

	Home & School	School Council
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the welfare of children and youth. • To raise the standards of home life. • To promote the care and protection of children and youth. • To foster co-operation between parents and teachers, in the training and guidance of children and youth, both during and after the school period. • To obtain the best for each child according to his physical, mental, social and spiritual needs. • To give parents an understanding of the school and its work and to assist in interpreting the school in all its aspects to the public. • To confer and co-operate with organizations other than schools which concern themselves with the care and training of children and youth in the home, the school and the community: and with the education of adults to meet these responsibilities. • To foster high ideals of citizenship and to promote through educational means international goodwill and peace. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for every school to “ensure equity of access and consistency of approach for parents across Ontario”. • Is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. • Make recommendations to their principals and school boards on any matter, focus primarily on the issues that fall within the purpose or mandate set out for school councils in Ontario. Principals and school boards, in turn, must consult with school councils on a variety of matters that affect student learning and report back to Council.
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership fees are \$15 a year, per individual or family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year, potential new council members will be recruited for election, elections will take place, and the newly elected members will be oriented to their tasks.
Why a Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The expenses of the organization (communications including website, Virtually Yours and The OFHSA Bulletin; maintaining an office, one paid staff person, meeting expenses, office expenses, membership in and representation to CHSF) • Member liability insurance • Provision of member resources and training 	n/a
Account Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up own bank account, separate from accounts held by school, with 3 signing officers who must be OFHSA members-in-good-standing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account is held within School Board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all decision making and responsibility for management of funds remain with the Home and School entity. • Members can pay for items and be reimbursed • Prepare expected income and expenditures for the year 	
Fundraising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising proceeds should not be used to purchase items that are to be provided for by Ministry funding in school budgets (e.g. textbooks). • Large fundraisers for larger products (ie playground equipment). Ongoing fundraisers would be more appropriate for basic budget ongoing expenses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May decide to include fundraising as one of their priorities. Fundraising activities may be conducted as long as they are in accordance with board policies and guidelines and the funds raised are to be used for a purpose approved by the board. • Any funds raised by the school Council (and any assets purchased with those funds) belong, legally, to the board.
Involvement: Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged to be a member (our Home & School paid for our principal's membership as a courtesy) • Can be a voting member 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals are now required to report back on the actions taken or not taken in response to school council recommendations. The principal must provide the council with an explanation of how its recommendations have been considered or why it was not acted on. • Are not eligible to vote on any matters being discussed by their school councils, as it is not appropriate that the principal vote on the advice that he or she is given by the school council
Record Keeping		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be stored in the school and made available for a minimum of four years: school council and committee meeting minutes financial transactions/records
Consultation (with)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback at the Provincial level, and from there, Federal level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local School boards will ask for consultation from Councils and will report back decisions and outcomes. le improvement planning • Selecting a New Principal or Vice-Principal • With parents about matters under consideration

<p>Legal Liability & Insurance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$5 million coverage • The insurance coverage is for “liability’ only. It covers both the individual members and the association in the event that they are sued for negligence that leads to injury or property damage. • Some Home and School activities, however, are independent of the school: Types of activities covered: general and executive meetings, workshops, fundraising projects, school picnics, mall displays, leadership days and the OFHSA Conference and Annual Meeting. • Without exception, each Home & School member is covered by this liability insurance and is protected from the financial impact of a lawsuit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School councils should focus on the well-being of students in the school and must not allow their efforts to be derailed or distracted by special interests, especially if the special interests are not education issues. If a school council engages in activities beyond its assigned duties (e.g., by providing after-school child care, running music programs, organizing a Christmas party or social activity), it could be held liable for any problems that occur. <p>www.osbie.on.ca, which includes information that relates to school councils.</p>
<p>Awards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Col. R.S. McLaughlin Memorial Award is presented to an individual member who has demonstrated outstanding service to education by fostering co-operation between parents and teachers and promoting understanding between the Home and the School. • The OFHSA Educator Award is presented to an educator who has demonstrated in an exceptional way his or her support for parental involvement in education through the Home & School organization. • Each year one student in each grade, from grades 5 through 12, is presented with an OFHSA Citizenship Award. These awards are to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional qualities of leadership, congeniality and willingness to serve the community. 	

