

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*  
~ 1 Peter 4:10



Dufferin-Peel  
Catholic District  
School Board

*Extraordinary Lives Start With  
a Great Catholic Education*

*Get involved in  
Your local CSC –  
Catholic School Council*

**VOLUNTEER**

*you can make a difference!*



One of the main functions of the Catholic School Council is to promote the vision, values, sacramental life and Catholic practices of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board.

## CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS (CSC)

# Making a Difference

CSC play a vital role in the education system in Ontario:

- Provide a forum through which parents and community members can contribute to improving student achievement, well-being and school performance;
- CSC, as advisory bodies, make recommendations to principals and the Board on many matters;
- In turn principals and the Board consult with CSC on matters that affect student learning.

Catholic School Councils work with schools to ensure that Catholic education is preserved and maintained.

Catholic School Councils assist schools in improving Catholic identity and respond to the Gospel call for justice.

*“One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn’t as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people.”*

*~ Jean Vanier, Community and Growth*

### **THE COMPOSITION OF THE CSC**

Catholic School Councils should reflect the beautiful diversity of our school communities.

- CSC members are elected for one school year, from the first meeting of one school year to the first meeting of the next.
- CSC members must be Catholic or a spouse of a Catholic School supporter.

### **ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS OF CSC MEMBERS**

- Elections of all members of a Catholic School Council shall be held within the first 30 days of the school year.
- Candidates for CSC can nominate themselves or be nominated from the school community.
- Elections held by secret ballot are required if the number of nominations exceed the allotted CSC positions.
- If nominations are less than the allotted positions, nominees are appointed or acclaimed to council.
- The election of executive positions are held during the first meeting of the Catholic School Council.
- If you have further questions, please speak with your school principal.

### **CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS (CCCSC)**

CCCSC is the **Central** Committee for Catholic School Councils. It is comprised of 2 elected representatives from each family of schools. CCCSC's goal is to promote the Board's vision, values, and sacramental practices. CCCSC provides orientation, training and networking opportunities for local Catholic School Councils (CSC).

The elected members of CCCSC meet monthly at the Catholic Education Centre, these meetings are open to all parents.

*School Councils are opportunities for faith formation and collaboration, where parents and school staff learn from each other, pray together, and work alongside each other to ensure all children have opportunities to grow in faith and in their learning.*

*~ Renewing the Promise, 2018*

### **PARENT ENGAGEMENT MATTERS – GETTING INVOLVED**

As a contributing member of your Catholic School Council (CSC) we hope you will find fulfillment and enrichment within your role by:

- Fostering relationships within your community with the parish team, trustees, school staff, children and other families.
- Working toward increased student achievement, spiritual development and well-being of all students.
- Promoting a welcoming, safe, caring and inclusive community guided by Christ's teachings "Love thy neighbour".
- Becoming more connected to your faith and the blessing faith brings to your family and the community.
- Remaining informed about school activities, Board policies and procedures.
- Promoting mutual respect, trust, collaboration and understanding among CSC members and school staff .

#### **WHY GET INVOLVED?**

Study after study has shown us that student achievement improves when parents play an active role in their children's education. Good schools become even better schools when parents are involved.

When parents are involved, students are more likely to:

- be motivated
- earn higher grades
- have increased well-being
- have better behaviour
- have better social skills
- continue their education to a higher level.

#### **WHAT WILL BE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?**

**Attend meetings:** School councils are required to meet between 4-10 times each year.

#### **Share your perspective:**

- CSC members are the voice of their community, sharing issues, concerns and points of view. You will be an important link between the school, the Board and your community.

#### **Promote and Pitch in:**

- If you are able, consider assisting with the activities of Council ... the school open house, parent nights, fundraising.
- Share information about school events with other parents and attend as many events as your schedule allows.
- Try to increase community involvement at the school.... share good news stories!

