

Medway Public Schools
Medway, MA
SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY

Policy #03

School Councils

Purpose

This policy is designed to implement the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 59C, which requires the establishment of school councils in all of the public schools in the Commonwealth.

Relationship to the School Committee

The Medway School Committee is the policy making body for the town's public school system, and school committee policy is administered through the Superintendent of Schools. The school council is an advisory group to the principal. The school committee appreciates and encourages the intent and purpose of school councils and believes that parents, teachers, high school students and other members of the community working collaboratively to advise the principal will enhance the education of all the children in Medway.

Role of the School Council

It is the role of the school council to:

- assist and advise the principal in developing educational goals for the school;
- assist and advise the principal in the identification of the educational needs of the children;
- assist and advise the principal in the review of the annual school budget; and
- assist and advise the principal in the formulation of a school improvement plan.

All of the above roles shall be pursued consistent with the policies, regulations, standards and goals of the school district.

Membership

The membership of the school council shall be in accordance with state law. The principal will be responsible for defining the composition of and forming the group pursuant to a representative process approved by the superintendent and school committee.

Term of Office

The term of office will be determined by each school council; however, no single term will exceed three years. There is no limit to the number of times an eligible member may be reelected to the council.

Meeting Procedures

The school council will meet regularly with the principal. Members of the school council shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 23, 23B, and 23C of Chapter 39 (the so-called Open Meeting Law). At each meeting, the school council will set aside time for public participation. The building principal shall be responsible for notifying the superintendent, in writing, at least forty-eight hours in advance of all school council meetings and for properly posting all such meetings. The building principal shall furnish the superintendent with minutes of all school council meetings as soon as possible after approval by council vote. The superintendent will furnish the school committee with school council minutes in a manner determined from time to time by the committee.

School Improvement Plans

School improvement plans will be developed by the principal in consultation with the school council. The principal will be responsible for presenting his/her plan to the school committee for approval at a date and time designated by the committee. The plan will be submitted in a form determined by the school committee. The school committee may ask the principal to present an overview of the school improvement plan in advance of formal submission in order to insure that the plan conforms with district goals, policies and resources.

The superintendent will recommend approval or disapproval of the plan to the school committee. School committee approval of a school improvement plan shall be considered contingent upon adequate funding as determined by the superintendent or school committee. Under no circumstances will a school improvement plan be considered precedent setting with respect to collective bargaining or other contracts/agreements. No policy, regulation, administrative directive or budget allocation will be considered changed in any way by a school improvement plan unless expressly approved by the appropriate governing authority.

Considered Part of This Policy

The state law governing school councils shall be considered part of this policy.

The school committee approved form for submission of the school improvement plan shall be considered a part of this policy.

First Reading: **September 8, 1994**

Approved: **September 22, 1994**