

# School Community Councils 101

Prairie Spirit School Division would like to extend a warm welcome to new School Community Council (SCC) members in all of our schools. SCCs are an integral part of the school system and are a primary link between the home, community and school. We believe you will find your involvement with the SCC to be a rewarding and meaningful contribution to your local school.

Your work with your SCC is important to both your students and your entire school. Research shows that students have greater success when parents are involved and engaged at the school level supporting their child's learning.

The focus of the School Community Council is student learning and well-being.

## Purpose of the SCC

The purpose of the School Community Council is to:

- Support student learning success and well-being; and
- Encourage parent and community involvement and engagement in the school.

School Community Councils are ideally situated to support parents and families in becoming directly involved in their children's learning. As part of the school system, Councils provide students, parents, family and community members with an opportunity to actively participate in planning and governance.

What are some needs in our community regarding parental involvement in the education of their children?

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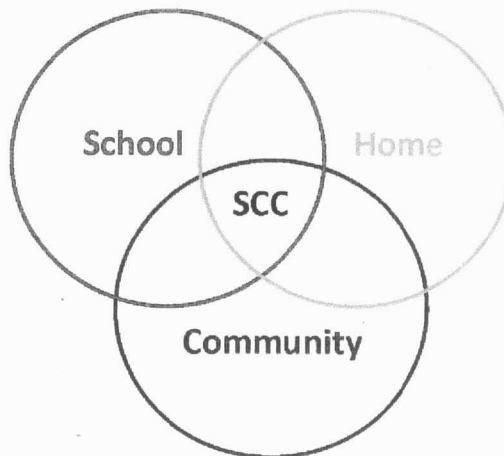
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## SCC responsibilities

An SCC is accountable to its community. The responsibilities of the Council include:

- **Understanding** their community;
- **Supporting** parent and community involvement in the school;
- **Advising** the Board and school as outlined in the Board of Education School Community Council Policy;
- **Working** with the School to develop, support and provide advice to the School Plan for Improved Student Learning (SPISL);
- **Helping** parents find ways to support their child's learning;
- **Reviewing** extra-curricular school activities approved by the principal and Student Council members;
- **Providing** advice regarding fundraising activities in the school; and
- **Reviewing** student fees to ensure alignment with Board of Education directions.



How would I describe our community?

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## Council member responsibilities

Your role as a Council member is to build shared responsibility among parents, the community and school for student learning and well-being. In addition, your role is to lead parent and community involvement in school planning and improvement.

As a Council member, you will attend meetings from September to June as determined by the Council calendar and engage in the work of the Council such as:

- **Supporting and advising** the development of the Learning Improvement Plan with the staff of the school;
- **Developing, leading and taking action** on Council initiatives to help families support their children's learning;
- **Providing advice** to the school, Board of Education and other community organizations and agencies, as outlined in Board of Education policy;
- **Providing advice** for school fundraising activities, school fees and the student code of conduct;
- **Reporting** to parents and community on Council progress; and,
- **Working** with other Council members to learn more about the role of the Council and how to fulfill its responsibilities.

## School Plan for Improved Student Learning (SPISL)

Each school is required to formulate a learning improvement plan for its students for the school year. The goals and vision in this plan are related to the Division's overall goals and are tailored for the individual school. In addition to setting tangible goals, each school is asked to provide evaluation mechanisms to determine if the goals were met.

The School Community Council works with the school staff to ensure learning goals are supported and accomplished. The SCC is asked to articulate how it will support the achievement of the school's goals. The SCC will become very familiar with the SPISL in its school. A template of a school's SPISL follows this page.

***"The evidence is consistent, positive, and convincing: families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and through life. . . When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to:***

- ***do better in school***
- ***stay in school longer and***
- ***like school more."***

Henderson, A.T., & Mapp, K.L. 2002. *A new wave of evidence: The impact of school, family, and community connections on student achievement.*

An SCC supports  
parent and  
community  
involvement in  
the school.

What are some learning needs in our school?

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How do I see myself contributing as part of the SCC?

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