

**March 25, 2021 Council of School Council Meeting
Breakout Room Notes**

- The school councils stated they only have conversations about what fundraising needs to be done to support their school.
- Most who spoke said their student council did not have input or engagement with their principal on budget. They were told what the budget was and they felt their principals would do a good job to inform them of what the budget was and why yet they were not asked their thoughts about it.
- One person mentioned there was a survey that the principal sent out to parents asking where they wanted their fundraising dollars to go and they appreciated that but that was the extent of the engagement.
- Overall, parents felt there was little engagement and they would like more.
- The school council is given a budget overview in the fall that was fairly detailed about the why's and how's of the upcoming school year.
- There are some of the differences between schools, some seemed very open with their budgets and accepted input, others did not. School council was very interested in how funding for students that required special supports is allocated.
- A very high level overview is provided by the principal about budgeting decisions, decisions about programming or purchases for example, without specific numbers being provided.
- Discussions for this year haven't taken place yet, but are scheduled for next month's school council meeting.
- Principal puts together an excellent powerpoint with information relating to the school's budget for discussion and input from parents.
- Survey sometimes used as a tool to get feedback from parents.
- The principal was retiring tomorrow and parent hoped a legacy of openness would continue in the future regarding the school budget.
- Relatively new school and all school council members were also new to school council business, appreciated the discussion as is looking to take back some information which would help the school council move into the present budget scenario
- Principals had gone to school councils to discuss possible class splits and grade configurations. That information was greatly appreciated by the school councils.
- All participants were very pleased with the engagement around the school budget that their principal had done in past years.
- A few of the school councils do not have a council meeting in April when the budget is being developed, the principal hosts a coffee chat to engage with parents specifically about the school budget. Some principals have a lengthy PowerPoint presentation while others just talk about the budget verbally.