

Catholic School Councils and Catholic Parent Involvement Committee	
Adopted: June 18, 1996	Last Reviewed/Revised: February 21, 2017
Next Scheduled Review: 2019-2020	
Associated Policies & Procedures: VI-84 Catholic School Councils and Catholic Parent Involvement Committee I-34 (B) Reimbursement of Board Business Expenses for Trustees and External Members of Board Committees	

Purpose

To establish and maintain Catholic School Councils and a Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, in accordance with the Education Act and Ontario Regulation 612/00.

Application and Scope

This policy applies to all schools within the jurisdiction of the Halton Catholic District School Board.

References

[Education Act](#)

[Ontario Regulation 612/00](#)

[Ontario Regulation 330/10](#)

[Halton Catholic District School Board Operations Manual: School Councils, Strengthening Our Partnerships](#)

[School Councils: A Guide for Members](#)

Definitions

Catholic School Council: Catholic School Councils are legally constituted bodies of elected and appointed representatives of the local school community established for the purposes of developing, encouraging and promoting activities which will enhance the quality of school programs and improve the levels of student achievement.

Meeting: in respect of a Catholic school council or a Catholic parent involvement committee, does not include a training session or other event where the council or the committee does not discuss or decide matters that it has authority to decide.

Parent:

- in respect of a Catholic school council, a parent of a pupil who is enrolled in the school, and includes a guardian as defined in section 1 of the Act, and
- in respect of a parent involvement committee of a board, a parent of a pupil who is enrolled in a school of the board, and includes a guardian as defined in section 1 of the Act.

Parent Member:

- in respect of a Catholic school council, a member of the council who is elected to the council in accordance with section 4 or who fills a vacancy created by a parent member ceasing to hold office, and
- in respect of a Catholic parent involvement committee, a member of the committee who is appointed or elected to the committee in accordance with section 34 or who fills a vacancy created by a parent member ceasing to hold office.

Catholic Parent Involvement Committee: The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is a group of parents, trustees, and board staff who actively support, encourage and enhance parent engagement and involvement in the Halton Catholic District School Board in order to improve student achievement and well-being.

Principles

- The Halton Catholic District School Board believes that parents / guardians are the primary educators of their children.
- The education of children in our Catholic schools is a shared responsibility involving home, school, parish and Catholic community and is achieved through the active participation of parents to inspire pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.
- Parents/guardians have the right and a responsibility to participate in the education of their children and can contribute to their children's development in a wide variety of ways.
- Members of the Catholic community offer a wealth of experiences and expertise that can benefit students.
- The Halton Catholic District School Board values the advice given by its Catholic School Councils and its Catholic Parent Involvement Committee toward better learning opportunities for children and for the improved operations of its schools.
- The Halton Catholic District School Board encourages parents to correspond and communicate with all members of the school board such as, Principals, Superintendents, and Trustees

- The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee provides a regular opportunity for Catholic School Council members to network, share ideas, offer input, and enjoy informative presentations on a number of education related topics throughout the school year. Catholic Parent Involvement Committees make parental engagement a priority by providing support on a system-wide basis and promoting dialogue between Catholic School Councils, the Board, and members of the community.

Requirements

- Catholic School Councils and the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee are regulated by Regulation 612/00 and Regulation 330/10 (under the Education Act) which came into effect in November 2000 and September 2010. A Catholic School Council may make recommendations, in accordance with the Ontario Regulation, to the Principal of the school or to the Board that established the Council, on any matter.
- Each elementary and secondary school shall have a Catholic School Council.
- Following the first meeting of the Catholic School Council of each school year, the following information will be communicated to each school's parent community:
 - The purpose of each school council as stipulated in Reg. 612/00 Sect. 2.(1).
 - Identification and role of each member.
 - Manner in which parents can communicate with their Catholic School Council.
- Following the first meeting of the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee of each school year, the following information will be communicated to the HCDSB parent community:
 - The purpose of each the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as stipulated in Reg. 612/00 Sect. 27.(1).
 - Identification and role of each member.
 - Manner in which parents can communicate with the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.
- The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and all Catholic School Councils shall create, review and amend By-Laws specific for their committee and council and comply with Regulation 612/00 and Regulation 330/10 - School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees.
- A Catholic Parent Involvement Committee shall develop strategies and initiatives that the Board and the Board's Director of Education could use to effectively communicate with parents and to effectively engage parents in improving student achievement and well-being
- Every Catholic School Council shall annually submit a written report on its activities to the principal of the school and to the board that established the council, and provide a copy of the report to all parents of pupils enrolled in the school. O. Reg. 612/00, s. 24 (1).



- The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee of a board shall annually submit a written summary of the committee's activities to the chair of the board and to the board's director of education. O. Reg. 330/10, s. 6. The Director of Education shall provide the summary of the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee's activities to all Catholic School Councils of the Board and post them on the website of the Board.

APPROVED: Regular Meeting of the Board

AUTHORIZED BY: _____
Chair of the Board