

OPC – Renfrew DISTRICT CONSTITUTION

Contents of Articles

Article I – Interpretation
Article II - Purpose
Article III - Memberships
Article IV – Council Fees and other Income
Article V - Executive Committee
Article VI - Elections
Article VII - Duties
Article VIII - Committees
Article IX - Meetings
Article X – Rules of Order
Article XI - Budget
Article XII - Communication
Article XIII - Constitutional Amendments
Article XIV - Conflict Resolution

Article I: Interpretation

1. In this Constitution and all other by-laws and special resolutions of the organization, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Council" means the OPC Renfrew Administrators' OPC District Council 28;

"Executive" means the Executive Committee of the Ontario Principals' Council – Renfrew

"Meeting of the Members" includes an annual meeting of members, and a special meeting of members;

"OPC" means the Ontario Principals' Council;

"RCDSB" and "Board" means the Renfrew County District School Board;

"Member" shall mean a Principal or Vice-principal employed by the Board.

Article II: Purpose

1. The purpose of the Council is:

- a. To serve as an OPC District as described in the Constitution of the OPC, to communicate with the OPC regularly and to facilitate communication between the OPC and its Members in the District, and to cooperate with the OPC in advancing the interests of principals and vice-principals locally and in the province of Ontario;

- b. To unite the principals and vice-principals who are employed by the Board and who are Members of the OPC in a voluntary professional association and to provide a supportive peer network;
- c. To serve as the representative body for principals and vice-principals employed by the Board in all negotiations pertaining to the Terms and Conditions of employment for principals and vice-principals in the Board;
- d. To assist with the ongoing professional growth and development of its members;
- e. To promote the participatory role of principals and vice-principals in system decision-making and to bring matters of concern to principals and vice-principals to the attention of senior administration in appropriate forums;
- f. To consider and discuss issues of particular interest and importance to Council principals and vice-principals and to encourage communication and involvement among members;
- g. To maintain a strong organization through ongoing assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of its activities; and,
- h. To promote the highest standards of professional ethics and competence.

Article III: Membership

1. Any member in good standing of the OPC who is employed by the Board is eligible for membership in the Council;
2. The membership year is from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31;
3. Retired Principals and Vice-Principals from the Board who have maintained Associate status with OPC are eligible for Associate membership in the Council upon payment of an annual fee.

Article IV: Council Fees and Other Income

1. The Council will apply annually for the fee rebate provided by the OPC to recognized OPC Districts, as determined by the AGM of the OPC. The fee rebates shall not be refunded to individual Members of the OPC but shall accumulate and/or be expended at the direction of the Executive in accordance with the needs of the Council for purposes authorized by the OPC. Principals and vice-principals employed by the Board who are not members in good standing with the OPC, shall pay an additional fee to attend any events, professional development opportunities or other activities funded by rebates from the OPC;
2. An additional levy may be collected through an authorized payroll deduction. The amount of the local levy for the upcoming year will be determined by the membership

at the AGM with the advice from the Budget Committee and recommended by the Executive;

3. Pro-rated fees shall be collected from new members from the date of appointment;
4. A failure to pay the local levy may result in the exclusion of a Member from professional development opportunities, social events and/or other activities that are funded by the local levy. If an activity such as those described above is partially funded through the OPC fee rebate and partially through the local levy, a Member who refuses to pay the local levy may be admitted to the event only upon payment of the proportionate cost of his/her attendance, relative to the portion of the activity funded by the local levy.

Article V: Executive Committee

1. The Council shall have an Executive Committee;
2. The term of office for members of the Executive Committee shall be for a minimum of two years and does not preclude holding the position for more than two years.
3. Interim appointments may be made by the Executive Committee to fill vacancies that may occur between elections.
4. An OPC Chair or Chairs will be elected from within the Executive Committee. The Executive shall consist of the following:
 1. ACES Chair;
 2. CASS Chair;
 3. Secretary;
 4. Treasurer;
 5. Two OPC Provincial Councillors (one from each panel);
 6. Two Terms and Conditions Representatives (one from each panel); and
 7. an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Representative.
5. The elected EDI representative may be employed in either the secondary or elementary panel and must either have lived experience as a member of a group sharing inalienable personal characteristics protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code or have demonstrated superlative commitment to training and experience addressing discrimination and/or oppression in the context of their professional work. The Equity Representative shall provide advice and make recommendations to the District Executive on matters of policy, governance and operations. The Equity Representative shall be a voting member of the OPC District Executive and participate provincially in meetings

and/or initiatives led by the OPC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. This position shall be a 2 year term.

6. OPC Renfrew County honours that our membership has a wide variety of lived experiences and encourages members who self-identify as Indigenous, Black, racialized or marginalized to demonstrate interest in Local OPC Executive positions.

