

POLICY – PO211

Catholic School Councils and Parent Involvement Committee

Area: Governance
Source: Superintendent of Education – Policy Development

Approved: March 25, 2002
Revised: Oct. 24, 2005; Feb. 10, 2020

1. Introduction

The Board recognizes the importance of parental engagement in the education of their children. In keeping with Catholic teaching, we affirm that parents are the primary educators of their children and we welcome their participation as active members of Catholic School Councils and the Parent Involvement Committee.

2. Definitions

By-Law – any rule or procedure adapted by an organization for the purpose of regulating its affairs.

Catholic School Council – refers to the body of duly elected members as defined in O.Reg. 612/00, O.Reg. 330/10 who, in their advisory role, assist the principals in managing and setting priorities for the school.

Committee – any committee established and mandated by a Catholic School Council, or a subcommittee established and mandated by the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC).

Constitution – a document which includes the basic principles of an organization, including operational framework and the power and duties of the officers and members.

Parent – with respect to a school council or parent involvement committee, parent of a pupil who is enrolled in the school, including a guardian as defined in Section 1 of the Act.

Parent Involvement Committee – known as the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) is a Committee of the Board consisting of parents of students enrolled in schools of the Board and community representatives that provide information and advice on parent engagement to the Board and communities, and provides support to Catholic School Councils of schools of the Board.

Parent Member:

- a) with respect to a school council, a member of the council who is elected to the council in accordance with Section 4 or who fills a vacancy created by a parent member ceasing to hold office (O.Reg. 612/00 S.1);
- b) with respect to a parent involvement committee, a member of the committee who is appointed or elected to the committee in accordance with Section 34 or who fills a vacancy created by a parent member ceasing to hold office (O.Reg. 612/00 S.1).

Separate School Supporter –an English-language Roman Catholic board supporter or a French-language separate district school board supporter as defined by the Education Act.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework that gives direction, assistance and support to principals, administrative staff, school communities and Supervisory Officers for the establishment, operation and success of Catholic School Councils and the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all schools within the Durham Catholic District School Board and to the constituent members of the respective Catholic School Councils and to members of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board believes that:

- 5.1.1 Catholic schools have their origin in the fundamental partnership of parish, home and school;
- 5.1.2 Catholic schools have the purpose of developing students who will contribute positively to the Catholic church as well as to the society in which they will be citizens;

- 5.1.3 parents, as the primary educators of their children, have the right and the responsibility to actively participate in the education of their children;
- 5.1.4 every school is required to have a Catholic School Council that acts in an advisory capacity to the Principal to support student engagement and success;
- 5.1.5 the parish, home and school community welcome the child into the sacramental life of the Catholic church and together nourish the faith life of the child;
- 5.1.6 it has a responsibility to espouse a commitment to excellence through the active partnership of parish, home and school in order to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of each child;
- 5.1.7 the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) plays an active role in supporting, encouraging and enhancing parent engagement at the board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and to amend them thereafter as the need arises.
- 6.2 Each school within the Durham Catholic District School Board shall:
 - a) establish, maintain and operate a Catholic School Council consistent with all Board policies, administrative procedures and the attendant legislative requirements;
 - b) shall adhere to a membership structure and term of office for their Catholic School Council, as defined within the attendant Administrative Procedure Catholic School Councils (AP211-1).
 - c) have access to communications and resources promoted by the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC).
- 6.3 The Durham Catholic District School Board shall establish and maintain a Parent Involvement Committee as a regulatory sub-committee of the Board.

7. Sources

- 7.1 Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 – Section 170(1) 17.1, Section 170(3)
- 7.2 School Councils – O.Reg. 612/00
- 7.3 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees O.Reg. 330/10
- 7.4 Operation of Schools General – O.Reg. 298
- 7.5 Ministry of Education School Councils: A Guide for Members, 2001

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 Fundraising Policy (PO416)
- 8.2 Employee Conflict of Interest Policy (PO317)
- 8.3 Catholic School Councils and Parent Involvement Committee Administrative Procedure (AP211-1)
- 8.4 Catholic School Council Committees Administrative Procedure (AP211-2)
- 8.5 Catholic School Council/Parent Involvement Committee Constitution Administrative Procedure (AP211-3)