

Policies

Westerly Public Schools Shared Decision Making

No. 2090

It is the goal of the School Committee to achieve excellence in teaching, student achievement, community involvement, and general operations throughout the School District. It is the conviction of the School Committee that the most effective way in which that goal may be achieved is through pooling the talent and wisdom of all the stakeholders* of the District. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the District that stakeholder involvement and participation in problem solving and decision making processes shall be encouraged. Specifically, excellence in decision making shall be understood to be that which:

- encourages participation and creativity among stakeholders
- builds commitment to shared goals
- structures involvement so that stakeholders are routinely involved in decisions which affect them
- sets a high priority on advocating for ideas generated through this process
- develops a strong sense of trust and collegiality among all stakeholders in the pursuit of the goal of excellence

Therefore, the district and all its units shall be expected to create and maintain an environment that encourages stakeholder participation, enhances communications, promotes the general welfare of students and the morale of staff. Individuals participating in shared decision making activities shall receive training in the district QWLT (Quality of Work Life Teams) process. All stakeholders are called upon to work cooperatively and openly to excellence. Each school shall involve their stakeholders in developing a plan to implement this policy. Progress in implementing these plans, and subsequent revisions, shall be a component of the school's annual report.

*Stakeholders are those individuals who have a vested interest in the quality of the school environment. This may include, but not be limited to, certified and classified staff, parents, students, public officials, and other interested parties.

Adopted: December 21, 1988
Revised: June 17, 1992
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