7. The ACES Chair, elementary OPC Provincial Councillor, and the elementary Terms and Conditions Representative will be elected at the year-end ACES Meeting. The CASS Chair, secondary OPC Provincial Councillor, and the secondary Terms and Conditions Representative will be elected at the year-end CASS Meeting. The Executive positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and EDI Representative will be elected at the Local OPC Annual General Meeting.

8. All members of the Executive are voting members of the Executive.

Article VI: Elections

1. The ACES Chair, elementary OPC Provincial Councillor, and the elementary Terms and Conditions Representative will be elected at the year-end ACES Meeting. The CASS Chair, secondary OPC Provincial Councillor, and the secondary Terms and Conditions Representative will be elected at the year-end CASS Meeting. The Executive positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and EDI Representative will be elected at the Local OPC Annual General Meeting.

2. Only OPC members in good standing are eligible to run for office and to vote in the election. An associate member does not have voting privileges. An associate member may not hold office.

3. All Executive Committee positions representing either the elementary or secondary panel shall be available to both Principals and Vice-Principals from within that panel. Renfrew District 28 recognizes the solidarity of Principals and Vice-Principals across both panels and have purposely chosen to de-emphasize the balance between elementary and secondary positions on the Executive. As such, the Executive positions of Secretary, Treasurer, and EDI Representative will be available to Principals or Vice-Principals from either panel.

4. Should more than one person be nominated for one position, voting shall be conducted by an anonymous Google Form. To be elected to a position the candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast.

5. The OPC Chair (s) ~~or Chairs~~ shall conduct elections according to procedures approved by the Council.
6. In the situation of a position remaining vacant after elections have been completed or a position becoming vacant prior to the next election, the Executive may make an interim appointment from the membership at large.
7. At its first meeting, the Executive Committee may, at its discretion, appoint for a one year term, two Executive Members at Large.

Article VII: Duties and Power of the Executive Committee

1. The Executive shall have the authority and the responsibility to administer the affairs of the Council between meetings of the membership.
2. Members of the Executive Committee shall attend meetings as scheduled by the Chair(s) ~~or Chairs~~. In order to maintain a quorum for Executive meetings, members shall attempt to stay until the end of each meeting.
3. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for directing the affairs of the Council, including:
 - a) monitoring and approving expenditures;
 - b) developing and implementing the priorities and programs and purposes of the Council;
 - c) establishing and monitoring the decisions and activities of such standing, special or sub-committees which are created as needed;
 - d) appointing interim members to the Executive in the event of vacancies;
 - e) establishing a Terms and Conditions committee, lead by the Terms and Conditions representatives on the Executive, assessing the priorities of the membership, and pursuing improvements to the terms and conditions of employment for principals and vice-principals accordingly.
4. The Chair(s) ~~or Chairs~~ and the Treasurer shall be the signing officers for the Council.
5. The Chair or Chairs shall attend all meetings of the Executive and Council unless unable to do so by reason of personal illness or other emergency. In the absence of one the Chairs, the other Chair or another member of Executive shall chair the meetings.
The Chairs shall not have voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting.
6. The Provincial Councillors shall perform the duties of a Provincial Councillor as defined by the OPC in the OPC Constitution, OPC Policies and the Provincial Councillor

Handbook. The Provincial Councillors shall serve as the liaison between the OPC and the Council and shall bring forward any District resolutions, issues, or concerns to the notice of the OPC as they may be authorized and directed to do by the membership of the Council from time to time.

7. The Secretary shall provide notice to the Executive Committee and the membership of all meetings and shall record the Minutes and Motions at all Executive and Council meetings and shall provide a copy of all Minutes, except those of in-camera sessions, to the membership on a timely basis.

8. The Treasurer shall monitor the financial status of the Council and report regularly to the Executive and the Council. The Treasurer will review the financial status with the membership at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

9. The Treasurer shall report any lack of compliance with the Constitution or the financial management policies of Council promptly to the Executive. If necessary, the Treasurer shall arrange for the change of signing authority for banking purposes following each election. The Treasurer shall present to the Council at the Annual General Meeting a motion identifying the membership levy, if any, for the next fiscal year. Once approved by a majority vote, the Treasurer shall forward that motion to the Board's Payroll department, and it shall serve as the required authorization for the automatic deduction of fees. The Treasurer shall be responsible annually for providing all information necessary to qualify for the annual membership rebate from OPC. That information shall include a copy of the Council's Constitution that is compatible with the OPC Constitution and OPC District Recognition Policy, evidence of a duly elected Executive Committee, and an accepted financial statement.

10. The Terms and Conditions Representatives shall co-Chair the Terms and Conditions Committee, and shall report to the respective ACES and CASS members at each of its meetings on the activities of the Terms and Conditions Committee. The Terms and Conditions Representatives shall be responsible for ensuring members are adequately consulted on their priorities for negotiations, shall consult with the OPC on matters of Provincial interest and shall communicate OPC policies and information to the local OPC Members as recommended by the OPC. The Terms and Conditions Representatives, or their designates, shall attend any OPC meeting to which Terms and Conditions Representatives are expressly invited.

