

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

The School Board recognizes that the public has vast resources of training and experience useful to schools. The strength of the school system is in large measure determined by the degree to which these resources are tapped in an advisory way and to the degree that these resources are involved in supporting the improvement of the local educational program.

~~The Board shall involve citizens from diverse backgrounds both as individuals and as groups to act as advisors and resource people.~~

The Board shall proactively engage citizens from diverse backgrounds, including historically underrepresented groups, to act as advisors and resource people. Efforts will be made to remove barriers to participation and ensure that all voices are heard and valued in the decision-making process.

Advice from the public will be given careful consideration. In evaluating such contributions, the first concern will be for the educational program as it affects the pupils. The final decision may depart from this advice when in the judgment of the staff and the Board such advice is not consistent with goals adopted by the Board or current educational practices or is not within the reach of the financial resources available.

Other Opportunities for Citizens to Participate

The School Board endorses the concept that community participation in the affairs of the schools is essential to improve the quality of education for students.

All citizens of the school division community will be encouraged to express ideas, concerns, and judgments about the schools to the school administration and to the School Board. From time to time, some individuals may be invited by the School Board to serve on advisory committees or to assume some other position of service to assist the board in maintaining a high quality education for its students. The selection process will value a commitment to including, integrating and serving individuals who represent different groups from our community in order to get a range of perspectives. Advisory committees will support committee membership data to the School Board as part of an annual report.

The School Board and the administration will give due consideration to the advice they receive from individuals and community groups interested in the schools, especially those individuals and groups they have invited to advise them regarding specific concerns, but will use their best judgment in arriving at decisions.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

Amended: September 26, 1994; October 11, 2012; September 12, 2019

Reviewed: February 26, 2004

Equity Review: September 12, 2019

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-86, 22.1-253.13:7.C.4.