

School Council Chairperson: Part Three video script

Part Three: Sharing the Workload and Keeping Members

Sharing the Workload

As chairperson, try to ensure that the workload is being shared by all members. Thank the volunteers that offer time after time, and be sure to call on members who don't usually offer to volunteer, perhaps by pairing them with a more experienced person so they feel more comfortable.

In cases where no one volunteers for a task, consider these strategies:

Divide (break the item up into smaller chunks that may be more practical for people to commit to)

Double up (request joint volunteers)

Dispatch (offer the task to other interested parents or community members who could help even if they are not part of council)

Defer (give the council time for reconsideration) Or

Delete (advise the council that the project will be let go if no one is able to take it on)

If you find that you are having trouble keeping school council members, ask yourself if any of the following apply. These are some of the most common problems that result in lack of member retention:

- Meetings that start and end late
- Disorganized meetings,
- Discord among members
- Continually rehashing the same issues
- Lack of concrete results
- Meetings that are too political or mundane
- Lack of childcare during meeting times
- An imbalance in the amount of work assigned to individual council members.

You can also ask parents what you could do to help them be part of council and it's always a good idea to ask people who leave council, why they are leaving.

As chairperson, if you are able to mitigate these factors, you will have a better chance of retaining members.

The School Council Chairperson is a very important role. In Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, we appreciate the commitment of our School Council Chairpersons, and we hope these videos help you better understand your role.