

School Council - G.W. Smith School
7:00pm Tuesday September 19, 2017

Agenda

The School Council is an advisory council to the school principal and the elected board of trustees with respect to matters pertaining to the school.

We acknowledge that we are on Treaty Six territory to the North of the Red Deer River and Treaty Seven territory to the South of the Red Deer River. We acknowledge and give thanks to all the many First Nations, Metis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

School Board Trustee Candidates - 15 mins

- Dick Lemke, Jaelene Tweedle, Jim Watters

Celebrations — Principals' Report

1. What a school council is - Candice - 4 min
 - See attached
2. Approval of minutes - 1 min
3. Approval of agenda - 1 min
4. Committee Reports
 - Treasurer - Rachel - 1 min
 - Previously allocated funds
 - Hot lunch - Lorae - 5 min
 - Committees - Shelley - 3 min
 - See attached list of events to be discussed in October
5. Business arising from the minutes
 - Fundraising - Shelley - 5 min
 - Farm To School
 - See attached fundraisers to be discussed in October
 - ASCA courses for 2017/18 - Shelley - 1 min
 - See attached course list to be discussed in October
 - Multi sport pad - Candice - 3 mins
6. New Business
 - Elections - Candice and Shelley - 10 min
7. Adjournment

Next meeting: 7:00 pm, Tuesday, October 17 , 2017

What is School Council?

School Council is:

- An important forum through which members of school communities play an advisory role in school planning.
- A structured group of parents/guardians, principal, teachers and community representatives whose purpose is to advise the principal and the school board respecting matters relating to the school. These groups work together with the school to enhance student learning

A School Council's role is not:

- Primarily for fundraising (a separate committee must be established)
- School governance
- Employment issues
- School management
- Listening to complaints

GW Smith School Council Meetings:

- 'Town Hall' model - motions and voting are restricted to council members in attendance.
- Decisions may be made in the form of a motion, debate and majority approval in a vote or by consensus of opinion.
- When decisions are made by a vote, a majority is 50%+1 in attendance. There is the option to vote in favour, against or abstain.
- Council bylaws are on the G.W. Smith website.

School Council Executive Positions:

Chairperson

- Provides leadership to Council
- Is the official spokesperson of the council
- Prepares the Council's agenda with the Principal
- Keeps the Council's activities focused on the goals
- Serves as an ex officio member of committees, attending meetings when needed
- Ensures there is regular communication with the school community
- Communicates and works together with the Vice Chair
- Prepares the annual report as well as provides information for the monthly school newsletter and Council bulletin board
- Assists the incoming Chair

Vice Chairperson

- Acts in the absence of the Chair
- Learns the duties of the Chair, keeping informed of key issues
- Works closely as a consultant and advisor to the Chair

Secretary

- Keeps Council member and committee information
- Keeps Council meeting attendance records
- Keeps accurate minutes of Council meetings, recording all motions and decisions of the Council
- Sends the minutes to the Chair and Principal
- Assists the incoming Secretary

Treasurer

- Obtains, understands and reads the financial statement* of School Council at each meeting
(Administration prepares the financial statement)
- Informs school administration regarding decisions allocating funds

City-Wide Representative

- Attends City-Wide School Council Meetings as a representative of G.W. Smith Elementary School
- Shares information regarding City-Wide meetings with School Council

Social Committee Events	Responsible
Christmas Social / Raffle	Candice Penz
Skate Night	
Spring Hop	Sydney Smeets, Shelley Odishaw
Teacher Appreciation	
Movie Nights	
Game Nights	
Suggestions?	

