

What is a School Council?

From the HWDSB website, “School councils have a legislated role at their schools and are there to ensure the best possible education for students. Our school councils are comprised of democratically elected representatives of our parent community. Together, they:

- Focus on student learning and the best interest of all students,
- Provide a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance,
- Make recommendations to the school principal and the Board on any matter they see impacting accountability and academic excellence and;
- Serve as a communication and information channel between the school and community”

Ray Lewis School Council:

- We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month from September to May
- Elections for the 3 executive positions – Chair/Co-chair, treasurer and secretary – are held at the first meeting in September and are effective for one year.
- Parent reps are self-nominated
- Over the past few years we have raised funds for various things such as:
 - Play balls for the playground
 - Equipment and supplies for the teachers they would not normally buy or use their own money to buy
 - Contributed funds to subsidize the agendas at the beginning of the year
 - Provided funds for wireless microphones and other electronics used by the school
 - Contributed funds for the grade 8 graduation
 - Developed the outdoor classroom at the back of the school
 - Donations to various charities
 - Sponsored information nights on topics relevant to students and parents
- Our role is not to just fundraise but also meet and discuss issues and concerns relevant to the school and the community; provide feedback from a parent perspective on various school initiatives and board policies and programs, and help engage the parents and the rest of the community to become more involved in the school.

For more information:

School Links:

- Parent rep self-nomination form: <http://schools.hwdsb.on.ca/raylewis/school-council/resources/>
- Ray Lewis School Council information, including minutes and agendas of meetings: <http://schools.hwdsb.on.ca/raylewis/school-council/>
- Ray Lewis School Council email address: raylewis.sc@hwdsb.on.ca

Other links:

- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board website on school councils: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/councils/#a1>
- People for Education: conducts “vital research, answer parents’ questions, make policy recommendations and ensure there is broad coverage of education issues in the media.” <http://www.peopleforeducation.ca/>