

EHAS School Council

What you need to know

What is a School Council?

School councils play a vital role in the education system in Ontario. They provide a forum through which parents and other members of school communities can contribute to improving student achievement and school performance. The purpose of school councils is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

School councils can make recommendations to their principals and school boards on *any* matter. Principals and school boards, in turn, must consult with school councils on a variety of matters that affect student learning. They must also consider recommendations made by school councils and report back to the councils on how they plan to act on their advice.

Who can join our School Council?

School council membership changes from year to year. Any parent or guardian of a student enrolled in EHAS is eligible to become a member of council. Every September, school council elections determine members of council for the year.

What do members of school council do?

Members of school council attend meetings, vote on school council matters and perform various other council tasks. Members of school council are expected to be informed and stay up to date on council issues. When voting, the expectation is that members will be aware of the community's views and take them into consideration when deciding on how to vote. School council members represent the community when voting.

What is the commitment involved in becoming a member of council?

Members of school council are expected to attend school council meetings which usually happen every six weeks from 7 – 9 pm (childcare is available). Council members may miss meetings from time to time as scheduling conflicts arise, but generally speaking it is expected that council members will attend the majority of school council meetings and will not miss more than two consecutive meetings.

Ideally, members of school council will also attend council member meetings which normally happen in between the regular council meetings.

All members of council are expected to either take on one of the officer positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary or Treasurer) OR sit on one school council committee as the liaison between the committee and school council.

What are school council committees?

School council can strike committees as needed. Some of the current school council committees are: Holistic Learning Committee, Communications Committee, The Green Team (joint Roden/EHAS

Committee), Fundraising Committee, Elections/By-laws Committee, Open House/Admissions Committee, Interior Spaces Committee and Exterior Spaces Committee.

Do school council members have to chair a committee?

Please note: this is different from last year. No, school council members do NOT have to chair a committee. School council members are expected to join a committee, not chair a committee. (School council officers are not expected to join a committee, although they can if they wish.)

Who is allowed to attend school council and council committee meetings?

Any parent, guardian or interested community member is welcome and encouraged to attend *any* meeting at *any* time. Anyone can request to have an item added to the agenda and can participate in council discussions. When the time comes to vote on council matters, only council members will vote. If you have comments you'd like to share please be sure to attend council meetings and/or speak to council members. Watch the school calendar and email notices for dates, times and agendas of the meetings.

How do school council elections work?

School council elections must be held within 30 calendar days of the first day of school. At least 14 days before the school council election, notice will be sent home to families, providing information on nominations, the election date and the elections process.

At EHAS there are 12 elected council positions. All council members are elected as general members. After the elections, the newly elected council members meet and elect four officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer). **Please note: this is different from last year.**

If there are 12 or fewer nominations, council members will be acclaimed.

Who gets to vote at school council elections?

Every parent and legal guardian of a student enrolled at EHAS is entitled to one vote for each elected council position at the school council elections in September.

How many members of school council can there be?

EHAS school council can have as many as 22 members as follows:

- 12 elected parent members.
- The principal or vice-principal of the school. Note: the principal is the only non-voting member of council.
- One teacher representative (elected by the teachers).
- One non-teaching staff representative (elected by the non-teaching staff).
- One student representative (appointed by the principal).
- Two community representatives (appointed by members of the council after the elections). One community representative must be a parent from Roden Public School. The community reps should not be EHAS parents.

- One person appointed by an association that is a member of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, if the association that is a member of the Ontario Federation of Home and School Association, is established in respect of the school.
- One Class Rep Co-ordinator elected by class reps according to the process outlined in the Class Rep Handbook.
- One Volunteer Co-ordinator elected by classroom volunteer reps according to the process outlined in the Volunteer Rep Handbook.
- One Alternative School Advisory Committee Representative: appointed by council and willing to attend ASAC meetings and report to council.