Other Committees	Responsible
Landscaping	Wendy Fath, Sheryl Jones, Shelley Odishaw
Bylaw Review	
Cross Country Ski Rentals	Candice Penz

Fundraisers Currently in Motion	Responsible
Hot Lunch	Lorae Couchman, Shelley Odishaw
Farm to School	Shelley Odishaw
A-thon	Kelley Lund
Boston Pizza	Kim Falls, Shelley Odishaw
Mabels Labels	Shelley Odishaw
G.W. Clothes	Candice Penz, Shelley Odishaw
Teacher Torture	Lorae Couchman, Shelley Odishaw



Workshops

	Foundation	Operation	Expansion
School Councils	Introduction & Establishment (<i>individual schools only</i>) School Council Purpose Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose Meeting Management Tools for Effective School Councils Productive Meetings Building Positive Partnerships The Work of School Council: It's NOT About the Meeting	Planning Principles <i>For individual school councils only:</i> Mission and Vision Operating Procedures Policies and Practices Effective Engagement in Your School Community Creating a 1 Year Plan	<i>For individual school councils only:</i> Understanding the School Results Report, Accountability Pillar and 3 Year Plan Developing a 3 Year Plan
Groups of School Councils	<i>For Groups & Districts only:</i> Chair Basics Bring Your Own Bylaws (BYOB) Masterful Minutes		<i>For Groups & Districts only:</i> Understanding the District Results Report, Accountability Pillar and 3 Year Plan
School Districts			<i>For Districts only:</i> Effective Principal Engagement and Collaboration with School Councils

Workshops designed to enhance school council effectiveness and parent engagement in public education.
Learning platforms for school councils, groups of school councils, school districts and fundraising associations.
Presented in three focus areas of foundation building, operational aspects and expansion potential.



School Councils, Groups of School Councils, School Districts Foundation Workshops

Foundation	1.5 hour each	Audience	Requirements	Activities
<p>Introduction & School Council Establishment*(individual schools only)</p> <p>Understanding language in the education community, legislation that mandates the rights, responsibilities and choices of school councils, as well as their value and importance, is the first step to creating a meaningful, vibrant school council and school community. School council establishment must follow legislated requirements. Provided those requirements are met, school councils are permitted flexibility and choice in how they operate. Parents will make the decisions resulting in the official establishment of their school council.</p> <p>*Note: duration is 3 hours; for individual school communities only.</p>	<p>The community of a newly opened school or the community of an established school where no school council exists.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal or District. Minimum seven participants: five parents plus principal and teacher rep.</p>	<p>Review legislation relevant to the establishment of a school council; exploring rights, responsibilities and choices, understanding the benefits and value of school council, open discussion and consensus building to determine membership and governance structure.</p>	
<p>School Council Purpose</p> <p>Understanding the legislated role of school councils including which topics/areas are open for discussion and which require caution helps to prevent tension and dysfunction within a school council and the school community. Learning how to identify the work of school councils, how to frame a “personal issue” from a school council perspective and how to broach sensitive topics is essential for new and returning members.</p>	<p>A newly established school council, an existing school council with a majority of new members or a parent group struggling to separate a school council and fundraising association.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep.</p>	<p>Review of relevant legislation, exploring rights, responsibilities and choices, advising examples and activities.</p>	
