

# Sir Robert Borden School Council



A window  
into your teen's  
world

## How Can School Council Help?

*Stay Informed! Get Your Questions Answered!*

- When it comes to high school, the more information you have the better equipped you'll be to help your student get the most out of their high school years and make the best choices for the future.
- Come to the monthly meetings. While Council's bylaws allow only 15 parent representatives, non-members are welcome to attend any meeting.
- If you wish to be a member, put your name forward in September or June.
- Hear the latest reports from the Principal, the Staff and the Student Representative.
- Get up-to-date information on School, Board and Provincial developments.
- Can't make the meetings? Check the School Council section of the school web site often.
- Know any members of the SRB School Council? Ask them for news or get on the Council's email list.
- **You are not alone!**

## Council Mandate

The mandate of the Council includes serving as a liaison among the School, the District School Board, parents, students and the community—advising on all areas of school policy, maintaining a school-wide focus within parameters established by the Board.

The Council focuses on initiatives aimed at maximizing educational opportunities and enhancing school life by establishing its goals, priorities and procedures, while promoting the best interests of the school community.

## No Fundraising

Part of our job as parents is to have our children outgrow their need for us. Taking our place on the sidelines of their lives can be difficult, but there is a perk - by high school, the students take over school fundraising initiatives. No more organizing hot-dog lunches or chocolate bar sales. You'll still be asked for money now and again, but your time will be your own. Please note that some extra-curricular groups, such as Band, still have parents involved in fundraising.

## **Meeting Schedule 2013-2014**

*7 p.m. in the school library*

In addition to regular School Council business, feature topics will include:

### **Tuesday, September 10th**

Any outstanding Elections. Welcome to Incoming Parents. Presentation by Guidance, Special Education Support and the Student Success Program.

### **Tuesday, November 12th**

Department Heads will give an overview of the courses offered at SRB.

### **Tuesday, November 26th**

Students and parents are invited to an information session on navigating the process of applying for post-secondary education.

### **Tuesday, January 14th**

Parents will get an overview of the course calendar and the on-line selection form. Learn why it is important that your teen take the time to properly select their courses options.

### **Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Feature presentation TBD.

### **Tuesday, May 13th**

Feature presentation TBD.

### **Tuesday, June 10th**

Election for Council Executive and Year End Reports.

## **SRB School Council: Learn About “Nothing”**

Secondary school can be one of the most challenging times for students. The need for independence combined with the influence of peers and the media, all add to the pressures they face with more complex subject matter and performance expectations.

And most of us are in the same boat. Our teens come home and say “nothing” happened that day, but then they spend hours text messaging, and/or online with friends chatting about the “nothing” that just happened.

**“Parents play a vital role in the development and education of their children and in the success of schools.”**

- Ontario Ministry of Education

While you want your teens to learn to make their own decisions, neither you nor they are ready for them to make important life choices without your input. So you need to stay informed and understand how school works.

To track all the “nothing” happening in your student’s life, the SRB School Council is your information source. From the achievements of school groups, to what happened at the last dance, to changes in the Math curriculum, the Principal, Staff and Student Council reports will keep you in the loop.

## **Staying in Touch**

Most teenagers say they don’t want their parents to be involved in high school– thinking that their peers will criticize them for your presence. However, they still need and seek your guidance. So staying touch with the details of school life is vital.

### **Beating the One-Word Answers.**

You can only coach and mentor your teen if you know what is going on and one-word answers don’t exactly help you connect. Here are a few tips from the Ministry of Education:

- Be assertive not intrusive.
- Use open-ended questions.
- Ask pertinent questions about their specific courses.
- Focus on the positive. Help give them confidence to overcome barriers.
- Support them when they err by turning the mistakes into teaching moments.

### **Help is on the Net.**

Do check the SRB school website where you will find information on events, activities and, in many cases, teacher’s Wikis with class-specific details. As well, the Ontario Ministry of Education has lots of information on their website including a special tab with resources just for parents.

For more information, please visit the School Council page on the SRB web site: <http://www.sirrobertbordenhs.ocdsb.ca> or [www.SRBCouncil.ca](http://www.SRBCouncil.ca)