



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

The District strives to be responsive to the needs of students, parent(s)/guardian(s), and the community. Continuous feedback is essential to know how well the District is succeeding. Feedback helps identify strengths and areas for improvement which allows the Board to make informed decisions on significant issues.

Because the Board, administration, and teachers have a broad interest in having accurate information regarding the beliefs and desires of the District's residents, providing for valid and reliable community involvement is essential to the District. This involvement sometimes will be provided through direct participation by citizens within the committee structure of the District. (See Policy BCF/CE, Councils, Cabinets and Committees.) Depending upon the nature of the information being sought, the District also may solicit citizen feedback through some form of data collection.

Citizen feedback will be obtained via numerous formal and informal methods. Regardless of the nature of the data collection however, steps should always be taken to ensure that it is obtained in an unbiased fashion and that responses are accurately portrayed in any summary statements. In certain key educational areas community feedback shall be built into the organizational infrastructure of the District in the following manner:

School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC)

Per Iowa Code 280.12(2), the District has a SIAC that makes recommendations to the Board with regard to, but not limited to, the following:

1. Major educational needs;
2. Student learning goals; and
3. State indicators address student achievement for reading, mathematics, science, social studies, harassment/bullying prevention programs, training, and other initiatives.

The SIAC members represent parent(s)/guardian(s), students, teachers, administrators, the Board, and the community. The SIAC is required to meet annually.

Building Leadership Team Structure

It shall be the responsibility of the principal to provide a building leadership team structure to design a school plan that responds to the learning needs of both adults and students within the building. All building leadership teams shall include administrator and teacher membership. The teams shall review information pertaining to the school's effectiveness, particularly as it pertains to student performance. The teams will use data to inform decisions at the building level on how best to use resources and to be responsive to the learning needs of each child that align with the District vision and initiatives.

Parent Advisory Committees

It shall be the responsibility of parent advisory committees to assist principals in the development of positive relationships among teachers, students, and parent(s)/guardian(s) by promoting a sense of community among the various groups. As a liaison between the school and the community, parent advisory committees will be informed of school programs



and school curriculum and may provide input on educational issues while encouraging involvement of parent(s)/guardian(s) within the school community. Parent committees may also coordinate fund-raising efforts to support the school building goals.

Facilities

The District Facilities Committee investigates school facility maintenance, construction, and remodeling issues as needed. The Board's PPEL Committee assists in the development and annual update of a five-year facilities plan as provided in policy DBJ, Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) Funds.

Policy

Iowa statute allows local community determination in deciding a broad spectrum of important educational issues. Local school boards determine everything from graduation requirements to curriculum frameworks to educational program structure. Such guidelines and parameters are set forth in Board policy. To ensure community involvement in the development of sound District policy the Board will engage in open discussion of all policies. Media coverage of those discussions will be encouraged. All regular Board meetings shall be broadcast on the District's cable channel. Policy decisions by the Board will be made in accordance with Policy BF, Board Policy Development.

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