

Parmenter School Council
December 9, 2020

7:45 - 8:45 AM

Minutes

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Board Selection (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary)
 - *Members: Shannon Barca (principal), Ellen Sabanosh (staff), Tanya Lamoureux (staff), Oona Harrington (parent), Tracy Goulart (parent)*
 - *Chair - Shannon Barca*
 - *Co-Chair - Ellen Sabaonsh*
 - *Secretary - Tanya Lamoureux*
2. Purpose of Council
 - *Reviewed Statement of Purpose, Responsibilities of the School Council, the School Council's role in the School Budget (see below)*
3. Review Parmenter's Vision Statement and Mission Statement
 - working off of 2019-2020 SIP and 2020-2021 DIP due to the structure of the school year
4. School Council initiatives for 2020-2021 school year
 - Changes and evolved teaching & learning approaches during the 2020-2021 school year as a result of the pandemic;
 - hear from stakeholders to gain insight about what is going well and what are the continued challenges
 - stressful for all involved
 - reach out to families to hear more about how it is going at home
 - informal meeting inviting parents (2 clusters: K-2 and 3-5 - coffee chat style) to share "a day in the life of... with remote learning"
 - Building cultural proficiency and deepening our work with diversity within our school community;
 - need to engage in critical conversations about discrimination and racism within our own community

- mentoring opportunity with students at High School who are part of the Diversity Club (after school program with like group - beginning with black female 3-5 students)
 - goal would be to evolve into a diverse group of students
 - working to ensure we can create a diverse selection of texts in the library and in the classroom
 - The School Council will engage in a book club (How to be an Anti-Racist by Ibram Kendi)
 - Ellen S. to organize
- Continued discussion and planning (from last year's group) around school beautification and creating a safe and inclusive environment for all.
- reviewed the projects that were completed last year (cafeteria, entry way, staff room)

5. Next Meetings

- February 3rd at 7:45-8:45
- March/April
- May/June

School Council – Statement of Purpose

The School Council serves as the representatives of our larger school community. Through its recommendations, the School Council seeks to enrich and enhance opportunities for teaching and learning that result in optimal achievement for all students. The School Council strives to improve the supports available to teachers, students and their families to better meet the needs of all students.

Responsibilities of the School Council

As outlined in the Education Reform Act of 1993, the School Council is comprised of representatives from the parent body, the school staff, and the community at large. Elections are held to ensure that all parents and staff have a full opportunity for representation.

The law outlines four major areas of responsibility for councils. School councils are to assist principals in:

1. Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
2. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school
3. Reviewing the annual school building budget
4. Formulating/reviewing the school improvement plan

The School Council's Role in the School Budget

The law specifies that the school council "shall assist [the principal] in the review of the annual school budget." This language refers to the school building budget, not to the district budget. "Review" means that the council and the principal read through documents that describe the budget in order to understand the implications for items in the school improvement plan that will be developed by the council. In many communities, the school budget is prepared by mid-year in order to allow for negotiation with other municipal agencies, i.e., finance committee, city council, town meeting. A council's review of the budget, therefore, enables it to predict better which improvement projects that require funding could be implemented in the next school year under a budget that was constructed in the previous fall. Also, in school districts that encourage building-based budget planning, a school's improvement plan objectives developed in any given year can guide the development of the school's budget in the next year. In these cases, the council's review of the budget helps in the implementation of the previous year's school improvement plan.