



School Council at Gatestone

Parent Information Session

September 15, 2021

Introductions and Attendance

Welcome!
Thanks for joining us!

Attendance

Melissa (Vice Principal)

Kelly (Principal)

Barbara

Shannon

Billy

Renee

Krystal

Agenda

Tonight, we'd like to cover:

- ▶ Land Acknowledgement
- ▶ What is Parent Council
- ▶ Fundraising
- ▶ How you can be involved
- ▶ Time Commitment required
- ▶ At the meeting - what to expect
- ▶ Next meeting - September 29th 2021 @6pm

Land Acknowledgement

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.

The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity.

We respect the long-standing relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.



What is Parent Council?

- ▶ Every school must have a school council and members include parents, the principal, a teacher, a non-teaching staff member and a community representative. The majority of members must be parents

THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL IS TO:

- ▶ Advise the principal and, where appropriate, the school board.
- ▶ Place students' interest first
- ▶ Support school planning goals
- ▶ Encourage parent and community involvement
- ▶ Promote positive attitudes towards public education
- ▶ School Councils provide input to the principal or the board on any matter. The Principal is ultimately responsible for activities related to the school and therefore is responsible for school council activities.
- ▶ Principals do not vote on school council decisions

“through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.”

Purpose of Parent Council - [Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2](#)

What is Parent Council to me?

- ▶ To me, Parent Council is where I get to hear about what is going at school, how the school is focusing on areas for improvement
- ▶ It gives us a place to discuss how current events may be changing or shaping events at the school
- ▶ It gives me an opportunity to help raise funds to give our kids and the school the things they need to provide a great experience for them, and allows me a voice into which direction the school goes with some of their wants/needs
- ▶ I get to meet, talk and get to know some of the other great parents we have in our Gatestone community, and once people hear you are a part of parent council, you hear from other parents too and help bring the community together!

What is Parent Council to you? Better yet, what would you like Parent Council to be?



Parental involvement is one of the most significant factors contributing to a child's success in school. When parents are involved in their education, the level of student achievement increases.

Education Improvement Commission

Fundraising

Have not been able to fundraise past couple years, but fingers crossed for this year!

In past years Parent Council has raised funds for:

- ▶ Instrumental Music Program
- ▶ Equity Books for our Library
- ▶ PE and DPA equipment
- ▶ Technology for students
- ▶ Graduation
- ▶ Special Education
- ▶ Kindergarten Equipment
- ▶ Donated Coffee/Food items for community events
- ▶ Items for the Snoezelen room in the library
- ▶ Water Bottle filling stations

Raised funds via:

- Christmas Bazaar
- MacMillans
- Raffles
- Candy sales, bake sales
- Possibilities are endless - your ideas help us help the school!

Parent Council Positions

We can't do all these wonderful things without you, the Gatestone Parents Involvement! For a successful Parent Council we need to have parents volunteer some of their time in The following positions:

- ▶ Chair / Co-chair
 - ▶ Create agenda for council meetings working with Principal, and facilitate meetings
- ▶ Secretary
 - ▶ Record meeting minutes and forward to council after meetings
- ▶ Treasurer
 - ▶ Work with Gatestone staff to ensure accurate record of council's financials
- ▶ Fundraising Chair
 - ▶ Facilitate fundraising activities at Gatestone with the support of other council members
- ▶ Voting Member
 - ▶ Plan to be present at all meetings - require at least 50% of voting members present to make a decision

Time Commitment

Not A Lot!

- ▶ Per our regulations - councils are to meet at least 4 times per year. Additional meetings can be held for planning of events
- ▶ Meetings will be held via Teams - and when we can have a meeting TOGETHER, we will still have the Teams option for you to join!
- ▶ We're a casual bunch and keep it pretty simple, open to feedback and suggestions!

My Experience

As Chair I have spent about an hour outside of meetings putting together the agenda, then the main objective for me is to ensure everyone is heard during our meetings, and to try to keep us to our timeframe.

If all items aren't addressed - we can address them via email, or arrange for a follow up with the right parties to be involved 😊

At the Meeting - what to expect

Typical Agenda:

- ▶ Chairs Address (Welcome, take attendance)
- ▶ Principal/Vice Principal Report - discuss whats new and exciting and/or important at Gatestone right now
- Present any wishlist items for Council
- ▶ Treasurer Update
- ▶ Community Representative Update
- ▶ Old Business - review any outstanding items from previous meeting
- ▶ New Business/Round Table - ask any questions
- ▶ Review next meeting date and any action items
- ▶ Sometimes we have guest speakers too!

Next Meeting

- ▶ Our Next meeting will be **September 29th @6pm**. Please let Kelly or I know if you need the invite sent to you!
 - ▶ At this meeting we will vote for the parent council positions for 2021-2022 school year.
 - ▶ **I would ask you to please consider nominating yourself for a position - the only way for us to have a successful council is with your involvement!**
 - ▶ If you know anyone who would like to come along - invite, invite, invite! 😊
 - ▶ School Council Nomination forms - required to be a voting member or hold a position on council - can be found here:
 - ▶ [School-Council-Nomination-Form.pdf \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/school-council-nomination-form.pdf)