

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Community Involvement

Area Educational Advisory Councils

Statement of Purpose:

The area educational advisory councils of the Board of Education of Baltimore County exist to strengthen the relationships between the school system and the community by educating citizens on public school issues and by promoting interest and involvement in public school affairs. With careful attention to input from the community, area educational advisory councils are charged with advising the Board on [any] matters related to public education.

1. Organization

- a. **THERE WILL BE AN AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL IN EACH OF THE FIVE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS OF THE SCHOOL SYSTEM. THEY WILL BE DESIGNATED AS THE SOUTHEASTERN, NORTHEASTERN, CENTRAL, NORTHWESTERN, AND SOUTHWESTERN AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS.**
- b. **EACH [An] EDUCATIONAL** advisory council shall consist of no more than seventeen (17) **COMMUNITY** members appointed by, and responsible to, the Board of Education.
- c. The [area assistant superintendent] **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS FOR THE APPLICABLE ADMINISTRATIVE AREA** shall serve as the staff liaison to the **EDUCATIONAL** advisory council.
- d. [The] **EACH AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council shall elect its own officers and develop [its own organizational] **A PROGRAM** plan and operational procedures.
- e. **THE BOARD WILL APPOINT A COORDINATOR FOR THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS. THE COORDINATOR MAY NOT SIMULTANEOUSLY SERVE AS A MEMBER OF AN AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL. THE COORDINATOR SHALL SERVE AS A MEMBER EX OFFICIO ON EVERY AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.**
- f. The Board of Education, **THROUGH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS**, shall provide **APPROPRIATE** clerical services to assist in rendering such reports as may be [required] **REQUESTED** by the **AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council.
- g. Close communication between the **AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council and the Board of Education shall be maintained. The Board of Education shall provide opportunities for the **AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council to [make presentations] **PRESENT COMMENTS** to the

Board IN ADDITION TO THE TWO PLANNED MEETINGS TO WHICH BOARD MEMBERS ARE INVITED (THE JOINT MEETING OF THE AREA EDUCATIONAL COUNCILS AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OFFICERS).

2. Membership

- a. The Board of Education shall select members who represent the communities in [the area] **EACH OF THE FIVE ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS**. No more than three (3) employees of the Board of Education may serve on each **AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council.
- b. Individual citizens, [PTAs] **PARENT/TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS (PTA)**, and other community organizations may suggest candidates **FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL** for Board consideration. **THE RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE FORWARDED TO THE APPROPRIATE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES. THE BOARD SHALL MAKE ALL APPOINTMENTS TO THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ENSURE THAT THE MEMBERSHIP IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AREA IT SERVES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, MEMBERSHIP THAT IS GEOGRAPHICALLY BALANCED WITHIN THE AREA.**
- c. The term of office shall be for three (3) years. Members shall be eligible for appointment to three (3) three-year terms. [Incumbents in 1990-91 shall be eligible for two (2) additional terms.]
- d. If a member is absent for three (3) or more meetings during a one-year period without sufficient reason, **THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MAY RECOMMEND TERMINATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S MEMBERSHIP**. The Board may terminate the **INDIVIDUAL'S MEMBERSHIP** [member's term] **AT ITS DISCRETION**. [upon the recommendation of an area educational advisory council].
- e. At least two (2) of the seventeen (17) members of each area educational advisory council shall be students whose appointment shall be governed by the following procedures and conditions:
 - (1) Appointments shall be made in May. To be eligible for appointment, students shall be enrolled in good standing and pre-registered in the eleventh (11th) or twelfth (12th) grade of one of the high schools in the respective **ADMINISTRATIVE** area.
 - (2) Appointments of student members shall continue until the time of their graduation. Membership on the **AREA EDUCATIONAL**

ADVISORY council shall terminate at any time during the year that the student ceases to be enrolled in good standing in one of the high schools in the area.

