

POLICY

No. B.10

PARENTS' ADVISORY COUNCILS

*Adopted: 88-11-07
Reviewed: 01-11-19
Reviewed: 05-03-14
Reviewed: 09-01-13
Reviewed: 11-11-08
Reviewed: 12-10-09
Reviewed: 14-01-13
Reviewed: 15-01-12
Reviewed: 15-10-13
Reviewed: 16-10-11
Reviewed: 17-10-10*

Policy

The Board encourages active and meaningful involvement of parents/guardians in the education of their children and supports the belief that a Parents' Advisory Council is a means of enhancing communication and cooperation between home and school and a means of promoting parent/guardian interest and participation in advising and assisting the school in areas of mutual concern. The primary focus of a Parent Advisory Council is to improve the quality of education by promoting and supporting a well-informed parent/guardian body for the school.

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Regulation

1. Principals should be instrumental in the formation of Parents' Advisory Councils.
2. Each Parents' Advisory Council shall develop its own constitution and bylaws but formulate such within parameters that respect the intent and substance of the following code of conduct guidelines:
 - a. The Parents' Advisory Council is not a forum for the discussion of individual school personnel, students, parents, or other individual members of the school community.
 - b. An executive member who is approached by a parent/guardian with a concern relating to an individual is in a privileged position and must treat such discussion with discretion, protecting the confidentiality of the people involved.
 - c. A parent/guardian who accepts a position as a Parents' Advisory Council executive member:
 - i. upholds the constitution and bylaws, policies and procedures of the parents' advisory council;
 - ii. performs his/her duties with honesty and integrity;
 - iii. works to ensure that the well-being of students is the primary focus of all decisions;
 - iv. respects the rights of all individuals;
 - v. takes direction from the members, ensuring that representation processes are in place;
 - vi. encourages and supports parents/guardians and students with individual concerns to act on their own behalf and provides information on the process for taking forward concerns;
 - vii. works to ensure that issues are resolved through due process;
 - viii. strives to be informed and only passes on information that is reliable and correct;
 - ix. respects all confidential information;
 - x. supports public education.

REGULATION

- d. The Board recognizes that:
 - i. every parent/guardian has a right to belong to a Parents' Advisory Council;
 - ii. there shall be only one Parents' Advisory Council for each school;
 - iii. a Parents' Advisory Council, through its elected officers, may advise the Board and the principal and staff of the school respecting any matter pertaining to the operation of the school;
 - iv. a Parents' Advisory Council should operate in such a way that it is representative of parents/guardians in the school;
 - v. any individual participating on the Parents' Advisory Council refrains from discussing, influencing and voting upon any matter in which he/she or his/her family has a pecuniary interest or in which he/she may be in a position of perceived bias by virtue of another role that individual holds in the education system.
3. The Parents' Advisory Council should be involved in discussion of curriculum, and all affairs of the school in an advisory capacity.
4. The executive should be parents/guardians, elected annually.
5. Agreement should be reached, in consultation with the Principal, on regular meetings advertised in the school newsletter.
6. The executive should set an open agenda, in consultation with the Principal. This is not a forum for personal criticism or grievances, or for discussion of individual school personnel or students.
7. The "President" should chair meetings, while the school Principal or representative should attend in an advisory capacity.
8. In schools, a student representative may be invited from the Student Council.
9. Any problems or complaints which cannot be resolved within the group should be dealt with by:
 - a. the Principal;
 - b. the Superintendent of Schools/Secretary-Treasurer;
 - c. the Board of Education;according to Board policy.