



Community Involvement in Education Policy Series: 1000 Board of Education

Policy No. 1424

Community Resources

The Board recognizes that the public has substantial resources of training and experience that could be useful to schools. The strength of the local District is in large measure determined by the manner and degree to which these [community](#) resources are utilized in an advisory capacity and to the degree that these resources are involved in supporting the improvement of the local educational program.

Provo City School District provides several opportunities for parents and community members to be involved in our district. These opportunities include PTAs, PTOs, School Community Councils, the Foundation, and a wide variety of parent engagement outreach activities at each school site. We provide weekly videocasts to our community to highlight [important](#) events each week. We create a podcast showcasing the many individuals who seek to create incredible learning environments for our students. Our parents frequently reach out to teachers, principals, board members, and district leadership seeking help, advice, and clarification. We also utilize surveys for targeted feedback about specific issues.

The Board of Education has established two community outreach committees to seek input on important issues, decisions, and concerns. These two committees are only in existence as long as the Board of Education continues to direct District leadership to organize and facilitate these committees. The Parent Advisory Committee and Community Connections Committee are outlined below.

The [input from the public](#) ~~advice of the public~~ will be given careful consideration. In the evaluation of such contributions, the first concern will be for the educational program as it affects the students. 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, consistent with current educational practice, or within the reach of the financial resources available.

Parent Advisory Committee

Purpose:

~~Provo City School District provides several opportunities for parents and community members to be involved in our district. These opportunities include PTAs, PTOs, School Community Councils, the Foundation, and a wide variety of parent engagement outreach activities at each school site. We provide weekly videocasts to our community to highlight important events. We create a podcast showcasing the many individuals who seek to create incredible learning environments for our students. Our parents frequently reach out to teachers, principals, board members, and district leadership seeking help, advice, and clarification. We also utilize surveys for targeted feedback about specific issues.~~

~~Provo City School District works to ensure that all members of our community have access to district level leadership and information in an environment that is safe and that honors their unique experiences and background. Traditionally, these parent groups have been specifically oriented to populations that are often underrepresented in other councils and organizations throughout our district. We did this as a way to ensure that all voices are heard.~~

~~In light of recent legislation, we have a need to shift the make-up of our parent advisory groups so they are not organized exclusively by ethnicity, race, gender expression or identity, immigrant status, religion, or heritage. This proposal~~ The district seeks to preserve the goodwill that has been created by past leaders in our community to ensure that we continue to hear *all* voices as we strive to accomplish our mission to Welcome, Educate, and Inspire all of our students and families.

~~This~~ **The Parent Advisory** committee differs from other parental involvement activities and groups in the following ways:

- Parents have access to district leadership as they communicate their students' experiences as seen from the parent perspective in our schools.
- Information from this committee will be used to inform district- and school-based leaders as to specific steps needed to create positive school cultures where all students feel welcome, safe, cared for, and able to succeed and develop their gifts.
- Parents will have the opportunity to communicate the experiences of students at every school level and in a variety of circumstances so that we can continue to improve the learning environment for every student in our schools.
- ~~• Parents who may not have the ability to contribute the amount of time that it takes in other parent committees would have an opportunity to provide feedback to the district and be involved in the improvement process of our district.~~

Goals:

The goals of the Parent Advisory Committee are directly connected to our Strategic Plan, particularly Priority 2: Wellness and Safety.

The first goal under the priority of Wellness and Safety states the following: *Increase the number of students and families who feel that our schools and district provide welcoming and supportive environments as measured by climate and stakeholder feedback surveys.* ~~The specific strategy to accomplish this goal asserts that we will create specific district wide committees for~~ The Parent Advisory Committee allows families and employees to access high levels of leadership to problem-solve situations as they arise in our district.

~~The second goal under priority two, Wellness and Safety states: Reduce the number of major offenses tied to bullying, harassment, discrimination, school safety, and physical aggression to 4% or lower across all student groups.~~ The Parent Advisory Committee provides a way to collaborate ~~By collaborating with parents and creating systems across the district, we can better support to meet~~ the needs of all students to ensure they are safe and able to learn.

