

Do I publish personal information (name, phone number, email address etc.) of school council members?

Personal information as collected, above, is consistent with the parameters of forming school councils. Typically this information will appear on a candidate’s nomination form. The principal may wish to seek consent to disclose this information, from council members, in school newsletters and school websites, just to be sure.

Are there any other occasions when the personal information of school council members may be collected?

Yes. Regulation 612/00 (3.4), states: “During the government’s consultations with school councils, many school council members indicated that they would like to receive materials and information directly from the ministry rather than through their schools. As a result, under Regulation 612/00, the Ministry of Education may now request that school council members provide their names, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses should they want to receive directly any information related to the role of the council or to education in general. The provision of this information is voluntary on the part of school council members. Members may be assured that information gathered in this way is used only for the purposes of consulting and communicating directly with school council members. The ministry may, however, share this information with the Ontario Parent Council, which will also use the data only to consult and communicate directly with school council members.”

May I permit the school council to create and distribute a parental telephone and email list to “class moms” who volunteer to facilitate communication between the teacher and parents, in each class?

Personal information such as parents’ names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses are collected by the school for administrative reasons. Such a class communication list is not consistent with this purpose. It is advisable to seek consent from parents first. This should be done at the beginning of the year when “consents” are being sought. This applies to use of such information by school council members for council business as well.

May the school council, or any parent for that matter, access personal information of my teachers?

No. Business contact information i.e. the name, title, contact information or designation of an individual that identifies the individual in a business, professional or official capacity is fine. Personal information shall not be disclosed without the consent of the individual. Section 52 states the Act does not apply to records collected, prepared, maintained or used by or on behalf of a board in relation to: meetings, consultations, discussions or communications about labour