

## **A School Councillor's View**

"Our Leadership Team of Principal, Deputy Principals and staff do an excellent job organising and teaching at Morphett Vale East School but they need parent help. As a School Councillor for a number of years, I have enjoyed being part of the decision-making at the school.

When I first joined the council, I sat quietly for a few meetings. As I began to understand the workings I felt more confident to give my views or just ask some questions.

The staff welcome parent input. Parents have a wealth of ideas and expertise that can be utilised to continually improve the school.

Don't be afraid to nominate for School Council. Ask any of the current Councillors".

Di Ellison, former Councillor

Morphett Vale East School R - 7

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*Persistence, Optimism, Honesty, Respect*

## **Morphett Vale East School R - 7**

Governing Council



**Government of South Australia**  
Department for Education and  
Child Development

Interesting in how the Morphett Vale East School R-7 Council works?

Thinking of joining to be part of the school's decision making processes?

What can I do on school council?

As a School Councillor you can:-

- Participate in the decision-making processes needed for the smooth running of the school.
- Meet other parents from the school community
- Participate in group debates on school policies and programs
- Develop a sound understanding of how your school functions
- Share views on many topics which relate to the school community

A Councillor's duration of service is two years with the option of being re-elected

### **How often does the Council Meet?**

School council meets twice per term on Wednesdays in weeks 4 and 8. The meeting commences at 7.15pm until 9.00pm.

### **I just want to go to a meeting?**

Anybody is more than welcome to attend a meeting without feeling obligated to be a member. Your attendance needs to be negotiated via the Governing Council Chairperson.

### **Raise a problem to Council members?**

The first thing to do is discuss it with a Leadership Team Member and decide if it is really something that affects a large group in the school or if it is something that can be resolved via the Leadership Team. Many times, issues can be sorted out this way. If it is a major problem, write a letter to the Council outlining your problem/concern/suggestion.

### **Why should I bother? Someone else is doing a good job?**

Are they really? There is only one way to find out. If you want your view represented you need to be part of the action.

### **Who can be on a School Council?**

The majority of School Council members must be parents. The Principal and Deputy Principal are members of the Council. Teachers are represented. Any interested community member can also be a Council member. Our local parliamentary member attends our meetings when able. Past members have been very helpful in obtaining extra money for facilities improvements. Onkaparinga Council have a representative on Council and they keep the School Council up to date with programs/grants/issues that affect our school community.

Being a School Council member means you are spokesperson for other members of the school community.

### **Who can be on a Do I need to be on the School Council to have any say in how our school operates?**

No! Interested people can have a say by being part of a committee that covers a specific area. The committees we have are:-

**Finance Committee:** oversee the budget for the school year, monitor and question area of expenditure. e.g. How are the school fees set and why? Have a say in how school money is spent e.g. computers, photo copiers.

**Education Committee:** look at ways of communicating with parents on topical issues such as curriculum, assessment and reporting student progress. Organising and running information sessions for parents in conjunction with other school parent bodies.

**Sports Committee:** Oversee the running of extra curricula sports groups, e.g. appointment of coaches, setting budgets and fees, implementation of the school's behaviour management, fundraising for sports equipment policy relating to extra curricula sports teams.

**Grounds and Facilities:** Advise on improvements, repairs and spending of grant moneys. Monitor the general quality of the school grounds. Organise working bees to keep our grounds and equipment safe

**Out of School Hour Care:** advise on policy by working with the manager to oversee the financial viability and quality of the service provided the local school community.