

TITLE: SCHOOL COUNCILS

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1.0 OBJECTIVE

To ensure the effective operation of school councils in every school within the District's jurisdiction, and, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

In this policy:

- 2.1 **Board** refers to the Board of Trustees of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
- 2.2 **District** refers to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board

3.0 POLICY

- 3.1 The Board shall encourage mutually supportive links between schools and the communities they serve, to better serve the needs of the students. Strong parent/guardian participation through school councils and the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils reflects a commitment to further strengthening the involvement of parents/guardians and the community in Ottawa-Carleton schools and in Board decision-making.
- 3.2 The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board shall ensure the establishment and effective operation of school councils in every school within its jurisdiction. Parent/school associations may continue to co-exist along with the school council.

4.0 SPECIFIC DIRECTIVES

- 4.1 The school council shall act in an advisory capacity to the principal and to the Board and/or senior staff in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Board and of the *Education Act* and Regulations. The specific terms of reference of school councils are set out in Attachment 1 to this Policy.

- 4.2 The minimum composition of school councils is set out in Attachment 2 to this Policy. School councils may augment this basic composition to more accurately reflect the school community, provided that:
- a) parents/guardians hold the majority of seats;
 - b) no elementary council has fewer than nine members, and no secondary council has fewer than 11 members*.

Note: See Attachment 2, § C, 1.15 below regarding the filling of vacancies. A school council consisting of fewer than nine (elementary) or 11 (secondary) members shall be allowed to function provided every attempt has been made to fill all positions.

- 4.3 Elections/appointments of members of school councils, including teaching, non-teaching and student members shall be held annually within 30 calendar days of the beginning of each school year. An election of parent/guardian members shall be held on a date that is fixed by the chair or co-chairs of the school council, in consultation with the principal of the school. In a case where a new school is established, the first election of parent/guardian members to the school council shall be held within 30 calendar days of the beginning of the school year on a date established by the Board, in consultation with the school principal. See Procedure PR.509.SCO: School Council Elections, Constitution and By-laws, which sets out the process to be followed for the election of school council members.
- 4.4 Officers of the school council as shall be elected annually, in accordance with Procedure PR.509.SCO, by the new council as a whole, following the elections/appointments described in 3.3 above.
- 4.5 In accordance with Ontario Regulations 612/00 and 613/00, the school principal shall facilitate the operation and functions of the school council, as outlined in Attachment 2 of this policy.
- 4.6 As advisory bodies which may not be incorporated, school councils shall meet their responsibilities as outlined in Attachment 1, and shall ensure that their members are aware of the potential for school council liability as outlined in Attachment 3.
- 4.7 The Board supports a central organization representing all school councils, to act as the primary conduit between the District and local school councils for communications and input/advice in policy initiatives.
- 4.8 Within the resources available to it, the District shall provide training and development opportunities for members of school councils, to assist them in their roles and strengthen their ability to act as effective agents for change and improvement in the schools.
- 4.9 The Board shall solicit the views and consider the recommendations of school councils relating to student achievement and/or the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians, including:

- a) such policies and guidelines as may be established or amended with respect to the conduct of persons in schools within the District; appropriate student dress; allocation of funding to school councils; fund-raising activities of school councils; conflict resolution processes in case of internal school council disputes; and reimbursement for expenses incurred by members and officers of school councils;
 - b) the development of implementation plans for new education initiatives relating to student achievement or to the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians, including implementation plans for such Board policies and guidelines that may be established or amended with respect to the conduct of persons in schools within the Board's jurisdiction and with respect to appropriate student dress;
 - c) District action plans for improvement based on the EQAO reports, on the results of tests of its students, on other measures of student achievement, and the communication of these plans to the public; and
 - d) the process and criteria applicable to the selection and placement of principals and vice-principals.
- 4.10 The District shall advise school councils of the action taken in response to such recommendations.
- 4.11 The Director of Education shall establish methods to assess the operation and to promote the effectiveness of school councils, and shall provide an annual report to the Board and the Ministry.
- 4.12 Nothing in this policy detracts from the statutory authority and duties of the Director of Education, superintendents and principals to implement the policies, programs and plans of the Board and to oversee and/or operate the schools in accordance with the *Education Act* and Regulations. All school staff remain under the jurisdiction of the principal at all times.
- 4.13 The Director of Education is authorized to issue such procedures as may be necessary in support of this policy.

