>Effective:</b>	<b>December 2014</b>
<b>Revision Date:</b>	<b>December 2018</b>
<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>December 2021</b>
<b>Cross-Reference:</b>	<b>Regulation 612/00 as amended by Reg. 330/10 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees</b> <b>School Councils: Guide for Members, Ministry of Education, 2002</b> <b>School Council Handbook, HDSB, 2011</b> <b>School Council Handbook Supplement, HDSB, 2011</b> <b>Public Sector &amp; MPP Accountability &amp; Transparency Act, 2014</b> <b>HDSB Admin Procedure: Dealing with Public Concerns</b>
<b>Responsibility:</b>	<b>Superintendent of Education with responsibility for School Councils and PIC</b>

## **INTENDED PURPOSE:**

The Halton District School Board:

- believes education is a shared responsibility involving students, parents, staff, community members and trustees
- recognizes parental interest and involvement at home and at school positively influence student achievement
- believes community participation in public schools enhances educational opportunities for students and can play a significant role in promoting and advancing public education
- recognizes consultation with students, parents, staff and community members is both useful and desirable,
- believes interaction among students, parents, staff, community members and trustees will foster mutual recognition and understanding, and encourage the integration of community services and resources,

## **PROCEDURE:**

The Principal, or Vice Principal, of each school, in cooperation with any existing parent group, shall facilitate the establishment of a school council consisting of student, parent, staff and community representatives. The school council shall be chaired by a parent. Trustees may participate in an advisory capacity to the council.

The school council shall operate in a way that is consistent with the goals, values and policies of the Halton District School Board, and shall have, as its primary guiding principle, the fostering of the educational interests of all students.

The school council shall provide advice to the Principal. Where appropriate, the school council shall provide advice to the Board on school and education issues, i.e., Policy Review/ Development.

To protect the liability of school council members all school council events must be approved by the school Principal or Vice Principal and thus Board sanctioned. To be sanctioned by the Board, the Principal or Vice Principal must be in attendance at the event. The Board's insuring agency, Ontario School Boards Insurance Exchange (OSBIE), only provides insurance coverage for Board sanctioned events.

For new schools, the formation of the School Council shall be no sooner than September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the school opens.

The Board will facilitate communication among the school councils within its jurisdiction.

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Parents matter in education. They matter as vital partners who contribute much to the work of educators, schools and communities. They serve as parent leaders, parent mentors and models of commitment to excellence in education. Parent engagement is recognized by the Ministry of Education as an essential component of Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy.

The regulatory requirement (O. Reg. 612 amended by O. Reg 330/10) that every board in the province have a Parent Involvement Committee promotes parent voice within our schools, through school councils across the province, as well as at the board level, where communication of parent perspectives is an important part of parent engagement.

The Parent Involvement Committee is a regional committee that engages in consultation with Trustees and the Director of Education. The committee members are parents of students in our schools.