<p>Fundraising Association Partnership Purpose</p> <p>Fundraising Associations (FRAs) are separate, legal entities with distinct rules to follow, responsibilities to comply with and liabilities to consider. Positive, collaborative, mutually respectful relationships with the principal and school council are integral to the success of each and in the best interests of students. Clarity of who has authority for what, is essential.</p>	<p>A school community recognizing the need for two distinct groups and seeking to form a society for the purposes of fundraising, or with one in place needing assistance to understand their boundaries.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair and (potential) fundraising association President, principal and teacher rep. Foundation workshop “School Council Introduction” or “Purpose”.</p>	<p>Review of relevant legislation (Societies Act and School Act), “Which Group” identification activities, and case studies.</p>	
<p>Meeting Management</p> <p>Meaningful school council meetings require strong leadership and clear, easy to follow processes for all participants. Having a solid <i>Agenda</i>, some simple <i>Rules of Order</i> and learning how to <i>Direct Discussion</i> will help to ensure the school council meetings are not a waste of anyone’s valuable time. Every meeting participant will benefit from this workshop!</p>	<p>A school council aware of its legislated role seeking to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of its meetings.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose”.</p>	<p>Exploration of some common challenges for school council meetings and introduction of three important solution-oriented tools.</p>	
<p>Tools for Effective School Councils</p> <p>Resources, tips, templates and tools will be provided to help participants to understand the culture of their local community and basic volunteer psychology. Strategies to increase the effectiveness of school councils will be offered.</p>	<p>A school council with a clear understanding of its legislated role, seeking to obtain strategies and tools related to fulfilling the role.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose”.</p>	<p>Identification of what school councils can do, and the resources available to assist. Exploration of school community culture/barriers and volunteer motivation.</p>	
<p>Productive Meetings</p> <p>Productive school council meetings rely on all school council members contributing to the value and success of the school council. Understanding the role of Chair and principal, as well as the importance of meaningfully engaging other members, is vital. Use of consistent processes, expectations, ongoing documentation, evaluation and recognition are essential.</p>	<p>A school council aware of its legislated role seeking assistance to clarify and understand relationships and responsibilities among members.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair and ideally other Executive members, principal and teacher. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose”.</p>	<p>Case studies (<i>issue vs. Personality</i>), discussion related to climate setting and task sharing. Identification of strategies to help create a warm, welcoming, and cooperative environment.</p>	
<p>Building Positive Partnerships</p> <p>Building positive partnerships within the Education and general community can help school councils to be more effective in their advisory role. With a focus of supporting and enhancing student learning, <i>Positive Partnerships</i> are informative, collaborative, and respectful of boundaries and authorities.</p>	<p>A school council aware of its legislated role seeking to identify and build relationships within, or outside of, the Education Community.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose”.</p>	<p>Identification of Education Partners, examination of relational components, expectations and protocols.</p>	
<p>The Work of School Council: it’s NOT About the Meeting</p> <p>School Councils often struggle with identifying the types of activities and work they should be doing in order to truly fulfil their legislated role. In this workshop, school councils are encouraged to examine what they are doing in relation to their intended purpose and the intended result of their work, and then consider alternative means of including their school community.</p>	<p>A school council aware of its legislated role seeking to extend their positive influence beyond the school council meeting and into the school community.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose”.</p>	<p>Examination of the common “work” of school councils, how that work relates to the intended purpose and desired result of the work, and exploration of activities and processes that will enhance the school council’s presence in the school community.</p>	

