

Community Participation at the Local School Level

The board believes that citizen participation at the local school level is vital to the success of each school and the district. Therefore, it is a responsibility of each school principal to establish the organizational structure which will encourage parents and other citizens to participate in school and district matters. The structure may take the form of a parent advisory council, parent-teacher organization, PTA, community council, school senate, school advisory council, or a combination of these. Staff and citizens will be asked by the principal to help determine which type of organization will best fit the needs of the citizens in each school community. The school will outline in writing the bylaws or procedures for the school's process of community participation, review these annually, and make them available to citizens in the area of the school.

Some of the goals for citizen participation in local schools are:

1. Share in the identification of districtwide and local educational needs and help schools become more responsive to those needs;
2. Identify problems and concerns unique to a particular school attendance area, provide a means for discussion of those problems, and propose possible solutions for them;
3. Provide opportunities for people to discuss and become better informed about school issues;
4. Serve as a school-level sounding board on matters of district concern and provide nominees, when requested, for board-appointed committees;
5. Provide the school principal and staff with feedback on new plans and ideas;
6. Increase understanding and cooperation between people in the community and school personnel;
7. Encourage patrons to support school programs and activities.

Appropriate topics for participation by community groups are staffing, budget, curriculum, extracurricular activities, facilities, rights and responsibilities of students, etc. Inappropriate topics are those dealing with an individual student disciplinary matter, family problems, an individual student record, or personnel matters.

END OF POLICY

Community Participation at the Local School Level – KC
(continued)

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 329.125](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)

Cross Reference(s):

BCF - Appointment of Special Committees
BDDH - Citizen Participation