

The education of the young people within the Thames Valley District School Board is a shared responsibility of schools, students, parents and community members. School councils provide a link between schools and their communities, a link that promotes a caring, learning environment.

SCHOOL COUNCIL OVERVIEW:

What is a school council? A school council is an organized forum and advisory body where members can discuss issues that affect their school, provide input to the school principal and the school board regarding issues that reflect the community's interest. The purpose of a school council is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system. School councils are valuable partners that promote collaboration between the school, home and community.

Who are the school council members? School councils are made up of parents/guardians of students, the school principal, a teacher, a non-teaching staff member, a student (optional at the elementary level) and community representatives. The majority of members must be parents.

What do school councils do? One purpose of the school council is to promote and support the involvement of all parents in their children's learning. School council members attend meetings, and are kept informed about what is happening at the school, school board and provincial level. Members are asked to contribute to the discussions of the school council, actively seek the views of their community and encourage parental and community involvement. School councils maintain a broad focus on a range of issues of school-wide concern.

How do school councils enhance public education? School councils provide an excellent opportunity for parents/guardians to become involved in their child's education. School council decisions and recommendations are based on the best interests of students, while supporting staff in building on the school's strengths. School councils put students first and encourage partnerships that foster increased information sharing about the programs being offered in schools.

Why are school councils important? School councils highlight the public's enthusiasm for parent/guardian involvement in education. School councils take part in the educational decision making process by providing advice to the principal and the school board on school and student achievement related matters.

What issues do school councils address? School councils provide advice on issues that include, but are not limited to, student achievement, curriculum and programs, assessment/accountability, safe schools, parent involvement, code of conduct, dress code, health/safety, fundraising, and school board policies and procedures.

When are school council meetings held? School council meetings are held a minimum of four times a year, with the first meeting held within thirty-five days of the start of the new school year. Locations and times vary from school to school.



What is the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee?

The Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee (TVPIC) is an advisory body whose primary purpose is to promote effective parent engagement, enabling parents to play a stronger role in supporting student achievement as mandated by the Ministry of Education. TVPIC provides advice on parent engagement with a board-wide perspective, acts as a liaison between school councils and the TVDSB and offers support, assistance and resources to school councils.

