

GREAT KIDS

GREAT SCHOOLS

Family and Community Engagement Policy

February 2009

Baltimore City Public Schools

Family and Community Engagement Policy

2

- ❑ Reflects strong system-wide commitment: “family and community engagement is an important component for student success”
- ❑ Establishes framework for implementing strategies to increase family and community engagement
- ❑ Supports federal and state parent involvement requirements
- ❑ Engagement essential support for a great school

Reasons for Policy Revision

3

- ❑ Clarify roles of parent and community members of School Improvement Team
- ❑ Clarify responsibilities for implementing various aspects of policy
- ❑ Need for formal feedback to school and CEO on key school decisions
- ❑ Satisfy Title I requirements

Stakeholder Participation

4

Principal coaches
group discussion

PCAB discussed
policy on multiple
occasions and
provided written
comments

Outreach to
other stakeholder
groups: BEN
President's
Roundtable,
SECAC, COIL,
ACLU, HARBEL

Extensive Stakeholder Involvement

About 100
community
members
participated in
public forums

About 75 principals and SIT chairs
representing 43 schools participated in three
focus groups

What's New?

5

- Change name of SIT to “School Family Council”
 - Through forums and focus groups, participants expressed strong opinions that “SIT” is widely perceived as not inclusive of family and community
 - “School Family Council” represented the inclusive idea of a “school family” (“School Family” not school AND family)
- Clarified specific roles and responsibilities for parent and community members

What's New?

6

- Clarified support for Title I compliance
- Updated common terms:
 - “BCPSS” to “*City Schools*”
 - “Limited English Proficient” to “English Language Learner”
- Edited language to be clear and concise

Understanding New FCE Structures

7

- School Family Council = “Council” (formerly School Improvement Team or ‘SIT’)
- Family and Community Engagement Team = “Engagement Team” (similar to former FCE subcommittee of SIT)
- Advisory team (new function)

Selection Process

8

- How parent and community members of School Family Council are chosen:
 - 3 parent members selected through open elective process convened by organized parent group*
 - 2 community members selected by the Council (includes business partners); interested community members should describe interest and expertise*

**Encourage recruitment of members with Special Education interests*

Selection Process

9

- School staff members of Council remain the same
 - Principal
 - Teachers (2 minimum; 1 BTU rep.)
 - Student Support Service Providers
 - Classified Staff
 - Paraprofessional
 - Student
 - Flexibility to expand membership

**Refer to Circular 27, 2006-2007*

Selection Process

10

- How the Engagement Team is chosen:
 - Selected by principal in consultation with Council members
 - Must include the 3 parent and 2 community members of Council
 - May include additional Council members and other stakeholders

Selection Process

11

- How the Advisory team is chosen:
 - The 3 parent and 2 community members of Council will identify and recruit additional parent and community members
 - Minimum of one parent from the following populations:
 - Special Education
 - Title I
 - English Language Learner (where 10% or greater of total enrollment is ELL)

Roles and Responsibilities

12

- School Family Council functions:
 - Develop, implement & assess School Improvement Plan
 - Develop operational procedures for Council
 - Develop a process for sharing information and involving all in the work of the Council

**Refer to Circular 27, 2006-2007*

Roles and Responsibilities

13

- Engagement Team functions:
 - Develop, implement and assess a family and community engagement plan
 - Implement the requirements of the Family and Community Engagement Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

14

- School Responsibilities (include in plan):
 - Establish a Recognized Organized Parent Group
 - Develop a School Parent Compact
 - Promote widespread participation of *City Schools* Climate Survey
 - Host at least one public meeting annually
 - Develop community based partnerships that promote parent involvement
 - Offer training materials to help parents /families monitor and support academic achievement
 - Use effective communication methods for diverse populations

Roles and Responsibilities

15

- Advisory team functions:
 - Advisory input on budget to principal and CEO
 - Advisory input on parent involvement budget to principal and CEO
 - Advisory input on school performance and leadership to CEO
 - Advisory input on selection of new principal

Roles and Responsibilities

16

- Principal still has final responsibility for determining content of budget submitted
- CEO still has final responsibility for approving school budget, evaluation of school and leadership, and selection of new principals

Summary: Membership

17

School Family Council

Principal, Teachers (1 BTU rep.), Student Support Service Providers, Classified Staff, Paraprofessional, Student (Mid/ High School) & flexibility to add members



**3 parents and
2 comm. members**



Advisory team

(including additional parents special ed, ELL, Title I)



Engagement Team

Additional Council members & other stakeholders
Appointed by principal

Summary: Responsibilities

18

School Family Council

- Develop, implement & assess SIP
- Develop operational procedures for Council
- Develop a process for sharing information & involving the work of the council

**3 parents and
2 comm. members**

Engagement Team

- Develop, implement and assess a family and community engagement plan
- Implement the requirement of the Family and Community Engagement Policy

Advisory team

Advisory Input:

- on budget to Principal and CEO
- on parent involvement budget to principal and CEO
- on school performance and leadership to CEO
- on input selection new principal

Supports

19

- ❑ Orientation for Organized Parent Groups
- ❑ Orientation for current SIT chairs, principals, other school staff, current parent and community members of SITs
- ❑ Assistance to organized parent groups, Councils
- ❑ Family Institute course offerings
- ❑ Sample school budget briefing materials for parents and principals
- ❑ Guidance for advisory teams on budget feedback, etc.
- ❑ Support for developing and implementing school engagement plans from Office of Partnerships, Communications, and Community Engagement staff

QUESTIONS?

20

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