School Councils Operation Workshops



Operation	2 hours each	Audience	Requirements	Activities
<p>Mission and Vision Mission defines the purpose of a group, the reason for being. Vision communicates that purpose through values; reveals desired outcome or ideal state. Clearly understanding and communicating the school council purpose, mission and vision is essential to engaging the school community.</p> <p>Operating Procedures A school council has discretion to decide what works best for them, within the context of legislation and their community. Topics include; model of governance, membership, decision making, terms of office, conflict resolution.</p> <p>Policies and Practices School council policies should reflect legislation, the context of their communities, and the work their members choose to do. Topics include; communication - internal and external, record-keeping, fundraising and accounting, privacy, location of meetings, official mailing address, new member orientation, group evaluation and social media.</p> <p>Effective Engagement in Your School Community School councils would like their school community to be dynamic, exciting places, where parents feel authentically engaged in supporting and enhancing student learning. Not easily accomplished, effective engagement means many different things. Explore what this means in your school community, and how it might be achieved.</p> <p>Creating a 1 Year Plan Meaningful involvement, recruitment and effective engagement require planning. A plan should be simple to communicate and achievable - given the time and resources available. Evaluation and potential modification are vital to the creation of ongoing plans.</p>	<p>A school council with a clear understanding of its legislated role, seeking to define, or redefine, their mission and vision, ideally aligned with those of the school.</p> <p>A school council with a clear understanding of its legislated role, seeking to create operating procedures for the first time, or replace existing bylaws.</p> <p>A school council with a clear understanding of its legislated role, seeking to create policies which will help to guide and define its processes and work.</p> <p>A school council seeking to involve and engage the school community in supporting and enhancing student learning.</p> <p>A school council with a clear understanding of its legislated role, seeking to identify and create goals that can be achieved within the current school year.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. Foundation workshop "School Council Purpose" within previous two school years, more recently if majority are new members.</p> <p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. Foundation workshop "Purpose" within previous two school years, more recently if majority are new members.</p> <p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. Operation workshop "School Council Operating Procedures" within previous school year.</p> <p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. Foundation workshop "Purpose" within previous two school years, more recently if majority are new members.</p> <p>Invitation from principal and one parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. Foundation workshop "Purpose" within previous two school years, more recently if majority are new members. Principal is prepared to present summary of <i>Annual Education Plan</i> and identify two or three areas where school council may choose to assist.</p>	<p>Idea sharing, open discussion, consensus building. Create a <i>Draft Mission and Vision Statement</i>, ready to share with school community.</p> <p>Review of legislation relevant to school councils creating operating procedures (bylaws). Open discussion, idea sharing, and consensus building; wording of specific clauses relevant to the local community. Create <i>Draft Operating Procedures</i> for review and feedback.</p> <p>Review of legislation relevant to school councils creating policies. Open discussion, idea sharing, and consensus building; wording of specific policies relevant to the local community. Create <i>Draft Policies</i> for review and feedback.</p> <p>Using local context, define effective engagement, identify existing challenges, explore possible solutions and create goals and plans focused on creating engagement opportunities for the school community.</p> <p>Exploration of the value of planning, idea sharing, open discussion, consensus building. Overview of the school's <i>Annual Education Plan</i>, identifying areas where school council may assist in achieving identified targets, as well as ongoing school council progressive learning. Create <i>Draft 1 Year Plan</i> specifying actions, resources, outcomes and evaluation methods.</p>	
<p>Planning Principles Meaningful involvement, recruitment and effective engagement require planning. A plan needs to be simple to communicate and achievable - given the time and resources available. Evaluation and potential modification is vital to ongoing development of plans.</p>	<p>Those with a majority of school council participants who have a clear understanding of their purpose, seeking to gain a basic understanding of plan creation.</p>	<p>Invitation from principal, parent, District or group rep. Minimum ten participants including a member of the district administration or Board. Foundation workshop "School Councils Purpose" within previous two school years, more recently if majority are new members, is recommended.</p>	<p>Exploration of the value of planning, idea sharing, open discussion, consensus building. Overview of the principles of planning as they relate to the work of school councils.</p>	

School Councils, Groups of School Councils, School Districts Operation Workshops



School Councils Expansion Workshops

Expansion

2.5 hours each

Audience

A school council with a clear understanding of its legislated role, seeking to increase its knowledge and understanding of the assessment and planning tools used to guide the educational focus of their school.

Requirements

Invitation from principal and one parent.
Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. Principal is prepared to distribute the entire copy of the school's Results Report, 3 Year Education Plan and Accountability Pillar, and discuss details as questions arise. **Foundation** workshop "School Council Purpose" within previous two school years.

Activities

Examination of school's *Results Report, Accountability Pillar and 3 Year Education Plan*. Recognition of areas of strength/success. Discussion relevant to how school council and parents can assist in achieving better results where needed.

Understanding the School Results Report, Accountability Pillar and 3 Year Plan
Schools, school districts and Alberta Education have a responsibility to assess and report on the status of student success and school community satisfaction, to identify areas requiring improvement, and to implement improvement strategies. Understanding the meaning and importance of the three provincially mandated tools which guide this work will assist a school council to identify meaningful paths of participation.

Developing a 3 Year Plan

Meaningful involvement, participation and effective engagement require planning. A plan should be simple to communicate and achievable - given the time and resources available. Evaluation and potential modification are vital to ongoing development of plans.

A school council with a clear understanding of its legislated role, seeking to identify and develop long-term goals that coincide with the school's 3 Year Education Plan.

Invitation from principal and one parent.
Minimum five participants including school council Chair, principal and teacher rep. **Foundation** workshop "School Council Purpose" within previous two school years. Principal is prepared to present summary of 3 Year Education Plan and identify key areas where school council may choose to assist.

