

WHAT IS SCHOOL COUNCIL?

C.B. WATSON PRIMARY SCHOOL



ORGANIZATION/SYNOPSIS OF LAW

O.C.G.A. 20-2-85 Establishment of School Councils

- a.** The need to improve communication and participation of parents and the community in the management and operation of local schools.
- b.** The management and control of public schools shall be the responsibility of local boards of education, and the school leader shall be the principal. School councils are advisory bodies.

ORGANIZATION/SYNOPSIS OF LAW

O.C.G.A. 20-2-86 Requirements of School Councils

- a.** Local Board of Education shall have school councils
- b.** Local Board of Education shall provide training
- c.** Resignation/removal of council members
- d.** Managed by a minimum of seven council members
- e.** Term of members in bylaws/staggered terms
- f.** Meetings of the school council open to the public
- g.** Public notice two weeks before the meeting of electing body
- h.** Adopt bylaws
- i.** Immunity
- j.** Officers of the school council
- k.** Responsibilities/accountability of school council members
- l.** Minutes
- m.** Quorum to transact business
- n.** Term of office of school council members determined in bylaws
- o.** Council may appoint committees
- p.** Local Board of Education shall provide information not made confidential
- q.** Local Board of Education shall consider recommendations of school council
- r.** Duties of school principal
- s.** School councils are advisory bodies

AGENDA

- **WHY** do we have school councils?
- **WHO** serves on school councils?
- **WHAT** do school councils do?
- **WHEN** do school councils meet?
- **HOW** do school councils work?
 - Legal issues
 - Conducting the school council meeting
 - Characteristics of effective school councils

WHY?

- **WHY DO WE HAVE SCHOOL COUNCILS?**

2 REASONS FOR THE CREATION

1. INCREASE STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT



2. IMPROVE THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY

INTENT OF SCHOOL COUNCILS

- **BRING COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS TOGETHER I SPIRIT OF COOPERATION**
- **SOLVE DIFFICULT EDUCATION PROBLEMS**
- **IMPROVE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**
- **PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS**
- **BRING PARENTS INTO THE SCHOOL-BASED DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**
- **ASSIST LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION DEVELOP PARTICIPATION**
- **CREATE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AND MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S CONCERNS**
- **SHARE IDEAS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM OF GA

- **A+ EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 2000**
- **ESTABLISHED THE CREATION OF SCHOOL COUNCILS**
- **MEMBERS OF SCHOOL COUNCILS ARE ACCOUNTABLE**

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE CONSTITUENTS

- **MAINTAIN A SCHOOL-WIDE PERSPECTIVE ON ISSUES**
- **REGULARLY PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS**
- **PARTICIPATE IN INFORMATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS**
- **ACT AS A LINK BETWEEN THE SCHOOL COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY**
- **ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF PARENTS AND OTHERS WITHIN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY**
- **WORK TO IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

WHO?

- **WHO SERVES ON SCHOOL COUNCILS?**

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS

- **MINIMUM OF 7 MEMBERS**
 - **4 PARENTS: AT LEAST 2 OF WHOM SHALL BE BUSINESSPERSONS; PARENTS MUST MAKE UP A MAJORITY OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL**
 - **2 TEACHERS**
 - **PRINCIPAL**

TERMS

- **TERM OF OFFICE IS 2 YEARS**
- **SHALL BE STAGGERED**
 - **MAY SERVE MORE THAN ONE TERM**

VACATED

- **RESIGNATION: SUBMIT A WRITTEN RESIGNATION TO THE COUNCIL AND COPY TO THE SCHOOL COUNCIL SECRETARY OR PRINCIPAL**
 - **IF A MEMBER HOLDING OFFICE IS REMOVED AS A MEMBER BY AN ACTION OF THE COUNCIL (INACTIVITY); OR**
 - **IF A MEMBER NO LONGER MEETS THE QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIED IN THE LAW (CHILD NO LONGER ATTENDS SCHOOL, RETIREMENT, MOVE, TRANSFER)**

ELECTION/SELECTION OF MEMBERS

- **PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTION**
- **PRINCIPAL SHALL CALL A MEETING**
- **ELECTING BODY CONSISTS OF ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS A PARENT MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL**
- **ELECTING BODY FOR TEACHER MEMBERS SHALL CONSIST OF ALL CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS A TEACHER MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL**
- **WHEN THERE IS A VACANCY, ELECTIONS MUST OCCUR WITHIN 30 DAYS**

OFFICERS

- **CHAIRPERSON (PARENT)**
- **VICE-CHAIRPERSON**
- **SECRETARY**
 - **OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED BY THE COUNCIL AT THE FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING THE ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**
 - **PRINCIPAL CANNOT SERVE AS THE CHAIRPERSON NOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

MEETINGS

- **AT LEAST 4 MEETINGS ANNUALLY**
- **4-7 MEMBERS MUST BE PRESENT**
- **ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO PUBLIC**

TRAINING

- **LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING**
- **TRAINING ADDRESSES**
 - **ORGANIZATION**
 - **PURPOSE**
 - **RESPONSIBILITIES**
 - **RULES & LAWS**
 - **REGULATIONS**
 - **PROCEDURES**



- **YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE REMUNERATION
TO SERVE ON THE COUNCIL**

AGENDA & MINUTES

- **AGENDA**

- **PRINCIPAL SETS THE AGENDA WITH CHAIRPERSON**
- **USUALLY OCCURS AT THE END OF CURRENT MEETINGS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- **MINUTES**

- **SECRETARY SHALL ATTEND ALL MEETINGS TO RECORD MINUTES**
- **MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC**

2023-2024 ELECTION

- **ADVERTISED**
- **SOCIAL MEDIA**
- **CLASS DOJO**
- **FLYER WILL BE SENT HOME**

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

- **If you are interested in serving on our school council, please call the school and ask to speak with the principal.**