Structure:

~~The Parent Advisory Committee consists of a set number of parents balanced between the Timpview and Provo feeders. Our goal is to ensure that our committee is representative and reflective of our community.~~

Parent Advisory Committee selection process:

- ~~● Parents complete an application process, indicating their desire to serve on the committee and how they hope to contribute and inform district leadership in decisions impacting our students.~~
- ~~● The Board of Education **Board Leadership** and the Superintendent select the parents from these applications, ensuring that **elementary and secondary students from both the Provo and Timpview feeders are represented.** half of the representation comes from parents of elementary students and half from parents of secondary students. The Provo and Timpview feeders will be equally represented.~~
- ~~● The Board of Education and Superintendent ensure that the parent committee reflects, as closely as possible, the demographics and make up of the students in the Provo City School District. To ensure applicants represent all families and populations in Provo, the district advertises and communicates this opportunity and keeps the application window open long enough to provide sufficient time for parents to apply. Applications will be made available in Spanish and at school events with school and district officials explaining the purpose of the committee and the time commitment required. Locations for the meetings will be determined by the Board of Education and district leadership to ensure accessibility for all parts of the district.~~
- ~~● Parents seeking to serve on this committee agree to a code of conduct and norms guided by the Dignity Index, specifically for interactions on the committee. This committee anticipates having hard conversations and receiving tough feedback, and will~~

seek to listen and understand and problem-solve together to make the district the best it can be. Committee members have different perspectives, but all members must recognize that these different perspectives lead to more creative and productive problem-solving that will benefit our entire community for years to come. The Parent Advisory Committee strives to be the example for our children in how to interact with and live in the same community next to those who have differing life experiences and viewpoints.

Length of service on the committee:

- Parents serve for two years on the committee, as long as they have a child currently in the Provo City School District. If a committee member moves out of the district, if they un-enroll their child from Provo school(s), or if their child graduates from high school, they would no longer be able to serve on this committee since the Board/District is seeking parent input regarding current student experiences.

Frequency of committee meetings:

- The committee will meet once each quarter.

Responsibilities:

The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Education and to District leadership. While we often have information about specific schools and situations, this would allow us to determine what trends and patterns are emerging so that we can create more effective systems to address problems and concerns and to replicate ideas that are working well.

The Board of Education and District leadership will bring concerns or questions, seeking feedback from this committee. The committee will provide firsthand information and brainstorm potential solutions to be considered by the Board and by District leadership for wider implementation.

Committee members will share information with other parents and community members about the efforts the district is making to ensure welcoming and safe environments for all students.

Committee members bring concerns and questions, seeking clarification, problem-solving, and awareness so that top-level leadership can make better decisions that fulfill our goal in our Strategic Plan of making Provo City School District a Destination District.

Community Connections Committee

Purpose:

Provo City School District puts forth great effort to ensure that all members of our community have access to district level leadership and information in an environment that is safe and that honors their unique experiences and background. This committee differs from other parental involvement activities and groups in the following ways:

- While this committee may have parents of students, it is not a requirement for a committee member to have a student currently enrolled in a school in Provo City School District.
- Information from this committee is used to inform district- and school-based leaders as to how our community perceives the efforts of the District and how we can better partner with our community resources, businesses, and other entities to ensure that we are providing the best educated citizens possible for Provo.

Goals:

The goals of the Community Connections Committee are directly connected to our Strategic Plan, particularly Priority 3: Stewardship of Resources.

The second goal under the priority of Stewardship of Resources states the following: *Improve communication about decision-making, resource allocation, and facilities management by 15% over 5 years as measured by specific survey data.* The specific strategy to accomplish this goal states that we will provide meaningful data and transparency to the community about our decision-making processes. Our second strategy supporting this goal states that we will provide effective communication to *all* stakeholders through in-person community meetings, newsletters, social media platforms, videocasts, and podcasts.

Structure:

The Community Connections Committee will consist of a variety of stakeholders across Provo City, with individuals from different age groups and backgrounds. The district's goal is to ensure that the committee is representative and reflective of the Provo community.

Community Connections Committee selection process:

- Interested individuals complete an application process, indicating their desire to serve on the committee and how they hope to contribute and inform district leadership about the public's perception of the district's decisions.
- The Board of Education **Board Leadership** and the Superintendent select the individuals from these applications, ensuring that all parts of the city have representation.
- The Board of Education and Superintendent ensure that the committee reflects as closely as possible the demographics and make-up of the citizens in the Provo City School District. Locations for the meetings are determined by the Board of Education and district leadership to ensure accessibility for all parts of the district.

