

9140 CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Board shall appoint advisory committees to assist in research projects, long range studies, program evaluation, and development of policies or educational goals/programs, when required by law or when the Board in its sole discretion finds it beneficial to do so. Each committee shall be appointed for a specific purpose and time. The Board may dissolve any Board-appointed committee at its sole discretion. The Board shall seek the advice of its Superintendent before establishing or dissolving any advisory committee.

The composition of such committees shall be representative of the community and appropriate to the tasks delegated to them, and may include staff and pupils when appropriate. Members shall function in the best interests of the community as a whole and shall exercise independent and objective judgment on matters which come before the committee, rather than merely represent and reiterate the views of an organization, a geographic area, an individual school building, a special interest group or any other segment or subdivision of the community.

The Board shall adopt the committee structure and organization it deems appropriate to the assignment at hand, except for funded programs where requirements are set by law. The Board, in consultation with the Superintendent, is responsible for approving all citizen members of a committee and the method of their selection. Staff members shall be assigned to committees by the Superintendent and shall not constitute a majority of any general community advisory committee.

The Superintendent shall establish and execute procedures for instructing committees in writing as to the length of time each member is being asked to serve, the services the Board wishes them to render and the form in which the committee's work product is to be rendered, the resources the Board intends to provide and the procedure for accessing such resources, and the approximate date on which the Board wishes to dissolve the committee. Furthermore, the committee shall be instructed as to the relationship it has to the Board, to the individual Board members who may liaison with it, to the Secretary of the Board, to the Superintendent, and to the rest of the professional staff, and the provisions of any law regulating its formations or activities, as may be necessary and appropriate. The expenditure of public funds by any advisory committee shall be made only upon the prior approval of the Board.

The Board shall inform the public of the services rendered by such advisory committees and of its major conclusions and recommendations. Any publicity concerning the organization, membership, operations, findings, or recommendations of any committee shall be released only by the Board or its designee.

Recommendations from the committee shall not alter the responsibility of the Board to exercise its independent and sole judgment. The Board may therefore accept or reject committee recommendations as it sees fit. It will be the responsibility of the Superintendent to see that the members of the committee are informed as to the final decision of the Board.

N.J.A.C. 6:30-1.5; 6:31-1.14(b)  
20 U.S.C.A. 3801 et seq.

Adopted: 27 April 2009