Article VIII: Committees

1. There shall be a Terms and Conditions Committee, co-Chaired by the two Terms and Conditions Representatives, with equal representation of OPC members from each panel. The composition of the Terms and Conditions Committee shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. The Terms and Conditions Committee shall take steps to ascertain the priorities and concerns of the membership as they relate to their

terms and conditions of employment and shall represent their interests and negotiate on their behalf with the Board. The Terms and Conditions Committee shall receive the advice, direction and support of the OPC about contract language to improve the terms and conditions of employment for principals and vice-principals in the Board, and in the province, so long as any direction provided by the OPC is pursuant to a provincial strategy approved by OPC Provincial Council.

2. The Executive may establish other Standing, Special and/or Ad Hoc committees to serve the interests of the Council.
3. The Executive may appoint and set the terms and duration of any Standing, Special Committee or Subcommittee that it deems necessary.
4. Meetings of any Committee shall be at the call of the Chairs of such committee or at the request of the Executive.
5. All Committees shall report in writing or orally to the respective members of ACES and CASS at their regular meetings.

Article IX: Meetings

1. The time and place of all meetings shall be determined by the Executive Committee.
2. All Executive meetings shall begin with both a Territory and/or Land Acknowledgement.
3. General:
 - a) The general membership shall meet at least two times a year. One local OPC meeting will occur mid-year and one Annual General Meeting (AGM) will occur at the end of the school year. Dates for the following year's meetings shall be determined by the Executive after the AGM. Dates may be changed by the Executive Committee upon a minimum of two weeks' notice to the membership.
 - b) Additional meetings may be called by the Chairs as needed, with a minimum of two weeks' notice to the membership.
4. Executive:
 - a) The Executive Committee shall meet regularly as required to conduct the business of the organization. Dates and locations will be set and communicated to the membership.
5. OPC Provincial Council:
 - a) Provincial Councillors shall attend meetings as called by Ontario Principals' Council and report to the membership.

6. Annual General Meeting:

a) There shall be an Annual General Meeting, the date and place of which shall be set by the Executive Committee and communicated to the membership.

b) The Annual General Meeting shall be used for:

- i) Changes to the Constitution;
- ii) Election of executive members
- iii) Resolutions brought forward by the Executive Committee or the general membership;
- iv) Receiving the latest financial statements;
- v) Setting the local levy, if any, for the following year;
- vi) Receiving reports from the Executive Committee and other Standing, Special or Ad-hoc committees;
- vii) Receiving comments from members attending the AGM;

c) The Chair or Chairs (or Designate in the absence of the chairs) shall preside at the AGM.

Article X: Rules of Order

1. All meetings of the Executive and Council shall be conducted in accordance with accepted parliamentary procedure.

Article XI: Budget

1. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to maintain the financial records of the Council.
2. For the reimbursement of funds to members, the Treasurer shall require the presentation of original receipts from the member.
3. The Treasurer shall maintain written financial statements for the Executive Committee and shall report to the membership at all General Meetings.
4. All financial transactions require the signature of two (2) of the Treasurer and a Chair of the Council.
5. The Treasurer shall present a year-end financial statement at the Annual General Meeting.

6. An auditor is to be appointed by the Council at the Annual General Meeting to audit or provide a review engagement of all financial records at the year's end, if it is determined to be appropriate or necessary.

7. An auditor's report shall be presented at the first meeting of the membership in the new school year if deemed appropriate and necessary.

Article XII: Communication

1. The Secretary shall be responsible for giving notice of meetings to members.

2. The Secretary shall record Minutes and Motions at all Executive and Council meetings and shall provide a copy of all Minutes, except those of in-camera sessions, to the membership.

3. The Chair shall communicate monthly with the membership and members of Senior Administration through ACES and CASS meetings and with the Senior Executive team as needed..

4. Provincial Councillors shall be responsible for distribution of Ontario Principals' Council information.

Article XIII: Constitutional Review & Amendments

1. The Constitution shall be reviewed regularly, either annually or bi-annually by the Executive.

2. Any member may move to amend the Constitution.

3. Notice of motion to amend must be received by the Executive committee one (1) month prior to the Annual General Meeting.

4. The Membership must be notified of the motion to amend at least one (2) weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting.

5. Motions to amend the Constitution require a 2/3 majority of the members in attendance for acceptance.

Article XIV: Conflict Resolution

1. Where a member of the Executive Committee fails to fulfill their constitutional obligations, or where the member's presence on the Executive committee is disruptive

and/or detrimental to the effective functioning of the Committee, they may be removed from the Executive Committee, upon a motion by a member of the Executive Committee, requiring approval of a 2/3 majority of the full Executive Committee.

2. Where the members of the Executive Committee agree, by way of a simple majority vote, that it requires assistance in resolving conflict among its members, it may authorize, at the expense of the Council, the intervention of a neutral third party to assist in mediating the dispute.