



<u>DUFFERIN-PEEL CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</u> <u>BOARD POLICY/REGULATIONS</u>	
BOARD POLICY NUMBER:	4.01
SUBJECT	Catholic School Councils
REFERENCE	Regulation 612/00 Regulation 298 Policy 4.20 Fundraising Policy 7.19 Appropriate Dress Code/School Uniforms <i>General Administrative Procedures:</i> 538.00 Fundraising 722.00 Administration of School Council Funds 530.00 Catholic Code of Conduct 504.01 Appropriate Dress Code 553.00 Catholic School Councils DPCDSB Catholic School Council Procedures and Resources
EFFECTIVE/REVISED DATE	(573) August 20, 1996; Revised (408) August 28, 2001; (148) April 26, 2011; Revised (085) February 24, 2015; August 2021; May 2022; October 2022

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." - 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27

In this policy:

"board" refers to the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board (DPCDSB);

"parent" includes a guardian as defined in section 1 of the *Education Act* (i.e. a person who has lawful custody of a child, other than the parent of the child);

"parent member" means a member of the Catholic School Council who is elected to the council in accordance with Regulation 612/00, or who fills a vacancy created when a parent member ceases to hold office, and is an English Separate School Elector or the spouse of an English Separate School Elector.

"student member" means a member of the Catholic School Council who is appointed to the council in accordance with Regulation 612/00, or who fills a vacancy created when a student member ceases to hold office, and is the child of an English Separate School Elector.

1. CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCILS

- 1.1. Catholic School Councils, comprised of the principal of the school, parent members, student members (optional in elementary; required in secondary), teaching and non-teaching staff, parish and community representatives, are a gift to the Catholic school community. These councils are a structure within which parents, staff, students, parish, and Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) representatives are afforded the opportunity to exercise their own

vocation as parents and people of faith.

- 1.2. is the policy of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board that each school under its supervision shall have a Catholic School Council, advisory in nature, and governed by the *Education Act*, the regulations there under, and the policies and procedures of the board.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. The purpose of Catholic School Councils is, through the active participation of parents to:
 - a) promote the mission, vision and values of the board;
 - b) support the sacramental life and Catholic practices of the board;
 - c) promote and support co-operation and communication with the local parish and OAPCE;
 - d) be faithful to its mission;
 - e) improve student well-being and achievement and;
 - f) enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.
- 2.2. A Catholic School Council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations in accordance with Regulation 612/00 to the principal of the school and to the board that established the council.

3. COMPOSITION

- 3.1. Catholic School Councils have the opportunity to influence educational and faith formation experiences as children journey towards realizing the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations and ultimately, a vocation of Christ-like service in the world beyond school. As a body representing children's first educators in the faith, the board and school principals can gain valuable insights from Catholic School Councils into the cultivation of truly authentic Catholic education and faith formation experiences for children (i.e. pastoral plans, sacramental preparation, virtue formation, social justice initiatives, school-based services and community collaborations related to the spiritual/faith life of the school, etc.). Given the denominational context under which Catholic Schools operate, commensurate with the mission of the DPCDSB, parent members of Catholic School Councils shall be English Separate School Electors or the spouse of an English Separate School Elector and student members shall be the child of an English Separate School Elector.
- 3.2. The Catholic School Council shall be composed of the following people:
 - a) parent members,
 - b) The principal of the school,
 - c) One teacher who is employed at the school, other than the principal or vice-principal,
 - d) One person who is employed at the school, other than the principal, vice-principal or any other teacher,
 - e) In the case of a school with one or more secondary school grades, one pupil enrolled in the school who is appointed by the Student Parliament and is the child of an English Separate School Elector,
 - f) In the case of a school with no secondary school grades, one pupil enrolled in the school who is

appointed by the principal of the school, if the principal determines, after consulting the other members of the school council, that the council should include a pupil, (Note: the student must be a child of an English Separate School Elector),

- g) One community representative who is a member of a parish in the region served by the school, appointed by the other members of the council, in consultation with the pastor(s),
- h) One person, appointed by the other members of the council in consultation with the Dufferin Peel Regional Association of Parents in Catholic Education. (DRAPCE), to represent the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education.

3.3. The majority of members shall be parent members.

3.4. The maximum number of parent members shall be 15. If at least 15 parent members do not run for election, then all parents who run will be acclaimed (subject to their qualifications).

4. CONSULTATION

4.1. Catholic School Councils shall, within the parameters prescribed in the *Education Act*, Regulations, and policies and procedures of the board, provide advice to the school principal and to the school board on any matters. The board/principal shall consider any recommendations made and shall advise the council on the action taken by the board/school in response to the recommendations.

4.2. Consultation by School Principal

- a) In addition to his or her other obligations to solicit the views of the Catholic School Council under the *Education Act* and regulations, the principal of a school shall solicit the views of the Catholic School Council with respect to the following matters:
 - i. The establishment or amendment of school policies and guidelines that relate to pupil achievement or to the accountability of the education system to parents, including,
 - a) a local code of conduct governing the behaviour of all persons in the school, and
 - b) school policies or guidelines related to policies and guidelines established by the board respecting appropriate dress for pupils in schools within the board's jurisdiction.
 - ii. The development of implementation plans for new education initiatives that relate to pupil achievement or to the accountability of the education system to parents, including implementation plans for,
 - a) a local code of conduct governing the behaviour of all persons in the school, and
 - b) school policies or guidelines related to policies and guidelines established by the board respecting appropriate dress for pupils in schools within the board's jurisdiction.
 - iii. School action plans for improvement, based on the Education Quality and Accountability Office's reports on the results of tests of pupils, and the communication of those plans to the public.
- b) Subsection 4.2 does not limit the matters on which the principal of a school may solicit the views of the Catholic School Council on.

5. DUTIES OF PRINCIPALS

- 5.1. In addition to his/her duties under the *Education Act* and Regulations 612/00 and 298, the principal of each school shall perform the duties relating to Catholic School Councils that are imposed on the principal by board policies and procedures.
- 5.2. Principals will ensure all Council members and Council meeting participants have the opportunity to attend any Council meeting virtually. Any voting member of a Council not physically present at a Council meeting may attend remotely and do the following:
 - a) put motions forward; and
 - b) approve motions, minutes and agendas; and
 - c) nominate, participate, and vote in a Council election.
- 5.3. Council meeting minutes are to be posted by the school principal on the school website within two weeks after Council has approved them.