

4.0. Community Liaison

4.0. SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Policy Reference: EL-1.8

Reviewed by Committee: June 9, 2015, March 5, 2024

School partnerships refer to all parents and community councils, committees or groups whose function is to assist schools in providing safe, caring, appropriate and inclusive education. These partnerships include Advisory Councils for School Leadership, Parent Advisory Councils, Home & School Associations and School Committees.

Leadership Regulation (Man. Reg. 54/96)

1. Role of Advisory Council

An advisory council **may**

Advise the principal about school policies, activities and organization, including:

- Department and locally developed curricula
- Cultural and extra-curricular activities
- Student discipline and behaviour management policies
- Community access to school facilities
- Advise the principal about fundraising and participate in fundraising activities
- Advise the school board about the process of hiring and assigning principals
- Advise the school board about an annual budget for the school
- Participate in developing an annual school plan
- Participate in any review of the school that the minister or the school board has directed to be carried out

An advisory council **shall**

- Communicate with parents of children attending the school and community members so that it can properly represent their priorities and concerns; and
- Establish a means whereby it is regularly accountable to the school and community for its activities and expenditures
- An advisory council is to perform its role within the framework of responsibilities and powers conferred on school boards, principals and teachers under the Public Schools Act and The Education Administration Act

2. Election of Members

- Individuals eligible to vote
- Parents of children attending the school and community members
- There must be at least seven persons in attendance at the meeting who are entitled to vote in order to elect an advisory council.

3. Membership

- Parents 2/3 of advisory council.
- Teachers and staff of the school or the division who are also parents of children attending the school or community members may comprise not more than 1/3 of the total number of members. This number may be increased to 1/2 of the total number of members.
- If the school includes Grades 9 to 12 and has a student council, the president of the student council, or another member of the student council chosen by the student council, is automatically a community member of the advisory council and included in the total number of members of the council.
- The principal and a teacher representative from the school, selected by the teachers of the school, are ex officio non-voting members of the advisory council.
- An advisory council must consist of at least seven members.

4. Officers

- Each advisory council must have a chairperson, a secretary and any other officers required by the by-laws of the advisory council.

5. Meetings

- In each year after the year in which an advisory council is established, an annual general meeting of the advisory council must be held after the first day of school but not later than the third Friday in October.
- An advisory council **must** hold regular meetings that are open to parents of children attending school, students, school staff and community members.
- Only members of the advisory council are entitled to vote on matters raised at a meeting of the council.

6. By-laws

- The constitution takes the form of the Regulation in the case of an advisory council.
- An advisory council **may make** by-laws governing its proceedings and generally for the conduct and management of its activities.

7. Dissolution

- The minister may dissolve an advisory council if the minister is of the opinion, after ensuring that a review has been conducted, that the council is not functioning in accordance with this regulation or in the best interest of the school.

Reference: School Partnerships: A Guide for Parents, Schools and Communities, 2005
available at
https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/support/school_partnerships/index.html