CRANBOURNE EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION TO

SCHOOL COUNCIL

A GUIDE TO NEW AND CURRENT MEMBERS
LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Education and Training Reform Act 2006
- Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007
- Individual School Council's constituting order
- CEPS School Council Standing Orders

All school council decision-making takes place within a framework of legislated powers, Ministerial Orders, directions, guidelines and DET policy.
OBJECTIVES OF SCHOOL COUNCIL

• Assist in the efficient governance of the school
• Ensure students’ best interests are primary focus
• Enhance the educational opportunities for students
• Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations
FUNCTION OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

- Establish the broad direction & vision of the school in the school's community
- Participate in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan
- Develop, review and update school policies
- Develop, review & monitor the Student Engagement Policy & School Dress Code
- Raise funds for school-related purposes
- community
FUNCTION OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

• Approve the annual budget and monitor expenditure
• Maintain the school’s grounds and facilities
• Enter into contracts (e.g. cleaning, construction work)
• Report annually to the school community and to DET
• Generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider community
- SCHOOL COUNCIL DOES NOT....

- Manage the school
- Employ ongoing teaching staff with no fixed date for termination
- Represent sectional interests
- Renew the Principal's contract or hire and fire the school Principal
- Determine class allocations
- Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents
- Purchase land or buildings
- Enter into hire purchase agreements or obtain credit or loan facilities, unless authorised by the Minister
• KEY PARTNERSHIPS
• Principal and School Council President
• President and subcommittee convenors
• Council members
• Staff and parents and school council
• School Council and DET
WHO IS ON SCHOOL COUNCIL

There are 3 categories of membership:

- Parent members
- DET employee members
- Community (co-opted) members (optional)

School councillors are elected for a two-year term.

Terms, rights and responsibilities of community members are the same as those of elected councillors.
• SCHOOL COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEES

• School councillors would normally sit on at least one subcommittee

• Sub-committees might include:
  • Finance
  • Environment/grounds/facilities/buildings
  • Educational policy
  • Community liaison/community building/community relations
  • Other – e.g. outside school hours care, canteen
ROLE OF SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

• All school councillors need to respect other members’ opinions AND support and uphold all council decisions

• Parent members bring expertise and views to council on behalf of the whole school community

• DET members bring educational expertise and views to council on behalf of the whole school community

• Community representatives tend to bring individual expertise to assist council in specific decisions
DO I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

- You need to be keen, but you don’t need to be an expert.
- You need to like people and be able to work in a team.
- You do need to be prepared to commit the time needed to ensure the work of council gets done.
- School councils work best when they have people from a variety of backgrounds and have different experiences.
WHAT IS THE WORKLOAD

- School council must meet at least 8 times in each year, and at least once per school term.
- Meetings should be restricted to approximately 2.5 hours duration at most.
- In many schools, all school councillors are expected to sit on at least one subcommittee.
- Subcommittees generally meet at least twice each term.