5.0 APPENDICES

- Attachment 1: Responsibilities of School Councils
- Attachment 2: Composition and Operation of School Councils
- Attachment 3: School Council Liability

6.0 REFERENCES

- The Education Act*, 1998, § 170 (1), 17.1 and 170 (3)
- Ontario Regulation 612/00, School Council Regulation and Ontario Regulation 613/00, Regulation to Amend Regulation 298.
- Board Policy P.012.CON: Community Use of Schools

Board Policy P.046.SCO: School Communications: Distribution of Materials via Students
Board Policy P.052.SCO: Fund-raising in Schools
Board Policy P.104.SCO: Student Dress Code
Board Policy P.067.SCO: Volunteers
Board Procedure PR.536.SCO: School Communications: Distribution of Materials via Students
Board Procedure PR.509.SCO: School Council Elections, Constitution and By-Laws
Board Procedure PR.616.FIN: Accounting for School-Generated Funds
Board Procedure PR.540.SCO: Fund-raising in Schools
Board Procedure PR.555.SCO: Volunteers

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

1.0 Responsibilities of School Councils

- 1.1 School councils are advisory bodies. Subject to maintaining a school-wide focus as stipulated in 1.2 below, and within the policy parameters established by the District each school council may advise the school principal and, where appropriate, the school board, on any matter, including those listed below that the council has identified as priorities:
- (a) the local school-year calendar;
 - (b) school code of student conduct;
 - (c) curriculum and program goals and priorities;
 - (d) the responses of the school or Board to achievement in provincial and Board assessment programs;
 - (e) preparation of the school profile;
 - (f) principal profile: provision of input as to the qualities, skills, attitudes and training/education for the board and administration to consider in the selection of school principals;
 - (g) school budget priorities, including local capital-improvement plans;
 - (h) school-community communication strategies;
 - (i) methods of reporting to parents/guardians and the community;
 - (j) extra-curricular activities in the school;
 - (k) school-based services and community partnerships related to social, health, recreational and nutrition programs;
 - (l) community use of school facilities;
 - (m) local co-ordination of services for children and youth;
 - (n) development, implementation and review of Board policies at the local level.
- 1.2 Council members shall maintain a school-wide focus on all issues. Council meetings are not a forum for discussion about individual parents/guardians, students, staff, trustees or other council members. Under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and*

Protection of Privacy Act (1989), councils cannot access information on individual students and staff. Individual members of the school community shall deal directly with the staff members and/or the principal to resolve specific concerns.

- 1.3 In addition to its advisory responsibilities, the school council:
 - (a) shall establish its goals, priorities, and procedures;
 - (b) may organize information and training sessions to enable members of the council to develop their skills as council members; and
 - (c) shall promote the best interests of the school community as a whole.
- 1.4 There is an obligation on the part of the District and the school principal to:
 - (a) provide to the school council existing non-confidential information necessary to carry out its responsibilities;
 - (b) subject to the *Education Act* and Regulations, the policies and procedures of the District and in particular section 1.2 above, allow the school council to publish information about its activities;
 - (c) permit the school council, within the parameters and guidelines established by the Board, to raise funds to be used for the benefit of the council in carrying out its duties and/or to benefit the school it represents.
- 1.5 School council fund-raising activities shall be governed by Ottawa-Carleton District School Board policies and procedures, for example Policy P.052.SCO: Fund-raising in Schools and accompanying District Procedures PR.540.SCO: Fund-raising in Schools and PR.616.FIN: Accounting for School-Generated Funds, and Policy P.012.CON: Community Use of Schools.
- 1.6 Members of school councils, parents and volunteers shall be protected by the Board's liability insurance policy while they are acting within the scope of their duties on behalf of the Board, as sanctioned by the principal, (see Attachment 3).
- 1.7 School councils should be aware of the liability and insurance coverage issues outlined in Attachment 3 of this policy, and should review their activities annually based on this information.
- 1.8 School councils shall communicate regularly with parents/guardians and other members of the community to seek their views and preferences with regard to advice being provided by the council, and to report on the activities of the council to the school community.
- 1.9 A school council may provide advice to the principal, Board and/or senior staff. In cases where the advice is given in writing, if this advice is not accepted, the principal, Board or senior staff, as the case may be, will, within a reasonable period of time, provide the school council with the reasons in writing. If there will be a delay in providing a response, reasons for the delay will be provided in writing to the council.

COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

1.0 COMPOSITION AND OPERATION OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

Composition

- 1.1 Each school council shall be composed of the following people:
- (a) parents/guardians of students enrolled or registered in the school elected by the parents/guardians as determined under sections 1.2 and 1.7;
 - (b) one community representative appointed by the school council. Two or more representatives may be appointed if specified in the school council by-laws;
 - (c) one student for all secondary school councils, elected by the students;
 - (d) one student enrolled in an elementary school who is appointed by the principal of the school, if the principal determines, after consulting with other members of the school council, that the council should include a student;
 - (e) the school principal as a non-voting member;
 - (f) one teacher elected by the members of the teaching staff; and
 - (g) one administrative/support staff member elected by the administrative/support staff;
 - (h) if school membership is established in the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, a person appointed by this Association.
- 1.2 Parent/guardian members must form the majority of school council members. The minimum council size is nine (elementary) and 11 (secondary) members. At a minimum, the elementary school council shall have five parent/guardian and four staff/other members, while the secondary council shall have six parent/guardian and five staff/other members, including a student.
- 1.3 A school council may establish a maximum number of members through its school council constitution/by-laws.
- 1.4 The school council, in consultation with the principal, shall ensure that the annual election/appointment of teaching, non-teaching and secondary student representatives to the school council is carried out by each of these constituent groups within 30 calendar days of the beginning of the school year. A member of a school council may be re-elected or re-appointed unless otherwise specified in the constitution/by-laws of the council.
- 1.5 One or more community representatives shall be appointed annually by the members of the council as a whole.

- 1.6 School councils may expand membership on the council provided parents/guardians always hold the majority of seats by at least one, except in adult day schools where all "parent/guardian" positions will be held by students.

Eligibility

- 1.7 Board employees are eligible for election to a position as a parent/guardian representative on any school council at a school where their children are enrolled or registered unless they are employed in that school. Board employees who are eligible to run for election as parent/guardian representatives must take reasonable steps to inform people qualified to vote in the election of parent /guardian members of their employment. Election of Board employees who are eligible under this provision entitles them to express their views as any other parent/guardian on a school council.
- 1.8 A Board employee elected as a parent/guardian member of a school council may not serve as chair or co-chair of the council.
- 1.9 While trustees may attend school council meetings as observers, they are not eligible to be members of school councils in the Board in which they serve.
- 1.10 A Board employee may not be appointed as a community representative to a school council unless:
- (a) he/she is not employed at that school; and
 - (b) the other members of the school council have been informed of the person's employment prior to the appointment.
- 1.11 All members of a school council who are not staff members should be Ottawa-Carleton District School Board ratepayers. The community representative or representatives appointed to the council shall preferably be Ottawa-Carleton District School Board ratepayers who are currently neither parents/guardians of students attending the school or members of Board staff.
- 1.12 The composition of the school council should reflect the diversity of the community or communities served by the school. In defining a school community, considerations may include geography and/or school boundaries; language; and cultural, economic, business, demographic and socioeconomic considerations including representation for adult students, single parents/guardians, seniors.

Operations

- 1.13 To form a quorum as required for a meeting of the council:
- (a) a majority of the current members of the school council shall be present at the meeting; and
 - (b) a majority of the members present shall be parent/guardian members.
- 1.14 For any seats which remain unfilled or become vacant following the elections, the school council shall continue to seek qualified persons to fill such seats. The council will make all such appointments subsequent to an election as expeditiously as possible. A school council consisting of fewer than nine (elementary) or 11 (secondary) members shall be allowed to function provided every attempt has been made to fill all positions.