Overview of the school's 3 Year Education Plan, identifying areas where school council may choose to assist in achieving identified targets, as well as ongoing school council progressive learning.
Create a *Draft 3 Year School Council Plan* specifying actions, resources, outcomes and evaluation methods.



Groups of School Councils, School Districts Foundation Workshops

Foundation	1.5 hour each	Audience	Requirements	Activities
Chair Basics Chairing a school council meeting can be exciting, confusing or down-right scary! Having confidence with a clear understanding of chair responsibilities and processes will help to keep meetings focused, productive and fun!		A group of school council chairs (new or experienced) with or without their principals.	Invitation from District or group rep. Minimum ten participants including a member of the district administration or Board. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose” is recommended.	Overview of the roles of the Chair, agenda preparation, duties of other members, communication, meeting management tools and skills.
Bring Your Own Bylaws (BYOB) Clear governance documents help a group maintain focus and structure. Format and wording should be clear and easily understood by all. Contents should reflect the relevant (applicable) legislation in addition to the culture of the community which the group represents.		A group of school councils or a district group of principals, administrators, trustees and school council reps seeking to understand what elements should be included in bylaws/operating procedures.	Invitation from District or group rep. Minimum ten participants including a member of the district administration or Board. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose” is recommended. Note: Each participant must bring a copy of their existing governance document(s).	Review of relevant legislation (School Act/Regulations), step-by-step, hands-on review of participant’s governing documents, discussion regarding interpretation and implementation.
Masterful Minutes Minutes are among the most important documents used to conduct business in a transparent and accountable manner. However, taking minutes can be daunting. Minute-takers are often expected to produce minutes out of chaotic and disorganized meetings. Understanding how much is too much, and what format is best in a school council setting will reduce stress and minimize conflict.		School Council Secretaries (new or experienced) and any other interested parties.	Invitation from District or group rep. Minimum ten participants including a member of the district administration or Board. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose” is recommended.	Explanation of the various types of minutes, the ideal format for school councils, and how to create and use templates efficiently.

Groups of School Councils, School Districts Expansion Workshop

Expansion	2.5 hours each	Audience	Requirements	Activities
Understanding the District Results Report, Accountability Pillar and 3 Year Plan Schools, school districts and Alberta Education have a responsibility to assess and report on the status of student success and school community satisfaction, to identify areas requiring improvement, and to implement improvement strategies. Understanding the meaning and importance of the three provincially mandated tools which guide this work will assist school councils to identify meaningful paths of participation.		Groups or Districts with a majority of school council participants who have a clear understanding of the legislated role, seeking to increase their knowledge and understanding of the assessment and planning tools used to guide the educational focus in their school.	Invitation from District or group rep. Minimum ten participants including a member of the district administration or Board. District Admin is prepared to distribute the entire copy of the district’s Results Report, 3 Year Education Plan and Accountability Pillar, and discuss details as questions arise. Foundation workshop “School Council Purpose” within previous two school years, more recently if majority are new members, is recommended.	Examination of District’s Results Report, Accountability Pillar and 3 Year Education Plan. Recognition of areas of strength/success. Discussion relevant to how school councils can assist in supporting and enhancing student learning. Increased awareness of the educational direction/focus, rough/draft ideas for discussion topics for school council and/or strategies for school council work.

School Districts Expansion Workshop

Effective Principal Engagement and Collaboration with School Councils
The principal is the key figure in creating an environment conducive to authentic parental participation and engagement. Effective school council engagement in school and district work, principals working effectively and collaboratively with school councils in a mutually respectful environment, and collaborative engagement of the school community in partnership with the principal and school council, are integral to success.
A district group of principals, administrators, trustees and school council reps (optional) seeking to explore how administrators can work effectively with school councils. Note - intended for principals and senior administrative team members.
Invitation from District. Minimum ten principals/administrators/trustees in attendance. Recommended attendance by a member of the administration or Board.
Review of School Act and Regulations relevant to what opportunities are mandated for discretionary school council participation. Identifying school community culture/barriers, volunteer motivation, engagement activities and case studies.