

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 5, 2001
REVISED JANUARY 28, 2008
REVISED MARCH 22, 2010

Descriptor Term:
ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Descriptor Code:
2.6600

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47(30), -55

Cross References:

Community understanding and support are vital to the operation of the schools. The board shall appoint local school advisory councils for each school in the system to provide a means for citizen involvement in the decision making process of the school system. The personal qualifications of the local school advisory council members shall include a general interest in the public educational system of the country and shall be persons who have the time and are available to serve as advisory council members. Each member of an advisory council shall be an adult person of good moral character and one who is known to support public education. The local advisory council members for each school shall at the time each is appointed have a child/children legally assigned to the individual school's district for which they are appointed to serve.

Each school's local school advisory council shall be composed of three (3) members who shall be approved by majority vote of the board of education. In addition to the three (3) regular members of the council, each high school shall have a student member who shall be an ex-officio member. The student may be either the student body president or the president of the senior class. One of the three (3) members shall be the PTA/O president elected for the academic year. The principal shall nominate one (1) person and the board of education shall nominate one person. The persons nominated must have a child enrolled in the school they represent. In the event that the school does not have an active functioning PTA/O then the board of education shall appoint two (2) members rather than one (1). The three (3) members of each individual school's council shall elect a chairperson to serve for a period of one (1) year. The principal shall serve as secretary and in an ex-officio manner, having no vote. The minutes of the meeting shall be forwarded to the superintendent to be maintained in the superintendent's office for review by the board of education members. Members may serve no more than two (2) consecutive one (1) terms. No person may serve on more than one advisory council at the same time. If a vacancy occurs in membership during the course of a term, the vacancy shall be filled according to the procedures in this policy.

Each council shall meet a minimum of two (2) times during the course of the school year. Called meetings are to be held as the need arises. A third meeting shall be held as a joint meeting of all feeder schools' advisory councils within each high school attendance area. In the case of schools split between a middle or high school, the council member shall attend the joint meeting at both schools.

Each council shall be required to comply with all requirements of the Open Meetings law in Article 33C of Chapter 143 of General Statutes. Each council shall adopt a schedule of meetings for the year at its first meeting and make the schedule available. Attendance at all advisory council meetings is essential to being an effective council member.

Actions of the local school advisory councils shall be advisory. The board shall be free to accept or reject each local school advisory council's recommendations. Principals of each respective school shall work directly with its local advisory council, utilizing this reservoir of public energy and wisdom in a useful manner to the school, children, and community. The principal and his/her local advisory council should work together for continuous improvement in all areas of school operation. Although these councils are solely advisory, the

opinions and knowledge of each advisory council which are made available through this structure should prove invaluable to principals and school programs in the total school system.

The work of the board with an advisory council shall be a two-way process:

- a. to help the citizens to understand the aims and problems of their schools,
- b. to help the board in securing and interpreting information about community desires with which to coordinate and define community opinion.

Appropriate activities shall be planned and provided by the superintendent and staff for all school advisory council members and principals. These activities should address the organizational structure of advisory councils, duties, possible areas of activity, working relationship of principal and council, council relationship to the board, responsibility of council to the community, and any other items that might promote cooperative relationships for mutual benefits to the school system communities. Such activities should be scheduled in accordance with their need. Orientation services for new members must be scheduled by the superintendent or his/her designee during the first three (3) months of each member's first year of service. A copy of this policy shall be reviewed at this meeting.

Each advisory council shall provide advice, make recommendations, submit reports, or express itself appropriately on educational matters based upon active participation in activities such as:

- a. studying system and school level policies and procedures in order to improve understanding and to facilitate uniform interpretation by the community,
- b. studying system and school budgets, programs, activities, and facilities in order to understand the budget needs of the system and school,
- c. advising the principal on matters pertaining to fund-raising, activity calendar, local school finances, use of school facilities by outside groups, matters of human relations, curriculum, and other related functions in the general operation of the school program,
- d. working with principals and faculties by providing advice, support, and guidance in matters relating to general welfare of schools, and
- e. acting as liaison between the board and lay citizens of the area for interpretation, review, and study of matters relating to the schools and school system.

Each advisory council should not involve itself in activities that may reflect adversely on the total education system. Specifically, the advisory council shall not:

- a. involve itself in personnel matters or individual student problems except where the board, the administration, or the principal seek advise and counsel,
- b. in any way, assume legal authority for direct action or decision making within a school,
- c. involve itself officially in political campaigns or political issues as a corporate body.