- 1.15 In the event that a duly constituted school council cannot be formed in a given school year, the principal shall so notify the Board through the Superintendent of Schools. The principal shall then make every effort to facilitate the establishment of a school council for the current school year.
- 1.16 Elections to school councils shall be held on an annual basis in accordance with Board Procedure PR.509.SCO: School Council Elections, Constitution and By-Laws.
- 1.17 School councils shall elect officers and assign duties to these officers in a manner broadly consistent with School Councils Procedure PR.509.SCO.
- 1.18 The Chair or co-chairs of a school council must be elected by the council from amongst the parent/guardian representatives.
- 1.19 Meetings of the school council shall be held at least four times each year, and shall be open to the general public. The first meeting each year shall be held within 35 calendar days of the beginning of the school year. Meetings shall normally be held at the school. If a meeting is to be held elsewhere, the location shall be accessible to the public.
- 1.20 School councils may, in accordance with their constitution/by-laws, establish committees to make recommendations to the council, subject to the following:
 - (a) each committee shall include at least one parent/guardian member of the council;
 - (b) such committees may include persons who are not members of the council;
 - (c) each committee meeting is held in public, and written notice of the dates, times and locations of such meetings is provided to the parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the school.
- 1.21 School councils may adopt such procedures for the conduct of meetings and of school council members as they deem appropriate, and which are consistent with Canadian principles of fairness and democracy as reflected in the Board's rules of conduct.
- 1.22 Each school council shall have the following roles and responsibilities fulfilled by:
 - (a) The School Council:
 - (i) ensures that the minutes of school council meetings are recorded and maintained*;
* N.B.: The minutes should include, or have attached to them, any advice provided in writing to the principal, Board and/or senior staff by the council, and the written response or responses in reply.
 - (ii) ensures that accurate minutes and records be retained on their website or otherwise for six years. Financial Records must be retained for seven years in accordance with District guidelines at the school for examination without charge by any person, and that an annual school council year-end report including, where applicable, a financial report, are prepared and presented to the council;
 - (iii) ensures that the minutes and records of the council during the council's tenure are passed on to the successor council;

- (iv) ensures that a current principal profile is on file with the District by 31 October of each year;
 - (v) may participate or assign an alternate to participate in information and training programs;
 - (vi) communicates with the school principal;
 - (vii) ensures that there is regular communication with the school community;
 - (viii) ensures that parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the school are consulted about matters under consideration by the council;
 - (ix) ensures that the constitution and by-laws of the council are maintained up to date and are reviewed annually by the council;
 - (x) consults with senior board staff and trustees, as required; and
 - (xi) prepares the annual report of the school council, including, if the council engages in fund-raising activities, a report on these activities, for submission to the school principal and the Director of Education.
- (b) The School Council Chair:
- (i) calls school council meetings;
 - (ii) prepares the agenda for school council meetings;
 - (iii) chairs school council meetings;
 - (iv) works collaboratively with school council members to assign and delegate the roles and responsibilities of the school council as outlined in 1.23 a) above.
- (c) Council Members:
- (i) participate in council meetings;
 - (ii) participate in information and training programs;
 - (iii) act as a link between the school council and the community;
 - (iv) encourage the participation of parents/guardians from all groups and of other people within the school community.
- (d) The Principal:
The principal shall:
- (i) facilitate the establishment of the school council and assist in its operation
 - (ii) on behalf of the school council, provide written notice of the dates, times and locations of annual elections and meetings of the council and of committees of the council to the parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the school, both by giving the notice to the student for delivery to his/her parent/guardian and by posting the notice in the school in a location that is accessible to parents/guardians;
 - (iii) support and promote the council's activities;
 - (iv) on behalf of the council, provide a copy of the annual school council report in the fall of each school year to:
 - A the parents/guardians of all students enrolled in the school, both by giving the report to the student for delivery to his/her parent/guardian and by posting the report in the school in a location that is accessible to parents/guardians; and
 - B the Director of Education;
 - (v) in accordance with the *Act* and Ontario regulations, seek input from the council by:

- A providing for the prompt distribution to each member of the school council, and for the posting in a location accessible to parents/guardians, of Ministry materials identified by the Ministry for such distribution;
- B attending all meetings of the school council or, when unable to do so, designating a staff member to attend on his/her behalf;
- C acting as a resource to the council, and assisting the council in obtaining information relevant to the functions of the council, such as information relating to relevant legislation, regulations and policies, and the budgets for the school and for school-generated funds, required by the council to enable it to provide informed advice;
- D considering each recommendation made by the council to the principal and advising the council of the action taken in response to the recommendation;
- E soliciting the views of the school council with respect to:
 - (I) the establishment or amendment of school policies and guidelines relating to pupil achievement or to the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians, such as the Board and school code of conduct and dress code;
 - (II) the development of implementation plans for new education initiatives relating to student achievement or to the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians, for example the Board and school code of conduct and dress code;
 - (III) school action plans for improvement based on EQAO reports, and the communication of these plans to the public; and
 - (IV) all Board policies on which consultation is required, and any other matter for which the Board has directed that school councils be consulted.
- (vi) act as a resource on laws, regulations, board policies, and collective agreements;
- (vii) communicate with the chair of the council, as required;
- (viii) ensure that copies of the minutes of the council's meetings are kept at the school and are available to the public on request;
- (ix) assist the council in communicating with the school community;
- (x) encourage the participation of parents/guardians from all groups and of other people within the school community in the life of the school and the activities of the school council.

1.23 Roles and responsibilities of other school council officers shall be specified in the constitutions/by-laws of individual school councils.

1.24 No remuneration or honorarium shall be paid to members of the school council.

1.25 The preferable decision-making model for the school council is consensus. However, it is recognized that voting may be required from time to time. When a vote is taken, each member of the council, excluding the principal who is a non-voting member, is entitled

to one vote. Similarly, each member of a committee of a school council, excluding the principal, is entitled to one vote when a vote is taken by the committee.

- 1.26 The school council should resolve disagreements collaboratively and through consensus or voting at the local level. In the event that a resolution is not attained at the local level, the Chair or principal will request the appropriate Superintendent of Schools to mediate the disagreement. If a resolution is not attained through the Superintendent of Schools, the Chair or principal will refer the matter to the Director of Education.

SCHOOL COUNCIL LIABILITY

- 1.0 School Council Liability [former section has been replaced with the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) Advisory (April 2001) below]:**

SCHOOL COUNCILS / PARENT GROUPS

1. PARENT GROUPS

Parent groups play a significant role and contribute to the success of many school functions through their volunteer efforts. This contribution is recognized through the school board's liability policy which extends coverage to members of parent groups while they are acting within the scope of their duties on behalf of the school board. Duties are those assigned by any authorized employee or trustee. Coverage is extended to volunteer parents involved in activities which are approved and controlled by any authorized employee or member of the board. The person authorizing the activity must assume responsibility for it and the activity must be in accordance with board policies and procedures. Thus if a member of a parent group were sued because of alleged negligence arising out of their duties for the board, the OSBIE policy would provide protection.

The parent organizations require their own liability insurance as protection against being named in a lawsuit for activities of the group that are independent of a school and are not directed by a school employee or trustee. Activities such as conventions, social outings of the parent group, independent fund-raising events, etc., would not fall under the board's liability insurance.

The Ontario Home & School Association and the Federation of Catholic Parent-Teacher Associations of Ontario both have made liability insurance available to their membership. Parent groups should investigate the feasibility of obtaining liability insurance for their organizations for activities that are not under the jurisdiction of the school board.

2. SCHOOL COUNCILS

School councils are deemed to be formed for the sole purpose of providing advice to school staff. Members of school councils are protected by the boards' liability insurance for lawsuits while they are working within the scope of their mandated duties for the board.

Since the Ministry of Education and Training issued its Policy/Program Memorandum No. 122 on April 12, 1995, a mandate to form school council advisory organizations, the OSBIE office has received a number of questions regarding insurance coverage for School Councils.

To help to clarify the matter of insurance protection, the remainder of this bulletin is written in a question and answer format. It is recommended that this bulletin be copied and distributed to all interested parties

Q-1 Are school councils protected by the board's liability insurance while they are working within their mandate to provide advice to the principal?

