# Wilkinson School Community Council
# Council Elections and Nomination Form

The Wilkinson School Community Council (WSCC, Parent Council, Council) extends a very warm welcome to all new and returning, in-person and virtual Wilkinson families!

Wilkinson Public School is fortunate to have an active Parent Council with many members from our school community. The Council is dedicated to making each child's experience at Wilkinson as meaningful and rewarding as possible by encouraging parental and community participation and by providing input into school activities, policy development and programs. We organize community building events and fundraisers, keep Wilkinson families informed, and work with the school's active and involved team of staff to provide extra hands at school events and to bring special programming and resources into the school. Funds raised though our events, direct donations program and our shopping links go towards such things as technology in the classrooms, schoolyard enhancements, arts and science programming, visiting authors, sports equipment, seminars, graduation festivities and field trip subsidies.

Members attend a meeting once a month via Zoom video conference (until we are able to meet in person at the school) with the Principal and Vice Principal to make all of this possible. New members are always encouraged to join to ensure that our Council remains vibrant and representative of the diverse perspectives and demographics of our school population. It's a great way to find out, first-hand, what's going on at the school. Council membership is open to all Wilkinson staff and the parents and guardians of in-person and virtual students who have Wilkinson as a home school.

**All members of the Wilkinson community are welcome to attend Council meetings. However, as per Ministry regulations, to be a *voting* member of the Council, parents and guardians must submit a nomination form. Because, voting membership cannot exceed 5% of the student population, if more nomination forms are received than there are voting positions available, a virtual election via blind ballot will take place.** The Nomination Form and Council FAQ Sheet are on the following pages. Don't worry, the process is far less intimidating than it sounds! If you're interested in becoming a Council member, please submit the attached form according to the instructions. In the rare event that we have more than our allotment of submissions, an election via online form (or phone) will be held. Parents and guardians who miss the initial nomination period may be elected into a voting position by expressing interest at any Council meeting, providing there are still positions available. The Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) is elected by voting members at the October Council meeting. Details about the way in which the Council functions and the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Committee can be found in the Council Constitution on our **website**. Minutes from past meetings are posted on our website as well.

## Candidate Nomination Form

In order to be a voting member of the Council, you must return this nomination form via email to council@wilkinsonps.org by **Tuesday, October 13, 2020**. **If you are unable to do so via email, please call the school office to register your nomination information (416-393-9575).** If form submissions exceed 5% of our student population, we will elect the parent members of the Wilkinson School Community Council for the 2020/21 school year on **Thursday, October 15, 2020** using an online form (or phone). Election results will be distributed electronically by **Friday, October 16, 2020**.

I wish to declare my candidacy for a voting position as a parent/guardian representative on the 2020/21 Wilkinson School Community Council.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I am an employee of the Toronto District School Board: ◯ Yes ◯ No
My contact information can be shared with other members of the Parent Council: ◯ Yes ◯ No

I am a parent/guardian of the following student(s) currently registered at this school:
_____.

Please tell us a bit about yourself (e.g. how many children you have at Wilkinson, what grades they're in, whether you're new to the school and why you'd like to get involved).

For an overview of the role, responsibilities and composition of the Council, please refer to the attached Q&A (extract from Regulations 612/613/00 of the Education Act which governs school councils) or refer to the Council Constitution on our **website**.

***Every Voice Counts!***

## Wilkinson School Community Council FAQ

**What is the Council's Purpose?**

- The purpose of the Council is to improve student achievement and the accountability of the education system through the active participation of parents and guardians.

**What is the Role of Council?**

- An advisory body, that makes recommendations to the Principal of the school or to the Board on any matter.
- Consults with parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school about matters under consideration by the Council.
- Develops by-laws that govern election procedures, fill vacancies and a resolve conflicts.
- Keeps minutes of meetings and keeps financial records for a period of four years.
- Produces an annual written report of the Council activities, including financial activities, to be submitted to the Principal and to the Board.
- Focuses on improved learning and a positive school experience for all students.
- Maintains a school-wide perspective on issues.
- Represents and communicates the views of the school community.

**Who are the Members of Council?**

- Elected parents, teachers, support staff, students where appropriate, appointed community representative(s), a representative from the Ontario Home and School Association, if such a group exists in the school and the Principal/Vice-Principal.

**What is the Responsibility of a Council Member?**

- Attend and contribute regularly at all Council meetings.
- Act as a link between the Council and the community.
- Follow the operating rules/guidelines as agreed upon by the Council, including the guidelines for resolving differences of opinion.
- Encourage others within the school community to participate in the activities of the Council.
- Communicate with various communities in the school and work towards removing any barriers to the participation of all members of the school community.