- (3) The Baltimore County Student Councils shall be requested to submit **TO THE BOARD** names of eligible students **WHO ARE CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL** for Board consideration in making appointments. Other [interested] **STAKEHOLDER** groups and principals may **ALSO** suggest names of [students] **CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP** for Board consideration. **THE RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE FORWARDED TO THE APPROPRIATE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES. THE BOARD SHALL MAKE THE APPOINTMENT OF STUDENTS TO THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION.**
- (4) The Board will attempt to rotate appointments among all of the high schools in the respective area.
- f. [The Board shall appoint an area educational advisory council coordinator.] The term of office **FOR THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL COORDINATOR** shall be two (2) years. The coordinator shall be eligible for one (1) reappointment. Nominations for coordinator may be made by the area **EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY** councils. A person shall have served at least three (3) years on an area **EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY** council to be eligible for appointment as coordinator. The coordinator shall assist in the following: orienting new members **OF AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS EACH YEAR**, planning a joint meeting of area **EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY** councils [in the fall of] each year, planning an annual meeting of council officers, generating publicity countywide regarding the work of area **EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY** councils, and recognizing the work of council members.

3. Functions

- a. The **ROLE OF THE AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council shall be strictly advisory in nature **TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**. It should be made clear from the outset that its role is not to include policy making. **HOWEVER, AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS MAY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT POLICY TO THE BOARD.**
- b. The **AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council can provide a service by addressing itself primarily to area, **COMMUNITY, OR SCHOOL SYSTEM** concerns. **THE AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL REFRAIN AT ALL TIMES FROM CONSIDERING OR DISCUSSING** individual school and personnel problems. **THESE MATTERS MUST**

[will] be [dealt with] **ADDRESSED ONLY** through appropriate administrative channels.

- c. A valuable service can be rendered by interpreting Board policy in the community. The school system can benefit from the assessment of community feeling and reaction to issues and the transmission of opinions to the Board of Education.
- d. The **AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council [can] **MAY** function as a sounding body for proposals which are in the developmental stages.
- e. **AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS MAY BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDY GROUPS, BCPS COMMITTEES, AND TASK FORCES, WHEN APPROPRIATE. AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS MAY ADVISE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING THE NEED TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ISSUES OF INTEREST OR CONCERN TO THE PUBLIC.**
- f. [e.] Within the framework of **ITS ADVICE AND** [an advisory body having a strong] communication function **S WITH THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE COMMUNITY**, the [group] **AREA EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS** may wish to [be involved in such specific areas as] **HAVE PRESENTATIONS AND/OR DISCUSSIONS SUCH AS:**
 - (1) Hearing reports on curriculum projects.
 - (2) Discussing ideas on patterns of school organization and advising the Board of Education on [possible pilot] **PROPOSED** programs.
 - (3) [Following] **EXAMINING** pupil population [projections] **GROWTH AND SHIFTS.**
 - (4) Studying **AND COMMUNICATING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES REGARDING** educational specifications for new schools.
 - (5) Studying **AND COMMUNICATING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES REGARDING** architectural planning and design.
 - (6) Reviewing physical needs in older buildings and becoming involved both in recommendations and the communication of plans and progress.
 - (7) Receiving information on budget preparations and offering suggestions on items for inclusion and emphasis.

- (8) Enlisting community support for meeting the [financial] needs of the school system.
 - (9) Engaging in fact-finding in a variety of areas, which might include transportation and extended services, with a view toward apprising the Board of Education of conditions and needs.
 - (10) Serving as an instrument to strengthen the relationship between the school [and the], community, **AND SCHOOL SYSTEM.**
- g. The **AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory council [may] **SHOULD** provide [a forum] **AN OPPORTUNITY** for interested citizens and community groups to offer suggestions for analysis and possible recommendation**S.**

4. Scope

- a. The Board of Education will establish area **EDUCATIONAL** advisory councils as instruments to promote interest and involvement in school affairs. [It] **THE BOARD OF EDUCATION** cannot delegate its authority or responsibility for decision and policy making.
- b. The Board of Education will receive and carefully consider all recommendations and suggestions of **AREA EDUCATIONAL** advisory councils but cannot obligate itself to adopt them.

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Board of Education
of Baltimore County