Forsyth County Schools

FCS Local School Councils / Training Session

Training Overview Topics:

The Original Purpose

The Basic Structure

Operations

Topics for Discussion

Avenues to Success



The Original Purpose

FCS Local School Councils



The Original Purpose - What is it?

For **parents** and the **community** to play a vital role in the **success of our schools**.

To **strengthen** and enhance **communication** and **increase participation** among parents and community partners, deepening the connection between schools and communities while collaboratively addressing challenges and improving academic outcomes.

Provide meaningful support for teachers and staff **to engage parents** in the school decision making process.

The Original Purpose – Unite

Partner	Support the Board of Education in fostering engagement.
Promote	Encourage a culture of respect and collaboration among parents, community members, teachers, and administrators.
Collaborate	Offer input to support school improvement efforts and contribute to strategies for growth and development.

The Basic Structure

FCS Local School Councils



The Basic Structure



The Basic Structure – Member Composition

Member Structure, at a Minimum

✓ Parents/Guardians MUST make up the majority of the LSC.

✓ At least two parents or guardians should also be businesspersons.

❑ 1 Principal
❑ 2 Teachers
❑ 2 Parent Businesspersons
❑ 2 Parents/Guardians

✓ At least four of the seven members **must** be parents, none of whom can be school employees.

The Basic Structure – Elections

Office Elections

✓ Each LSC will vote for three officers.

❑ Chairperson (must be a parent)
❑ Vice Chairperson
❑ Secretary

✓ Officer election and terms are guided by the bylaws.

The Basic Structure- Parameters

Terms

- Members elected to the LSC serve two-year terms and may serve more than one term.
- Elections dates and procedures are determined by the LSC bylaws and terms should be staggered to ensure continuity in leadership.

Eligibility

- Individuals wishing to run for the LSC **MUST** be parents or guardians of students currently enrolled at the school.
- Only parents or guardians of students at the school are eligible to vote for parent representatives.

Vacancies

- Vacancies on the LSC **must be filled within 30 days** through and election, unless the member **had fewer than 90 days remaining** in their term.

Operations

FCS Local School Councils



Operations – Meetings Standards

The **bylaws** guide the conduct of business of the LSC.

Adoption or changes to the bylaws require a two-thirds affirmative vote.

All **meeting dates/times** shall be determined by a **majority vote**.

All meetings require a quorum of LSC members.

Meet **no less** than **4 times a year.**

Advertise meetings in advance, providing the opportunity for public attendance.

Operations- BOE Expectations

- The LSC will provide an annual report to the Board of Education.
- Per Forsyth County Schools practice, the LSC will be consulted regarding the selection of a new principal when a vacancy emerges.
- The LSC may provide recommendations to the Board of Education.

Topics for Discussion

FCS Local School Councils



Topics for Discussion

The Expectation

The LSC is expected to serve as an *advisory body*.

It is the responsibility of the LSC to **provide meaningful advice** and **actionable recommendations** to the Principal, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent on issues related to student achievement and school improvement.

Topics for Discussion

Focus of the LSC

- ❑ School Board Policies
- ❑ Curriculum and Assessment
- ❑ Development of School Profile
- ❑ Community Engagement
- ❑ Extracurricular Activities
- ❑ School-based Community Service
- ❑ Student Discipline and Attendance

- ❑ School Improvement Plans
- ❑ State Report Cards/Audits
- ❑ School Budgets
- ❑ Communication Strategies
- ❑ Community Use of Facilities
- ❑ School Progress Reports
- ❑ Special Needs Services

Avenues to Success

FCS Local School Councils



Avenues to Success

- ✓ LSC members represent the entire school community, **NOT** special interest groups, clubs, or teams of which individual member's children are a part of.
- ✓ Successful LSCs see themselves as a **team**.
- ✓ The members of GREAT teams **understand their roles**.
- ✓ LSC members' constituents are the **whole school community**.
- ✓ Trust among LSC members is VITAL – **positive communication** is key to that trust!
- ✓ LSC members are *advisors, and the* **Principals** are the ***deciders***.

Avenues to Success

Focusing on our **WHY**—rather than everything we oppose—helps drive forward thinking and meaningful progress.

Regularly revisiting our district and school belief statements serves as a powerful reminder of that **WHY**.



Avenues to Success

Safe. Connected. Thriving.

Respect & **empathy** are vital to building trust.

All students and staff must be **connected and supported**.

All students and staff must have a **strong sense of purpose**.

All students and staff must be challenged to **think critically and creatively.**

Family and community **engagement** are essential to continuous improvement.

FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS