

“School Council Initiative: A Fact Sheet”

Thanks for agreeing to serve as a member of the school council at your school of interest. Your willingness to offer your time and energy in furtherance of student achievement and school improvement is greatly appreciated.

We are offering in this fact sheet general information regarding the school council initiative. Should you require additional information or have questions, please feel free to contact the school council consultant as listed below.

Why the School Council?

The school council initiative was created by the Georgia State Legislature as a method of involving parents, teachers, business people and other stakeholders in the educational process. The school council is a mandated initiative for most public schools in Georgia. It is governed by state law; O.C.G.A § 20-2-85 and O.C.G.A § 20-2-86.

Purpose

The school council, as an advisory body, is created to offer advice to the principal, superintendent, and school board on matters pertaining to student achievement and school improvement.

Membership

The primary membership of the school council consists of parents, teachers, business/community partners and the principal, with the parent group constituting the largest segment. An individual school council, consistent with its bylaws, may add additional members to the council as long as the addition comports with the law.

Selecting Parents: Parents are elected, via a democratic process, by parents of the school population. To be eligible, the individual must be the parent or guardian of a child or children matriculating at the school. Note: an employee of the school is ineligible to be elected as a parent representative at the school where he/she works. However, such individual can be elected as a parent representative at another school where he/she has a child or children in attendance.

Selecting Teachers: Teachers are elected, via a democratic process, by full time teachers at the school of concern. It should be noted that employees of the school who are not fulltime teachers do not participate in this election process.

Selecting Business/Community Partners: These members are appointed by the school council generally on the recommendation of the principal.

The Principal: The principal is a permanent member of the council by law.

School Council Consultant: McMillan and Associates ... Savannah, Georgia ... 912/233-4343
cmcmillan@msn.com

School Council Officers

The officers of the school council are the president/chairperson, vice president/vice chairperson and secretary. By law, a parent must be elected as the president/chairperson of the school council.

Meetings

The meetings of the school council for the most part are public meetings. The school council can meet as often as desired, consistent with the individual school council's bylaws. However, the school council must meet a minimum of four (4) times during the school year (July through June). The dates and times of the meetings are established by the school council. Notice of the school council meetings are posted with the media by the school system once established by the council.

Minutes

Record of the meeting minutes is extremely important. They must be maintained in a manner that they are available for public review. Minutes of the school council, from its beginning until now, should be accessible to anyone who desires to peruse them. This includes the media, stakeholders and anyone from the public.

Internal distribution of minutes: the Superintendent's office, a copy to the School Board's office and one for the school council consultant. The distribution can be by electronic mail.

Training

Training is provided for all new school councils and for new council members. The principal is expected to request the training at a time that is convenient for the membership and the consultant.

New Principal Selection

The law provides an opportunity for the school council to have an advisory opinion when the Superintendent decides to solicit candidates for a school leadership position (principal). This Savannah Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) has an organized process for involving the school council in this activity. The Board of Education and the Superintendent value the advisory input of the school council.