

## Appendix 5

### **Sample role for a Municipal Education Liaison Person and sample mandate of a Municipal Education Committee**

#### **Municipal Education Liaison Person**

Purpose of the Role: to allocate human resources to build database information for effective advocacy of municipal council on educational matters with local school boards; to act as a municipal liaison person with students, parents, residents, businesses, service groups, council committees and school boards in receiving feedback and coordinating consultation and meetings.

Candidate profile: a fluently bilingual person familiar with the education sector and knowledge of school board practices and policy; attention to detail, collaborative, resourceful, excellent communication skills

#### Sample job description

- work in tandem with the Social Development Council of Cornwall in establishing a Youth Advisory Committee for Cornwall and one for SDG County
- take proactive steps to schedule consultation meetings with all four school boards in the fall and spring of each year to present database information
- recruit potential candidates to run as trustees as part of the Education Committee's mandate and build a succession plan;
- invite student trustees to these meetings
- Increase student engagement in municipal education initiatives and opportunities (tourism, information technology, surveys, conservation, volunteering, hosting)
- Increase child care capacity at every school and identify unused space for education professionals to offer services (speech language pathology, occupational therapy, ABA therapy for students with autism)
- Work with economic development staff to attract more professional practices and education related professionals to SDG communities (occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech language therapists, doctors, dentists, orthodontists, optometrists, tutoring services, autism therapy service providers, child care providers) and for use of space in elementary schools
- Attend meetings of each school board and review meeting minutes to keep municipal committees apprised of school board initiatives and pending changes/decisions/consultations
- Organize delegations to school board meetings
- Keep residents and parents informed of school board decisions of importance
- Support the work of the Education Committee
- Solicit businesses to offer students with co-op opportunities
- work with volunteers and service groups to enhance educational opportunities
- create new educational opportunities (video projects celebrating rural schools)
- help promote and recruit families to host international students

## **Municipal Education Committee**

Purpose of the Committee: Since trustees are inaccessible to parents, municipal councillors have to become the lead representatives of the parent voice before school boards as elected officials reflecting the needs of their constituents; as a progressive municipal government become a precedent setting example of municipal commitment to local education issues.

### Sample action items the Committee would undertake:

- Engage in active advocacy (writing submissions to school boards), delegations to meetings to reverse 2016 school closing decisions, bell time changes etc.
  - Demand that each school board strike a Rural Education Task Force as a multi-board endeavour modelled on the work of the Thames Valley DSB task force working with the Community Schools Alliance (CSA); the rural task force works within school boards and the Education committee works as an external task force in the community)
  - Align and share advocacy efforts with the CSA regarding political advocacy with the Ministry of Education
  - Place evidence of the work of the committee online and publish submissions to school boards for parents and the public to view
  - Allow parents, students and residents participation on the Committee
  - Review data being collected in the advocacy database by the Education Liaison person
  - Hire a part-time Education Liaison person to SDG Council until the position evolves to fulltime based on possible other funding sources to support the position s
  - Draft policies to support educational and learning initiatives within the counties
  - Draft policies for school boards to review
  - Help draft the Rural Education Strategy with CSA to present to the Ministry of Education
  - Schedule two meetings per year with school board planning staff (October and March prior to reporting deadlines for school boards to the Ministry of Education (October 31 & March 31)
  - Create /support a youth advisory committee or council for Cornwall and one for the counties of SDG where participant students have voting rights
  - Build on the assumption that communities have the expertise to inform the Ministry and not accept centralized decision- making regarding school closures
  - Consider an associate membership to Canadian Parents for French Ontario
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- Draft a municipal advocacy plan for education and improving rural schools
  - Provide Impact Assessments of closing schools in communities (repurposed St. Bernard School in Finch village by the South Nation Conservation Authority
  - Review school closures in every generation of parents (2006,2009) (2016-17)
  - Model duty of care and service to the community as publicly elected officials with transparent communication and publication of initiatives
  - Demand that the Ministry of Education conduct bias reviews in education
  - Liaise with the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario and Office of the Ombudsman
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