

**1. Rationale**

In September 2010, the Ministry of Education published the policy document '[Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools](#)' and enacted revisions to Regulation 330/10 through Regulation 612/00 'School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees'.

**2. Policy**

It is the policy of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) to work collaboratively with the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) to increase parent/guardian involvement in their children's education, to improve student achievement and well-being, and increase confidence in public education.

**3. Definition**

The Ontario Parent Involvement Policy outlines the requirements for the establishment of board-level PICs to work collaboratively with the school board and ensure a direct link between parents/guardians, the director of education and trustees. This investment supports the school board in establishing and working collaboratively with a PIC through the development of strategies for enhancing parent/guardian engagement and outreach, particularly through district meetings and inter-school communications. The Ministry expects that the committee will be chaired by a parent/guardian and that the membership will include a majority of parents/guardians, as well as trustee representatives and the director of education. In the longer term, parent/guardian representatives will be selected by their peers. (Ministry of Education memorandum March 3, 2006, pages 2-3).

**4. Guidelines**

- 4.1 The purpose of a PIC is to support, encourage and enhance parent/guardian engagement at the board level in order to improve student achievement and well-being.
- 4.2 The PIC shall achieve its purpose by:
  - 4.2.1 providing information and advice on parent/guardian engagement to the board;
  - 4.2.2 communicating with and supporting school councils; and,
  - 4.2.3 undertaking activities to help parents/guardians support their children's learning at home and at school

- 4.3 The PIC shall:
  - 4.3.1 develop and advise the board and board's director, or designate, on ways to use strategies and initiatives to effectively communicate and engage parents/guardians in improving student achievement and well-being;
  - 4.3.2 communicate information from the Ministry to school councils and parents/guardians of students; and,
  - 4.3.3 work with school councils, through the director of education, or designate, to:
    - 4.3.3.1 share effective practices to help engage parents/guardians;
    - 4.3.3.2 identify and reduce barriers to parent/guardian engagement;
    - 4.3.3.3 help ensure schools create a welcoming environment for parents/guardians of its students; and,
    - 4.3.3.4 determine, in consultation with the director of education, or designate, how funding, if any, provided under the Education Act for parent/guardian involvement, is to be used.
  
- 4.4 The PIC will meet during the year as determined by the chair, in consultation with the director, or designate.
  
- 4.5 The structure of the PIC is as follows:
  - 4.5.1 The PIC *shall* include:
    - 4.5.1.1 a total of twelve parents/guardians representing all administrative areas (voting);
    - 4.5.1.2 the director of education, or designate, of the board (non-voting);
    - 4.5.1.3 at least one member of the board, appointed by the board (non-voting); and,
    - 4.5.1.4 up to three community members (shall not be members or employees of the board) as determined by the board (voting).
  - 4.5.2 A board *may appoint* one or more of the following individuals to the committee:
    - 4.5.2.1 one principal or vice-principal of an elementary school of the board (non-voting);
    - 4.5.2.2 one principal or vice-principal of a secondary school of the board (non-voting);
    - 4.5.2.3 one teacher employed, other than a principal or vice-principal, in an elementary school of the board (non-voting);
    - 4.5.2.4 one teacher employed, other than a principal or vice-principal, in a secondary school of the board (non-voting); and,
    - 4.5.2.5 one person employed by the board, other than a principal, vice-principal or teacher (non-voting).

- 4.6 A majority of the PIC will be parents/guardians.
- 4.7 Where there is insufficient representation from an area, the position may be filled by a parent/guardian from another area.
- 4.8 A person is qualified to be appointed or elected to the PIC if he or she is a parent/guardian of a student who is enrolled in a school of the SCDSB.

#### **5. Elected Officials**

The positions of chairperson and vice-chairperson shall be elected at the first PIC meeting of the school year.

#### **6. Administrative Procedures**

The Director of Education is authorized to provide the administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

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