

Policy Title	School Council		
Date of Issue	October 17, 2000	Related Procedure	AP 1620-D
Revision Dates	February 21, 2012 (rev. Rationale-Strategic Plan), June 18, 2013; September 18, 2018	Related Forms	
Review Date	September 1, 2023	Originator	Board of Trustees
References			
Road Ahead III EIC: A Report on the Role of School Councils; School Councils: A Guide for Members; Ontario Regulation 612/00; BP 1622-D "Home and School Associations"; Bluewater District School Board Multi-Year Strategic Plan			

1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 Bluewater District School Board policies will support and provide direction necessary to achieve the board's Vision, Mission and Strategic Plan priorities.
- 1.2 Bluewater District School Board understands that the primary purpose of a school council is to provide a true partnership among students, staff, parents/guardians, trustees and community members. The board recognizes and values their contributions.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 It is the policy of Bluewater District School Board that every school within its jurisdiction maintain a school council that will act in an advisory capacity to promote quality learning within the school.
- 2.2 Bluewater District School Board recognizes the two-fold purpose of school councils, through the active participation of parents and other representatives on the school council:
 - a) To improve student achievement and well-being, and
 - b) To enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

3.0 DEFINITION

- 3.1 A "school council" is an advisory body comprised of volunteers who support improved student achievement and well-being through the involvement of parents, and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School councils can ask questions of, and advise principals and the school board, where appropriate, on issues of concern to the council.
- 3.2 School councils may choose to refer to their council by a different name.

4.0 SYSTEM EXPECTATIONS

- 4.1 Bluewater District School Board recognizes that its Vision and Multi-Year Strategic Plan priorities, as follows, also apply for school councils:
- a) Ensure the well-being of students and staff in a safe supportive environment for teaching, learning and working;
 - b) Provide quality instruction and learning experiences in an equitable and inclusive environment;
 - c) Encourage parent engagement;
 - d) Be accountable for the responsible stewardship of resources.
- 4.2 The school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and/or to Bluewater District School Board.

5.0 ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

The role and operation of school councils are further described in administrative procedure AP 1620-D 'School Council'. Regulatory requirements are described in Ontario Regulation 612/00.