- Individuals seeking to serve on this committee agree to a code of conduct and norms guided by the Dignity Index, specifically for interactions on the committee. The Board and District leadership anticipate having hard conversations and receiving tough feedback, and seek to listen and understand and problem-solve together to make the district the best it can be. This committee will have different perspectives, and all members recognize that these different perspectives lead to more creative and productive problem-solving that will benefit our entire community for years to come. Adults on this committee must be the example for our children in how we interact with and live in the same community next to those who have differing life experiences and viewpoints.

Length of service on this committee:

- Members serve for two years on the committee, as long as they continue to live in Provo City.

Frequency of committee meetings:

- The committee meets once each quarter, unless the committee chooses to meet more frequently.

Responsibilities:

The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Board of Education and to District leadership. The Board of Education and District leadership will bring concerns or questions, seeking feedback from this committee. The committee will then provide firsthand information as well as brainstorm potential solutions that can be considered by the Board and by District leadership for wider implementation.

Committee members will share information with other community members about the decisions of the district and the “why” behind these decisions.

Committee members will bring concerns and questions, seeking clarification, problem-solving, and awareness so that top-level leadership can make better decisions that fulfill our goal in our Strategic Plan of making Provo City School District a Destination District.

Citizen Advisory Committees

The Board, in consultation with the superintendent, may appoint citizen advisory committees as necessary to gather input and/or establish interaction with the community about selected issues. The committee will study district/school topics and submit its findings and/or recommendations to the superintendent and the board.

258 ~~Citizen Advisory Committees will conform to the following operational processes:~~

- 259 ~~1. A specific charge or assignment will be made to the committee in writing.~~
- 260 ~~2. The superintendent and/or board may appoint a committee member based upon the~~
- 261 ~~person's interest and the board's judgment of the individual's potential contribution~~
- 262 ~~to the accomplishment of the committee's task.~~
- 263 ~~3. The board may choose to designate a board member to serve as a board~~
- 264 ~~representative on the committee.~~
- 265 ~~4. The committee will be advisory only. The board does not and cannot relinquish its~~
- 266 ~~decision-making responsibilities.~~
- 267 ~~5. The committee will make periodic progress reports to the board; such interim~~
- 268 ~~reports as well as the committee's final findings and recommendations will become~~
- 269 ~~matters of public record by virtue of their presentation to the board in a public board~~
- 270 ~~meeting.~~
- 271 ~~6. Minority recommendations, as well as those of the majority, will be welcomed by the~~
- 272 ~~board.~~
- 273 ~~7. The duration of the life of the committee will be indicated when it is established. The~~
- 274 ~~board may authorize the committee to continue its work beyond the original~~
- 275 ~~termination date.~~
- 276 ~~8. Staff consultants and other resource assistance will be made available. The~~
- 277 ~~committee may elect to request advice or opinions from others as well, including~~
- 278 ~~representative citizens.~~
- 279 ~~9. Committee meeting guidelines are as follows:~~
 - 280 ~~1. The frequency of meetings, meeting times, meeting places, and the~~
 - 281 ~~nature of the meeting announcements will normally be determined by~~
 - 282 ~~the committee.~~
 - 283 ~~2. The committee may invite public attendance if it feels such attendance~~
 - 284 ~~will facilitate the accomplishment of its goals.~~
 - 285 ~~3. The committee will develop meeting procedures to assist in the orderly~~
 - 286 ~~pursuit of its task.~~
- 287 ~~10. Expenses of the committee may be allowed if authorized in advance.~~
- 288 ~~11. Appointment of the committee chair will be the prerogative of the superintendent~~
- 289 ~~and/or board.~~
- 290 ~~12. By agreeing to serve on the committee, a person indicates his/her willingness to~~
- 291 ~~comply with the board's guidelines for a citizen advisory committee/task force and~~
- 292 ~~with specific guidelines and procedures developed for the committee.~~

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294 **Board Approved:** April 13, 2013

295 Revised:

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