REGULATION

Rochester Community Schools Rochester, Michigan 48307

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PARENT/CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT IN COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES

Close communication between schools and their communities establishes shared goals and thus builds public understanding of, support for, and commitment to the schools and their educational objectives. The Rochester Community Schools recognize the many benefits associated with parent/citizen involvement at the District level. By becoming fully familiar with the Rochester Community Schools' programs, parents and other members of the community gain an increased awareness and appreciation of the District's mission and its various strategies toward fulfillment of that mission. Similarly, strong community involvement insures alignment between schools and the community they serve. If it is clear that major differences of opinion exist in the community on the committee's work, effort should be made to include representatives from the various viewpoints, the intent being to work toward solutions which are both acceptable to the broadest possible community perspective and consistent with the best educational interests of students.

Therefore, when major initiatives requiring community involvement are undertaken, the following procedures will apply:

- 1. The Superintendent and/or chairpersons of committees shall announce for various studies and reviews through public forums such as Dialogue meetings, Board meetings the press and PTA Council meetings.
- 2. The Superintendent or his designee will maintain a standing list of citizens/parents who volunteer for committees. Application forms may be obtained from the Community Relations Manager.
- 3. The action plan of each committee will contain a step soliciting germane input from segments of the community most impacted by the committee's work. The scope and depth of community input will vary according to the need as determined by the committee chairperson(s) and/or Superintendent.

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- 4. Parents are to be selected both from the volunteer list and through PTA/PTO Council. Parents with specific expertise may be solicited when appropriate.
- 5. No single formula for citizen participation on committees will apply to all cases. Consideration will be given to applicants using the following criteria:
 - a. Persons of good will with an open mind and no special interest group cause to fulfill.
 - b. Persons with special knowledge and skill capable of understanding complex problems and making a decision based upon information that is factual and research based.
 - c. Persons capable of making decisions that are in the best interest of student needs and in the best interest of the school district.
 - d. Persons who will attend all meetings and be on time.
 - e. Persons capable of analyzing and discussing information presented in large and small groups.
 - f. Persons with a commitment to reach decisions based upon group consensus.
 - g. Persons who will use discretion in communicating committee deliberations outside of the forum.
- 6. Prospective committee members may be interviewed to determine their suitability for a given committee.
- 7. Prior to their committee service, parent/citizen members shall be provided, as needed, with a review of literature and background information necessary for fulfillment of the committee's assignment.

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