

Committee for Collaborative Communication

Overview

District 97's commitment to fostering constructive two-way communication plays a critical role in its ability to establish strong, positive, productive relationships with its stakeholders. This commitment is one of the District's core beliefs and a cornerstone of the five-year Strategic Plan it launched in 2007. While the District has made significant progress in developing relationships based on openness, honesty and a spirit of collaboration, it must continue to find ways to engage stakeholders in the decision-making process so everyone can work together to achieve the common good. With this goal in mind, the Board of Education will establish the Committee for Collaborative Communication (C.C.C.), which will be a standing committee comprised of representatives from the community, as well as Board members and District administrators.

Purpose

To provide recommendations to the Board of Education and Superintendent regarding how to enhance two-way communication among the District's internal and external stakeholders, create comprehensive practices aimed at enhancing and improving the District's system of two-way communication, and promote the high-quality programs and services offered by the District. The committee may take on additional activities, including the creation of subcommittees, based upon authorization of the Board. The committee's actions will be governed by Board policy and the District 97 Strategic Plan.

Charge

- Engage stakeholders in the process for determining how best to establish an ongoing dialogue with local, county, state and federal legislative delegations, to review and analyze legislation at all levels that directly impacts the District's operations, including its finances and student achievement.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the District's various communication resources (listservs, Web site, D97 Connections, etc.) and determine what can be done to improve or enhance them.
- Develop and implement an internal comprehensive program aimed at improving communication between District administration and staff.
- Provide recommendations to the Board of Education and Superintendent that conforms to the Strategic Plan, enhances the communication initiatives and activities that are already working in the District and show demonstrable change in District communications.
- Provide stakeholders with a variety of means for communicating their thoughts/opinions about the District, and sharing ideas for how to promote or improve its programs, events and activities.
- Provide the Board with quarterly updates and an annual report on the work of the C.C.C.
- Annually review the composition of the C.C.C. to determine if it best supports the mission of the committee.

Authority

The C.C.C. will be a standing committee of the Board of Education.

Composition

The C.C.C. will consist of two Board members, the Superintendent, the District 97 communications coordinator, and five Board-appointed members of the community who possess relevant experience and knowledge. The Board will ascertain that the community members do not have any conflicts of interest in serving on the committee. One of the community members will serve as the chair of the C.C.C. For the first two-year term, the Board will appoint the chair. After that, the committee will be charged with selecting the chair. Board and community members will be asked to serve on the committee for two years and will be limited to a maximum of four terms. The C.C.C. will meet at least quarterly.

Open Meetings

As a Board committee, all C.C.C. meetings will be subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.