

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

The School Board recognizes that the public has vast resources of training and experience useful to schools. The strength of the school system is in large measure determined by the degree to which these resources are tapped in an advisory way and to the degree that these resources are involved in supporting the improvement of the local educational program.

The Board shall involve citizens [from diverse backgrounds](#) both as individuals and as groups to act as advisors and resource people.

Advice from the public will be given careful consideration. In evaluating such contributions, the first concern will be for the educational program as it affects the pupils. The final decision may depart from this advice when in the judgment of the staff and the Board such advice is not consistent with goals adopted by the Board or current educational practices or is not within the reach of the financial resources available.

Other Opportunities for Citizens to Participate

The School Board endorses the concept that community participation in the affairs of the schools is essential to improve the quality of education for students.

All citizens of the school division community will be encouraged to express ideas, concerns, and judgments about the schools to the school administration and to the School Board. ~~Residents who are particularly qualified because of interest, training, or experience will be encouraged to assume an active role in school affairs.~~ From time to time, ~~such persons~~[some individuals](#) may be invited by the School Board to serve on advisory committees or to assume some other position of service to assist the board in maintaining a high quality education for its students. [The selection process will value a commitment to including, integrating and serving individuals who represent different groups from our community in order to get a range of perspectives. Advisory committees will support committee membership data to the School Board as part of an annual report.](#)

The School Board and the administration will give due consideration to the advice they receive from individuals and community groups interested in the schools, especially those individuals and groups they have invited to advise them regarding specific concerns, but will use their best judgment in arriving at decisions.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
 Amended: September 26, 1994; October 11, 2012
 Reviewed: February 26, 2004

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Sections 22.1-86, 22.1-253.13:7.C.4.