A-1 Yes. School councils are mandated by the Ministry of Education & Training to provide advice to principals on a variety of issues. While the members of the council are performing their duties as outlined by the Ministry of Education and Training for the board, they are deemed to be working within the scope of their duties (to provide advice to the principal), and are an insured as defined in the liability policy.

Q-2 What if school councils go beyond their mandate to provide advice? What if they become involved in some of the fund-raising activities that were previously run by parent groups? Does the board's liability insurance protect them in these circumstances?

A-2 It depends.

- i) YES, they are protected IF the school council members are "working within the scope of their duties for the board as assigned by an authorized board representative". For example, if a school principal organized a fund-raising activity and the school council members were asked to assist with the event, insurance protection would be provided to those members who volunteered.
- ii) NO, IF the school council members involve themselves in a fund-raising or other activity on their own and outside of the control of the school or board, the members are not protected by the board's liability insurance policy. For example, if a school council decided to hold a Christmas social, a family social event, conduct a craft sale, orchestrate programs not provided by schools, etc. on its own, coverage is not extended by the board's insurer.

Q-3 If my school council is willing to volunteer its time and energy to run a series of fund-raising events, why must we have the board's support and input on our plans? If my school council decides to run a program on school premises, after school for the benefit of children and families in the community, why does the board have to be involved in setting up the program and outlining the rules for operation in order for me to be covered by the board's insurance? The board is obstructing our creativity by imposing rules? Is it fair for the board to withhold insurance protection if we don't follow the board's rules?

A-3 Yes, it is fair. The board has a high onus to ensure that any activity in which it or its representatives are involved is conducted in a safe manner. A board develops procedures and policies with respect to various activities with safety in mind. Safety and security must have priority when it comes to any school activity. Matters such as accommodations, equipment, supervision, training, appropriateness of the activity, etc. must all be addressed before an activity is undertaken. School officials have developed policies and procedures to ensure safety for students and others. To disregard these policies and procedures may lead to injury and to losses.

A liability insurance policy issued to a school board provides protection to the school board and to other interests while they are acting within the scope of their duties on behalf of the board. The insurer protects the board and others for activities within the

control and jurisdiction of the school board. If the activity is outside of the jurisdiction of the school board, then coverage is not provided for that activity. A board is not obligated to assume responsibility for an activity independent of a school even if the school might be the beneficiary.

Therefore, it is fair for the board to advise school councils that if they run activities outside of the board's jurisdiction, they must purchase their own insurance that would respond to claims brought against them arising out of their events. They cannot be deemed to be working within the scope of duties for the board if they are not involved in a board controlled activity.

- Q-4** If the school council is given permission to use a school gymnasium for an after-school program that the parents are running, are the parents protected by the board's liability insurance?
- A-4** No. If the school council is simply using the school gym to operate a non-school activity, the group would require it's own liability insurance for the activity they are running. They would be in the same position as other users of school premises, and should provide liability insurance for their activities on the board's premises.
- Q-5** Do school councils require their own liability insurance?
- A-5** Yes, they do if they engage in any activities beyond their assigned duties. School councils will inevitably be involved in personal activities that are not under the jurisdiction of the school. Activities such as providing after-hours child care, running music programs, or organizing a Christmas party or other social activity for the council members would need to be insured by the school council's insurance.
- Q-6** Can school councils purchase liability insurance from OSBIE?
- A-6** No, not through OSBIE. OSBIE is a Reciprocal Exchange that is licensed to insure school boards only.
- Q-7** Where would school councils purchase liability insurance?
- A-7** We are aware of two possible sources of group insurance for school councils.
1. The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations has a group liability insurance policy available to their members only. School councils members involved in fundraising and other activities independent of a school may wish to consider membership in this Association.
 2. The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education will add School Councils who become members to their group liability policy. Information about membership and insurance can be obtained through the London Office at 519-432-5573.

Liability insurance protection is just one of the benefits of membership in either of these organizations.

These group liability insurance programs are designed to complement liability insurance policies provided by OSBIE or any other school board insurer.

Note: The Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) has arranged a special liability insurance package specifically designed for School Councils/Parent Groups of Member Boards. This package is available to any school council or home and school association of any schools whose board is an OPSBA member (*Note: The OCDSB is a member board*).