

## Community Involvement in Decision Making

The Board endorses the concept that community participation in school affairs is essential if the school system and the community are to maintain mutual confidence and respect and work together to improve the quality of education for students. It therefore intends to exert every effort to identify the community's desires and to be responsive, through its actions, to those desires.

All district citizens will be encouraged to express their ideas, concerns and judgments about the schools through such means as: (1) written suggestion(s) or proposal(s); (2) presentations at hearings; (3) responses to surveys made through interviews, written instruments or other means; (4) comments at Board meetings; and (5) service on citizens' advisory committees, school improvement teams and/or 21st Century Schools councils.

The public advice will be given careful consideration. In evaluating such advice, the first concern will be for the educational program as it affects students. The Board's final decisions may depart from public advice when, in the judgment of staff and the Board, such advice is not consistent with goals adopted by the Board or with good educational practice or within available financial resources.

END OF POLICY

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Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 329.125](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)

Cross Reference(s):

BCF - Advisory Committees to the Board  
BDDH - Public Participation in Board Meetings  
BDE - Public Hearings  
IFCA - 21st Century Schools Councils