

Revitalize Your School Governance Council



Information And Dialogue Session For Principals

October 27, 2020,
3:00-4:30 Pm (Online)



Agenda



- **Welcome And Introductions**

Bill Silva, Associate Executive Director & Director of the Center For Leadership And Innovation
Connecticut Association Of Schools

- **Common Questions About Legal Requirements**

Judy Carson, Program Manager for School-Family-Community Partnerships
Connecticut State Department of Education

- **Conducting Councils In A Virtual Environment**

Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel
Connecticut Association of Boards of Education

- **Q & A With Principals Panel**

Dr. Mark Bonasera
Roxbury Elementary School
Stamford

Dr. Uyi Osunde
Windsor High School

Reginald Roberts
Norwalk High School

Purpose of School Governance Councils



- The intent of Councils is to enable parents, school staff, students (where appropriate) and community leaders to **work together** to improve student achievement in the state's lowest performing schools.
- School Governance Councils serve in an **advisory** capacity to assist the school administration.

Membership and Selection Process



<i>Member</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Process</i>
Parents or guardians	7	Elected by the parents or guardians of students attending the school, each household with a student attending the school will have one vote
Teachers at the school	5	Elected by the teachers of the school
Community leaders within the school district	2	Elected by the parent or guardian members and teacher members of the Council
School principal or designee (nonvoting)	1	Principal may name a designee
<i>Additional Members in High Schools</i>		
Student members, high school Councils only (nonvoting)	2	Elected by the school's student body

Council Responsibilities



Councils shall advise the school administration in these areas:

- Analyze **school achievement data** and school needs as they relate to the school's improvement plan;
- Review the fiscal objectives of the school's **draft budget** and advise the principal before the budget is submitted to the superintendent;
- Participate in the hiring process of the school principal or other administrators of the school by **conducting interviews** of candidates and reporting on such interviews to the superintendent and the local board of education;

Responsibilities (continued)



- Assist the principal in making **programmatic and operational** changes to improve the school's achievement;
- Develop and approve a written school **parent involvement policy (plan)** that outlines the role of parents and guardians

(Note: Schools that receive federal Title 1 funds are required to have a parent involvement policy developed jointly with, approved by, and distributed to parents. A school's Title 1 parent involvement policy can serve the purpose of the policy required under this section.)

Defining Family Engagement

Connecticut's Definition & Framework for Family Engagement

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Full, Equal and Equitable Partnerships with Families

Connecticut's Definition and Framework for Family Engagement



CONNECTICUT STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Connecticut Early Childhood
Funder Collaborative
A PROJECT OF:



CONNECTICUT
COUNCIL for
PHILANTHROPY

A full, equal and equitable partnership

What?

among families, educators and community partners to promote children's learning and development, from birth through college and career.

Guiding Principles: A Partnership Mindset

How?

Trust and respect

1. Build welcoming, collaborative, trusting, respectful relationships focused on learning.

Two-way conversations

2. Listen to what families say about their children's interests and challenges.

Link family engagement to student learning

3. Model high-quality learning practices.
4. Share information frequently with families about how their children are doing.
5. Talk with students about how they want teachers and families to support their learning.

Culturally responsive practice

6. Co-develop culturally responsive practice among staff with families.

Parent leadership

7. Support parents to become effective leaders and advocates for children.

Responsibilities (continued)



- Work with school administrators in developing and approving a **school-parent compact** for parents, legal guardians, and students that outlines the school's goals and academic focus identifying ways that parents and school personnel can build a partnership to improve student learning.
 - (Note: Schools that receive federal Title 1 funds are required to have a school-parent compact, developed with parents. A school's Title 1 compact can serve the purpose of the compact required under this section.)

www.ctschoolparentcompact.org

In addition to its required responsibilities, *a Council may:*



- Assist in developing and reviewing the **school improvement plan** advise the principal before the report is submitted to the superintendent of schools;
- Work with the principal to develop, conduct, and report the results of an annual survey of parents, guardians, and teachers on issues related to the **school climate and conditions**;
- A council may vote to recommend that a school be **reconstituted** using one of the approved models; and
- Provide advice to the principal on any **other major policy matters** affecting the school, except on matters relating to collective bargaining agreements between the teachers and the board of education.

School Governance Councils Do Not



- Manage the school;
- Supervise staff;
- Enter into contracts or purchase agreements;
- Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents;
- Determine student eligibility for school admission; or
- Determine class allocations or student assignments.

www.sde.ct.gov/sde/SGC

Tools for School Governance Councils



1. Setting the Course

Getting Started: Setting Goals and Priorities

2. Staying on Track

School Advisory Council Self-Assessment

Are School Councils Working?

Profile of an Effective School Site Council

3. Rules of the Road

Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)

Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Requirements

[Link to Google Drive Folder Here](#)



Thank
You!

Bill Silva
Connecticut Association Of Schools
bsilva@casciac.org

Judy Carson
Connecticut State Department of Education
judy.carson@ct.gov

Patrice McCarthy
Connecticut Association of Boards of Education
pmccarthy@cabe.org