



JOINING SCHOOL COUNCIL

Fixit has been invited to join the School Council. **Fixit** has no idea what this will entail, and if **Fixit** possesses the right skills and know-how to become a valuable member. During the vignette, **Fixit** learns about the role of the Council and how **Fixit** might contribute.

MESSAGE

How valuable it is to join the School Council and contribute positively to school life.

Narrated Message

Each one of us has a treasure chest full of knowledge, talent and experience.

Becoming a member of the School Council is a wonderful way to share all of this, and make a positive contribution to our children's school community.

By joining the School Council we help support a flourishing school community, and help our children reach their full potential.

ISSUES

- Challenges parents face juggling the responsibilities of daily life
- Barriers (for example, literacy and language) among adults can foster a reluctance to join School Council
- Needing more information about School Council and how one might get involved
- Needing information about the value and positive impact of School Council on student achievement and overall well-being

STRATEGIES

- Attending one meeting as an observer, just to see what a School Council meeting is like
- Getting involved in some other way, to support the Council, if one's availability is limited

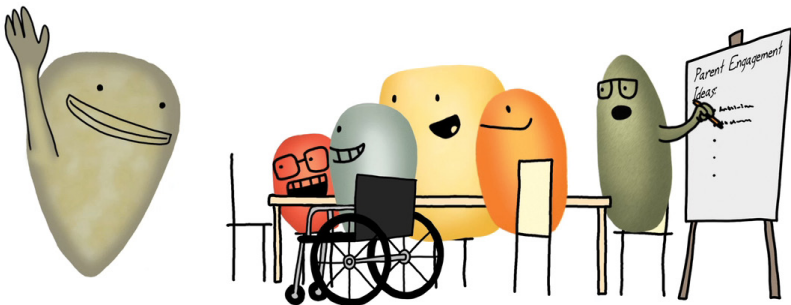
QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Parents

1. What are some of the messages this vignette offers?
2. Why is it important for parents to join School Council?
3. What factors might prevent parents from doing so?
4. Are you a member or have you been? What led you to become a member? What did you get out of the experience?
5. What skills, information and support do parents need to be more likely to join the Council? Are there things that we might do to provide these things?
6. Do you have any suggestions or personal stories to share?

School Staff

1. What information do parents need about joining School Council?
2. Are there families at your school that might need encouragement to join? Have you contacted them to discuss this?
3. What are the factors that might encourage or prevent their participation?
4. How can a teacher or the school help encourage parents to join the Council?
5. Who are key people at your school or board who might have a positive influence in this regard?
6. What role can students play in encouraging participation?



RESOURCES

- Involving Parents in the School: Tips for School Councils
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement/gettingstarted.html>
- Parent Involvement Committees
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/PIC.html>
- Tips for Running Effective Parent Involvement Committees (PIC) Meetings
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/runPIC.html>
- Parents Reaching Out Grants
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.html>
- The Road Ahead - III: A Report on the Role of School Councils
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/reports/eic/road3/eic3.pdf>
- Leadership Opportunity for School Councils
http://www.parentinvolvement.ca/school_councils.htm
- School Councils
<http://www.etfo.ca/issuesineducation/schoolcouncils/pages/default.aspx>
- School Council Guide for Members
<http://www.rainbowschools.ca/parents/SchoolCouncils/Overview.php>

SCHOOL STAFF

- School Council: Involving Parents and the Community
<http://www.tvdsb.ca/parents.cfm?subpage=121620>

