

Silver Falls School District 4J

Code: **IFCA-AR**
Adopted: 2/96-E
Readopted: 9/8/97; 8/19/02

21st Century Schools Councils

The district shall have 21st Century Schools Councils at each school.

Membership

Each building council shall consist of employees with a direct connection to the particular school site and such other individuals as provided by statute and as determined by the district. 21st Century Schools Councils shall be formed and structured as follows:

CATEGORY	SELECTION PROCEDURE	NUMBER
Teachers	Elected by licensed teachers at school site	Not more than 50% of council
Classified Employees	Elected by classified employees at school site	Not less than one
Principal or designee	Appointed by principal	One
Parents/Guardians of students enrolled at the school	Selected by other parents at the school site	Not more than 50% of council

Membership Election Procedures

Elections of teachers and classified employees will occur on or before April 15 of each year and a year of service shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Each employee group shall present candidates and hold an election.

Membership Appointment Procedures

The Board may determine other positions as deemed appropriate. Such positions may include, but are not limited to: local school committee members, business leaders, students and members of the community-at-large. Representatives to these positions will be selected by the council.

Board Option

If the Board determines that a school site is unable to fulfill the requirement of the 21st Century Schools Council as outlined in Board policy, or if the needs of a school site require a different composition, the Board shall establish the 21st Century Schools Council in a manner that best meets the educational needs of the district.

Terms

Terms of service for 21st Century Schools Council members will be determined by the council with final approval by the Board.

Council Structure

Each 21st Century Schools Council shall designate a chairman and such other officers as deemed appropriate. The 21st Century Schools Council shall submit to the Board for approval a proposed plan of operation which shall include, but not be limited to, the manner in which meetings will be conducted, agenda development, decision-making process, distribution of minutes and procedures for public and other staff input. Operational plans will also include provisions for ongoing communications with the Board and administrative staff as appropriate.

Two-thirds of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum. A quorum of the members of the council must be present to conduct a meeting.

Each council is to develop a plan to ensure broad representation. This plan may include the selection by each council member of at least five members of the school community with whom they will regularly discuss issues, proceedings and discussions of the council.

Council Duties and Decision Making

Within the parameters established above, 21st Century Schools Councils shall be responsible for the development of plans to improve the professional growth of the school staff, the improvement of the school's instructional program, the development and coordination of plans for the implementation of programs at the school site and the administration of grants-in-aid for the professional development of teachers and classified employees as provided for in Oregon Revised Statutes and Oregon Administrative Rules.

The following decisions and actions, when based on district goals, are appropriate to make at the council level:

1. Determining school improvement priorities.
2. Designing new programs.
3. Developing scheduling to meet instructional objectives within the school day.
4. Allocating a school's resource to best meet the needs of students.
5. Determining professional development programs to meet faculty needs.
6. Selecting materials and implementing curriculum.
7. Interviewing teachers and instructional assistants (council to advise principal).
8. Assessing student learning.
9. Advising the Board in the development of a plan for school safety and student discipline under ORS_339.333.

When an area of responsibility is not clearly within the domain of the principal or council, the principal will retain authority for the final decision.

Council determined goals and actions are to be actively supported by each staff member.

District-Level Duties and Decision Making

These decisions would continue to be made at the district level, with involvement by staff from appropriate levels:

1. Developing district-wide priorities.
2. Determining learner outcome and instructional program goals.
3. Developing curriculum to meet educational goals.
4. Determining the district's budget and system of allocations.
5. Supervising capital expenditures – new construction, major repairs, etc.
6. Hiring administrative, supervisory, teaching and classified staff.
7. Setting graduation requirements.
8. Coordinating staff development among schools and for secretaries, cooks, custodians, administrators and school councils.
9. Negotiating contracts.
10. Screening applicants.
11. Establishing school boundaries.
12. Operating transportation system.
13. Coordinating purchasing.
14. Operating food services program.
15. Evaluating program effectiveness (assessment and testing).

Accountability

Along with the increased authority for making decisions comes increased accountability. School principals, staff and councils are expected to develop specific learner outcome objectives, implementation strategies and timelines, and evaluation processes for measuring the impact of the council-approved school improvement activities on student learning.

Council Evaluation

At least once each year the council will cause the school community, which will include the staff and may include parents, students and others, to evaluate the work of the council. The evaluation is to include, but is not limited to, the impact of the council on school improvement as measured by student outcomes; staff perceptions of the effectiveness of the council as a leadership group; the council's role of implementation of state mandated reforms; and the council's efforts at fostering staff development.

The results of the evaluation are to be shared with the superintendent.

Limitation of Council Authority

No council shall have the authority to override an action of administrative rule/regulation, administrative decision or Board policy without the approval of the superintendent and the Board, respectively. Council decisions may not abrogate any provision of district labor agreements, other district contracts or law.

Public Meetings Law

21st Century Schools Councils, the duties of which include advising the Board or making decisions on behalf of the Board, shall follow the notice, meeting and recordkeeping requirements of the Public Meetings Law.