

PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCILS

Background

Parents have the right and responsibility to participate in the process of determining the educational goals, policies and services provided for their children.

They have a primary responsibility to ensure that children are provided with the healthy and supportive environment necessary for learning. They have a responsibility to help shape and support the goals of the District and share the task of educating their young.

The District acknowledges and respects the rights of parents to be involved in the process of educating children, and values their contribution to school communities. It supports and encourages their participation by creating and maintaining a climate and structure, which provides for parental involvement.

Procedures

1. Establishment of Parents' Advisory Councils (PACs)/District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC)
 - 1.1 There shall be only one Parents' Advisory Council for each school.
 - 1.2 An application by parents to establish a school Parent's Advisory Council shall be submitted in writing to the Board.
 - 1.3 All parents have the right of membership in a school PAC where their child attends, and each PAC may send an elected representative(s) to DPAC.
 - 1.4 Parents' Advisory Councils are autonomous organizations, responsible to their members, the parents of the school, whose purpose is to advise the school on any matter of concern to parents collectively and to advocate for the children in the school. DPAC offers the opportunity for all schools to contribute for the same purpose at the District level.
 - 1.5 A Parents' Advisory Council, in consultation with the Principal, must make bylaws governing its meetings and the business and conduct of its affairs, including bylaws governing the election of members to represent the PAC on the District Parents' Advisory Councils and on the dissolution of the PAC.
 - 1.6 The Board will provide funds, established annually, to DPAC in support of their activities.
2. Communication
 - 2.1 Staff will support regular and meaningful two-way communication between
 - 2.1.1 Parents and school staff, and
 - 2.1.2 PACs/DPAC and school/District staff.

3. Student Learning

- 3.1 The District will promote collaborative partnerships with families based on a relationship of mutual trust and respect, where an atmosphere of teamwork predominates. This motivates, supports and encourages children to become lifelong learners and valuable contributors to society.

4. School Support

- 4.1 Contributions of parents to the learning environment of schools may include volunteer activities directed at the needs of the school community. Volunteers in the classroom shall be directly responsible to the teacher and Principal, and will not result in displacement of staff.

5. School Decision-Making and Advocacy

- 5.1 A Parent Advisory Council through its elected officers may advise the Board and the Principal and staff of the school respecting any matter relating to the school. Similarly through their elected executive, DPAC may advise the Board on any matter related to the District, in consultation with the PACs.
- 5.2 Parents, through the PAC may be invited to participate on school committees which can solve problems and create positive, effective learning communities.
- 5.3 The interests and rights of all children will be held paramount in any decision-making process.

6. Support for Parent Involvement at the District Level

- 6.1 District Administrative Staff will promote attitudes and set expectations, which create a welcoming and open climate conducive to effective parent participation.
- 6.2 Information will be freely shared at the school and District level in order that parents may make informed decisions.
- 6.3 Parents, through DPAC may be invited to participate on District and Board committees in order to promote cooperative planning and decision-making.
- 6.4 Within a process defined by the District, all stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute to vision development and goal setting for the District.
- 6.5 The District will encourage in-service activities for staff and parents which enhance the understanding of effective parent involvement and collaboration.

Reference: Section 8, 20, 22, 23, 65, 85 School Act
Statement of Education Policy order OIC 1280/89

Adopted: November 20, 2002
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