



## What are your thoughts on the possible ways COSC could participate as an official parent stakeholder?

- I think this is a very good idea. I will need to have more time to provide a more thoughtful response.
- Trustees are looking at getting parent feedback.
- I think you should have a different stakeholder for each meeting. I think grade level is more valuable than district but perhaps you should switch it up depending on conversation/agenda.
- Volunteers can be solicited so that people can bring expertise to the table, a small “executive” group of chairs may not be best suited to providing input on specific subjects.
- It is human nature to express an opinion, so it is critical that chairs have an opportunity to seek input from their parent population before providing input.
- Three representatives (elementary, middle, high).
- COSC cannot be an official parent stakeholder unless parents are able to motion and vote, in the same way that they do on the school council level.
- Gathering opinions via the social forums previously mentioned would help provide confirmation and establish trust.
- Volunteering for specific topics would give the most flexibility from COSC member perspective and interest.
- I think it may be too onerous to have a few designates for many meetings.
- I like the way feedback has been collected at COSC over the last year. Clearly you are listening. Now I understand that it must be more formal and that you must listen. I would change as little as possible while fulfilling legislative demands.
- I believe that COSC needs to consider that almost every school has an inclusive or town hall model of a school council. That means that probably all school parents are part of COSC. If this is actually the voice of all school councils perhaps it needs to be open to all school parents even though it is thousands of parents. I wouldn't close the door on an interested parent. That is what we want more of – interested, engaged parents. That is the power behind an interested, engaged student.
- By sharing and discussing more about problems our kids are facing and solutions for those if there are any difficulties rather than discussing more about fundraising practices in other school councils.
- It is an excellent idea. I like the idea of having COSC members or a member sit on committees.

- Great opportunity of enhanced communication.
- Really like the online forum idea.
- Like it as an avenue to collect more information from parent representatives collectively.
- Allows more direct input to trustees.
- One rep for each I feedback level (elementary, middle, high). Volunteer. COSC executive. None of these effective without considering implementing feedback loop with parents/all COSC members.
- Is there an agreed governance with the council?
- Ask parent councils to stick to COSC meetings and not CAPSC. I feel it causes extra meetings and conflicts in philosophy.
- COSC executive would be a good idea.
- Need to provide input on CBE decisions on a committee level. People from COSC/school councils should be selected on the basis of their experience, skill set and interest. This is where the decisions are made and other perspectives are important. Volunteer information. People should not represent themselves – need to represent all perspectives.
- Provide mechanism to connect interested parents with Minister's office so they can provide input at the provincial level.
- So long as diversity is always considered. Needs to be constructive not just griping. Like the idea in theory but not sure of reality (bias of one representative).
- While I see the benefit of this I'm not sure that it is necessary as our presence and participation at these COSC meetings is the venue at which the Board of Trustees gathers information from school councils. If there are special meetings where the Board feels that greater input is necessary and would be valuable, then perhaps a request for the creation of a special group can be made.



## **Do you have any specific concerns or questions?**

- Please have an online feedback form for this.
- How do we attend mid-day meetings with work commitments?
- How many people do you need to attend each meeting?
- When asking for information like this we need to be able to take this back to our schools and councils to get well-rounded feedback. I can't give you accurate information as it would be biased.
- One voice representing thousands of opinions...hence the need to also collect quantitative input. Give COSC members surveys to take back to their councils.
- Trustees may want to consider having representative by specific topic areas.
- How does one particular stakeholder represent all parents?
- How does the media receive information about what is happening with decision-making?
- How do councils ensure their opinion of the COSC reps reflects the opinion of their own school population, and is not just a personal opinion? Councils would need warning of the COSC meeting agenda and time to vote at their own meetings.
- It is unfortunate that the decision was made before stakeholders were consulted. The Board will control and drive the agenda and discussions. Sometimes an independent body will feel more free in their discussions and thoughts.
- Send questions out.
- Not all information from meeting gets posted online
- One topic per meeting especially if it is a high important topic.
- What is difference between COSC and what CAPSC in place for? Is CAPSC now obsolete? If it isn't, there's too many meetings to attend.
- The COSC is a forum for sharing information but there's no governance structure that would permit any individual to speak for all councils. I would be very much opposed to having COSC take the stakeholder chair at the Board meetings without there being agreed governance within Council, which makes it sound like CAPSC.
- I value extra opportunities to give parent voice to the trustees.
- How do you make sure that you have a broad range of parents? How can 3-5 people spread the work for all parents?
- Running this kind of organization can be onerous. No way to represent more of school voice. We have no help from Board, government to collect data from school. Can we get support for



- all school councils to have help polling parents (with principal approval)?
- In what was is COSC any different than CAPSC? Why so many organizations when they have same objective?
- Allow input online.
- Meeting times are prohibitive for parents who work outside of the home.
- Understand what the Board of Trustees intention with respect to having COSC serve as “voice” of parents.
- Does COSC replace Key Communicator? Some council bylaws include KC as a seat.
- I would like to see a special needs parent stakeholder group within COSC and trustee/board meetings.
- Squeaky wheels, loudest voices. Can’t just have one representative as it will potentially be biased.

### **Do you have any suggestions for us to consider?**

- Surveys should be used to get more quantitative data.
- Online forum sounds interesting to explore.
- Schedule Area meetings between so smaller group discussions and feedback. This permits parents to work on issues of common interest.
- Working groups might be more effective than requesting rep at board table.
- Utilize online tools to get more voices.
- Board meetings – can parents make the meetings at noon.
- Please evaluate the forum after the first three meetings.
- It is a good way to develop future trustees by allowing parents to get their feet wet.
- Elections give sense of ownership that would help but we could still rotate roles as stakeholders at board meetings. I do recommend some kind of process that helps with ownership and gives support to trustees in organizing this group.
- We all understand a school council executive. It would be a good model for board-wide group at school councils to follow. It is familiar. One year terms would be advisable – not longer. It’s a lot to ask of a volunteer after all.
- Ad hoc depending on issue. If there is official seat in meetings 3-5 is better than 1.
- Hand your agendas out early so we can address them in our council meetings and bring those thoughts to the Board meetings.



- As with CAPSC, the issue is how will all opinions be expressed and heard, not just those that show up.
- Make whatever process you use to decide on council representation transparent, and provide proof of parent consultation.
- Frankly, it is not fair to expect full feedback on this issue/structure of COSC immediately. Representatives need time to contact their communities and gather input. Decisions are made too quickly and without gathering adequate information from councils first.
- Idea of stakeholders makes sense. Could you not also implement more of a quantitative approach to gathering information? For instance, implement survey monkey or some such survey to get valuable input on key decision topics. I have a marketing background and also think focus groups with parents that don't attend council or COSC meetings should be considered.
- Timing of Board meetings is no good.
- Recommend random seating to get people to mingle and share thoughts.
- Meeting was too long in terms of it sounded like you were trying to sell or pitch the new assessment process.
- The emails from Karen are fabulous and appreciated.
- I would like to be on the executive, what would the process be?

