



MEMO

DATE: September 23, 2020

TO: School Council (Co-) Chairs

CC: Superintendents of Education, Superintendent of Finance, Principals, Vice Principals, Office Co-ordinators

FROM: Brent McDonald, Superintendent of Education

RE: School Council Information

Below is an outline of some resources and tools that are available to School Councils. Please review the information and, if you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact myself or Lynne McInnis at 519-822-4420, ext. 741 or lynne.mcinnis@ugdsb.on.ca.

E-Mail

Board Office staff will be communicating directly with (Co-)Chairs using their personal email address that they provide through their Principal. If Chairs do not wish to share their personal email address with board office staff, they are asked to please communicate this to their Principal.

The following information will provide you with access to the school council email accounts through the Board's Outlook Web Account (OWA) available at <https://webmail.ugdsb.on.ca/owa>.

- **Domain & Log-in:** Please have your Principal contact Lynne McInnis
- **Password:** Canada2015
- **Email Address:** The email address is the same as the school's address with SC. added to the beginning (ex: SC.HylandHts@ugdsb.on.ca).

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is an umbrella committee which supports school councils at the Board level, and is a key vehicle for enhancing parent involvement in support of student achievement and well-being. It operates as a direct link for parents to the Director of Education and the Board of Trustees.

PIC WEBSITE

There is an Upper Grand District School Board Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) website, which can be found at www.ugdsb.ca/pic. The website contains information about upcoming events, educational updates, parent resources, funding availability, etc. and will prove to be a valuable resource for your school council and school community. The website also includes reporting forms that Councils will need to access throughout the year.

SCHOOL-BASED FUNDING

The Ministry of Education provides school boards with \$500 per annum for each school council to use at their discretion for parent involvement initiatives. This \$500 is deposited in the school's budget each fall. These funds can be used to provide on-site child care so parents may attend meetings, to hire speakers on topics pertinent to parent learning, to assist with offsetting the cost of student agendas to lessen the financial burden for families, to organize family events at the school, or for a host of other possibilities that encourage or facilitate parent engagement.

Each year School Councils, in conjunction with their Principal, will determine how this money will be used. There is an annual report due in June, which asks Councils to outline how these funds were expended. The memo and final report will be posted on the PIC Website and in UGShare (for school personnel only). Please be advised that the reporting form, with receipts, must be kept at the school, in the School Council Financials Binder, for a period of 7 years for auditing purposes.

We hope this information is helpful for you in your school community. Please do not hesitate to contact either myself (ext. 740) or Lynne McInnis (ext. 741), should you have any questions.