

Local School Councils

The Columbia County Board of Education, recognizing the need to improve communication and to improve parent and community involvement in the schools, thus establishes local school councils as advisory bodies based on the changes made to O.C.G.A. 20-2-85-86 in the 2004 and 2007 General Assemblies.

The Board reaffirms that the management and control of the schools is the responsibility of local boards of education. It shall be the responsibility of local school councils to meet a minimum of four times each year to provide advice and recommendations to the school principal and, where appropriate, to the Board on any matter, including those enumerated in law. Training will be provided annually at the beginning of each school year for new school council members outlining specific operations of school councils within the law. An additional training, listed in council minutes, will be held at least once during the year. An annual report to the school board will be presented each September outlining the activities of the school council during the preceding year.

The officers of the school council shall be a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The chairperson shall be a parent member. The school principal shall plan for and hold all elections, plan for the initial meeting, and communicate with all council members of the dates and times of each. In addition, the principal shall communicate all council requests for information and assistance to the superintendent and inform the council of responses or actions of the superintendent.

Members of the school council shall include:

- 1) A number of parents or guardians of students enrolled in the school, excluding employees who are parents or guardians of such students, so that such parents or guardians make up a majority of the council and at least two of whom shall be businesspersons; and**
- 2) At least two certificated teachers, excluding any personnel employed in administrative positions, who are employed at least four of the six segments in a school day; and**
- 3) The school principal; and**
- 4) Other members as specified in the council's by-laws, such as, but not limited to students, staff, representatives of school related organizations. Other businesspersons from the local business community may serve on the council and should be selected by the other members of the school council. Selection procedures for the other members and the business members shall be specified in the council's bylaws.**

Members of the council shall serve for a term of two years or for such other term as may be specified in the council's bylaws and they may serve more than one term. The terms

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of the council members shall be staggered. Upon the expiration of the terms of the two businessperson council members in office on July 1, 2007, these member positions shall subsequently be filled by parent council members who are businesspersons; provided, however, that additional businesspersons may serve on the council if provided for in the council's bylaws.

Council meetings shall be called and conducted in accordance with law, the Georgia School Council Guidebook, and the annual system training for new members.

Legal Ref.: O.C.G.A. §§20-2-85 and 20-2-86

PROCEDURE: NO

ADOPTED: NEW

REVISED: 5/8/01, 7/27/04, 2/13/07

Columbia County Board of Education