

# Halton District School Board

## *Operational Policy*

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<b>NUMBER:</b>	<i>to be determined</i>
<b>TOPIC:</b>	<b>School Councils</b>
<b>EFFECTIVE:</b>	<b>June 1, 2007</b>
<b>CROSS-REFERENCE:</b>	<b>In accordance with legislation and regulations governing school councils</b>
<b>REVISION DATE:</b>	<b>Annually or another date as required</b>
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	<b>Superintendent of Education / Director / other...</b>

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

The Halton District School Board:

- believes education is a shared responsibility involving students, parents, staff, community members and trustees
- recognizes parental interest and involvement at home and at school positively influence student achievement
- believes community participation in public schools enhances educational opportunities for students and can play a significant role in promoting and advancing public education
- recognizes consultation with students, parents, staff and community members is both useful and desirable,
- believes interaction among students, parents, staff, community members and trustees will foster mutual recognition and understanding, and encourage the integration of community services and resources,

### THEREFORE

The Principal, or Vice Principal, of each school, in cooperation with any existing parent group, shall facilitate the establishment of a school council consisting of student, parent, staff and community representatives. The school council shall be chaired by a parent. Trustees may participate in an advisory capacity to the council.

The school council shall operate in a way that is consistent with the goals, values and policies of the Halton District School Board, and shall have, as its primary guiding principle, the fostering of the educational interests of the students.

The school council shall provide advice to the Principal. Where appropriate, the school council shall provide advice to the Board on school and education issues, i.e., Policy Review/ Development.

To protect the liability of school council members all school council events must be approved by the school Principal or Vice Principal and thus Board sanctioned. To be sanctioned by the Board, the Principal or Vice Principal must be in attendance at the event. The Board's insuring agency, Ontario School Boards Insurance Exchange (OSBIE), only provides insurance coverage for Board sanctioned events.

For new schools, the formation of the School Council shall be no sooner than September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the school opens.

The Board will facilitate communication among the school councils within its jurisdiction.