2020-21 School Council Annual Report Highlights

Quick Facts

- 48 respondents from 40 schools
- Average of 10 members per School Council
- Average of five School Council meetings per school
- 25 per cent of School Councils have another parent group active in their school
- 60 per cent of School Councils have a constitution and/or a procedural bylaw
- 48 per cent of School Councils use social media
- 48 per cent of respondents would like a representative from PIC to attend a School Council meeting at some point in the year to introduce themselves

What were some of the things your School Council learned as a result of operating during this pandemic year?

- Learned how to organize virtual meetings (some Councils plan to offer this option moving forward for those who cannot attend otherwise)
- Heard that some School Councils struggled with the virtual format (difficulties getting people to attend, keeping people engaged)
- Communication is key (especially during a year filled with uncertainty)

List any activities that the School Council supported related to student learning and achievement and positive culture and well-being? (If applicable)

- Examples included student awards, purchase of gym equipment and iPads, graduation ceremonies, Learn.Disrupt.Rebuild, guest speakers, webinars/town halls, and much more

COVID-19 was a challenge for everyone, especially for School Councils. In what ways did you overcome (or attempt to overcome) challenges this year?

- Being flexible with virtual meetings and giving members the tools to succeed in this format
- Some Councils chose not to meet as often in order to reduce stress on families
- Using social media, website, and other communication methods to keep families informed

Please list some of the items you spent your $500 allocation on:

- Items included guest speakers, magnets for a new school, tent for outdoor events, a welcome wall, laptops, books, student agendas, school supplies, and more

What are your insights or concerns with this plan for 2021-2022?

- Importance of bringing fundraising and volunteers back to schools, finding ways to safely reintroduce things like food sales
- Difficulties associated with executing this plan with limited access to schools
- COVID-19 restrictions can change at any moment, making this plan difficult to prepare for

What were some of the communication strategies you used to engage parents during COVID-19?

- Examples included email, social media, newsletters, school website, school sign, and more