



PARENTS SUPPORTING PARENTS

## BE THE VOICE OF THE CHILDREN IN YOUR SCHOOL

Research shows that students are most successful when parents are involved in the school. Parents are an integral part of the school community and the Peel District School Board makes it very easy for parents to get involved via volunteering, School Councils and participating in school initiatives.

### What is School Council?

A School Council is a collective of parents, the principal, a teacher representative and sometimes school support staff, community representatives, and high school students in the case of secondary schools. The main purpose of a School Council is to provide advice to and consult with the principal, and to advise the school board on education matters. Parents share their knowledge, experience and unique perspectives through School Council meetings and events and in doing so, contribute to the success of all students.

### Grants for School Councils

Grants can be an important source of funds for School Councils. There are many organizations that offer grants for which School Councils may be eligible. The province of Ontario offers two grant programs that are specifically designed to support parent engagement initiatives.

#### These are:

1. **\$500 grant to School Councils** — This is a guaranteed funding source for every School Council. The Ministry provides this fund to support schools in the implementation of many initiatives involving parents. This funding can be used for any reasonable expense that encourages parent involvement with the school.



2. **Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for School Councils** — School Councils may apply to the Ministry of Education for a grant of up to \$1,000. There are limitations on the use of these funds.

### Who can attend School Council meetings?

School Council meetings are open to the public and are an opportunity for the school's parents/guardians to influence and get involved in what is happening at the school. School Council members share the voice of the parent community with school staff. These meetings are a great way for the community to stay informed and updated on school initiatives and activities.

### Roles of Executive Council Members

#### Chair/Co-chair:

- Set meeting dates, work with council members
- Prepare meeting agendas and share them with the principal
- Lead council meetings
- Communicate with the principal on behalf of the council and the parent community at large

#### Secretary (optional, but recommended):

- Distribute meeting agendas
- Take minutes of each meeting
- Distribute minutes and agenda to attendees

Learn more about membership and Executive School Council roles at: [www.peelschools.org/parents/schoolcouncils/membership](http://www.peelschools.org/parents/schoolcouncils/membership)

NEWSLETTER

Parent Involvement Committee

Quarter 1 - 2019

### How can you contact your School Council?

Each Peel School Council has its own @peelsb.com email account to communicate and receive council information. The school principal will set up the chair/co-chair with the login for this account at the start of each school year. Members who are assigned to check the email will respond to inquiries.

Scan to see list of all school email addresses



Learn more about School Councils at: [www.peelschools.org/schoolcouncils](http://www.peelschools.org/schoolcouncils)

Parents may subscribe to get the latest information from the Peel board here: [www.peelschools.org/aboutus/subscribe](http://www.peelschools.org/aboutus/subscribe)

### RESOURCES

**People for Education**  
[peopleforeducation.ca/topics/parent-involvement](http://peopleforeducation.ca/topics/parent-involvement)

**Parent Engagement Matters**  
[parentengagementmatters.ca](http://parentengagementmatters.ca)

**A Guide for School Council Members**  
[edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf](http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf)

**Publications for Parents**  
[edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/publications.html](http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/publications.html)

**Parents Reaching Out Grants**  
[edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html](http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html)  
**Peel District School Board School Councils**  
[peelschools.org/schoolcouncils](http://peelschools.org/schoolcouncils)

**Parent Involvement Committees**  
[edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/PIC.html](http://edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/PIC.html)

**Ontario Parent Council Archive**  
[ontarioparentcouncil.org/resources-links/](http://ontarioparentcouncil.org/resources-links/)

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# Parent Involvement Committee

A Board-Level Committee for Parent Involvement called PIC

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is made up of parents representing different areas of Peel Region. PIC also includes community partners, board staff, the Director of Education and typically three Trustees of the Board.

## What does PIC do?

PIC supports, encourages and enhances parent engagement at the board level by representing parents and the community. PIC also supports all School Councils in the Peel board by acting as a resource for information and conducting events at various schools that directly benefit from workshops, conferences, educational and awareness events. School Councils provide information and advice on school matters; PIC does the same at the board level.

PIC acts as an advisory partner to the board in matters of parent engagement and overall student success. PIC networks with parents to share ideas, provide support to School Councils, and helps promote the board's initiatives with parents. PIC also shares effective practices to help engage parents, and provides support to parents/guardians who may find engagement challenging for a variety of reasons, including language, lack of childcare, timing of meetings, etc. PIC works to help identify and reduce barriers to parent engagement.



*PIC of Members 2018 – 2019*

*Co-chairs: Tanya Sharma & Arwinder Kalsi*

*Parent members: Syed Nasir Ali, Leona Chen, Barbara Cyr, Mangaljit Dabb, Wendy Hill, Dr. Salha Jeizan, Kuldeep Kanda (Ex-Officio), Heather Munich, Nighat Nabi, Charmaine Parnellmiles, Arvind Phansatkar and Lili Schemil*

*Trustees: Susan Benjamin, John Marchant and Kathy McDonald*

*Board Staff: Director of Education Peter Joshua, Ashley Bigda and Audrey Crasto*

## FAST FACTS

- Students with involved parents do better in school.
- Parent involvement is a better predictor of academic success than standardized test scores.
- School Councils have the ability to arrange parent engagement activities using grant funds.
- In order to volunteer at any school, a parent or guardian must have a valid Criminal Record Check (CRC) submitted. The form can be obtained from the school.

## CONTACT PIC



[parentinvolvement@peelsb.com](mailto:parentinvolvement@peelsb.com)



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905-890-1010 ext. 2809