

**BYLAWS
of the
SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL
in
TUCSON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER ONE**

Preamble

The School Community Partnership Council (SCPC) invites all residents of Tucson Unified School District (TUSD), including parents, educators, and all other community members, as individuals, to join together with the common goal of providing the children of the community with the highest quality education possible. To this end, the District Council encourages community involvement in a constructive fashion. The District Council understands its position as an advisory group in a partnership with the Governing Board and pledges itself to be thorough and objective in handling any matters it undertakes.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL (SCPC). SCPC shall be composed of a District Council and four Area Councils.

Article II – Purpose

- Section 1.** To develop better understanding between the school and the community with respect to matters relating to education.
- Section 2.** To create unity of action and support which relate to the best interests of the children.
- Section 3.** To provide a communication system between the local school community, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Governing Board.
- Section 4.** To advise the Governing Board on matters relating to the educational process.
- Section 5.** To encourage active involvement of residents of TUSD in the operation of their schools.
- Section 6.** To invite members of the community to serve as a resource.

Article III – Function

- Section 1.** SCPC shall identify areas of concerns and offer suggestions for courses of action for consideration by principals, administrators, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Governing Board.
- Section 2.** SCPC shall coordinate activities cooperatively with existing groups, administrators, teachers, and the community.

Article III- Function-(cont.)

Section 3. SCPC shall obtain available factual information concerning an issue that has been raised, shall thoroughly examine all sides of such an issue in an impartial manner, and make well-reasoned recommendations to the appropriate Administrator of District body.

Article IV - Area Councils

Section 1. Area Councils shall be established by the District Council to allow for better communication between parents and the District Council. Area Councils shall be organized in a manner that conforms to the current Tucson Unified School District Elementary-Middle- High School feeder patterns. Area Councils shall be identified and referred to by the names of the High Schools in the feeder pattern.

Section 2. Area Councils shall be made up of one parent representative from each school in the area. Each school may also establish an alternate parent representative to assume the representative's responsibilities in their absence. Each School is also entitled to one ex-officio (non-voting) position on the Area Council. Each School Council, from its membership, shall select the ex-officio member to the Area Council.

Anyone interested in attending an Area Council meeting will be welcome but only the representatives or their alternates will have voting privileges. Area Councils will meet on the 3rd Monday of the month, September through April, unless otherwise established on the District calendar.

Section 3. Area Councils may request that a school appoint a new parent representative if the current parent representative has missed 2 consecutive Area Council meetings (without notification) or a vacancy occurs.

Article V – Membership

Section 1. The membership of the District Council shall consist of three duly elected representatives, or their alternates, from each of the Area Councils. They shall serve from the first District meeting in September of one year until the final District meeting in August of the following year.

Section 2. Upon approval of the District Council, those persons serving as liaisons with other school related committees and/or organizations within the District may participate as ex-officio members.

Section 3. The District Council may request Area Councils to elect a new representative to the District Council if one of its current representatives has missed two consecutive District Council meetings without notification, or if any vacancy occurs.

Section 4. The Superintendent shall be an ex-officio member of the District Council. In the event that the Superintendent is unable to attend a District council meeting, he/she may designate a representative to attend.

Article VI - Officers

Section 1. The District Council and Area Councils shall have a moderator, co-moderator, and secretary. The District Council shall also have a liaison to the Governing Board.

Section 2. Duties of the Officers:

- a. The MODERATOR shall preside at all meetings, shall prepare an agenda for the meeting, and shall perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office.
- b. The CO-MODERATOR shall preside at meetings in the absence of the moderator and shall act as an aide to the moderator. The moderator may appoint the co-moderator to serve in his/her behalf on District Committees or other functions as needed.
- c. The SECRETARY shall record the minutes of the meetings, and keep or cause to be kept a book of District Council meeting minutes and agendas each year, distribute copies of the minutes to all Council members, and shall perform any other duties usually pertaining to the office.
- d. The LIAISON to the Governing Board shall attend all regular meetings of the Governing Board to serve as the communicator of information between the District Council and the Governing Board.
- e. In addition to their other duties, the Area Council moderator, co-moderator and secretary shall also serve as representatives to the District Council. In the event an officer does not wish to be a District Council representative, then an alternate may be elected from the Area Council representatives.

Section 3. In the event that the moderator, co-moderator, and/or secretary of the District Council are not Area representative(s) to the District Council, they shall nevertheless be Representatives to the District Council.

Section 4. A nominating committee, consisting of one representative from each Area Council, shall be selected at the March District Council meeting and shall present its slate of nominees at the April meeting. Said slate shall be included in the agenda for the April meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the April meeting, with the consent of the nominated individual. Each nominee will be given an opportunity to make a brief statement at the April meeting. Elections shall be held at the April meeting. Voting shall be by written ballot of representatives who are present at the meeting. The ballots shall be tallied and the complete results shall be announced immediately thereafter. A majority (half of the representatives present, plus one) vote of the District Council members present shall be required for election to an office. If there is no majority, a run-off election shall be held between the two nominees with the highest number of votes until the majority vote is achieved. Term of office shall run from June 1 through May 31st of the following school year.

Article VI- Officers (cont.)

- Section 5.** Any vacancy in the elected officers of the District Council shall be filled by a majority vote of the District Council members. Nominations will be made from the floor and a vote held the same night. The co-moderator shall temporarily fill a vacancy in the office of moderator until an election can be held.
- Section 6.** Area Council officers shall be elected at the 1st meeting in the fall. Nominations and/or volunteers shall be requested and a vote by show of hands shall be held.

Article VII- Meetings

- Section 1.** Regular meetings of the District Council shall be held on the fourth Monday of the month, August through May, unless otherwise voted upon by the membership of the District Council.
- Section 2.** An agenda for all regular meetings shall be prepared in advance of the meeting and distributed to all District Council members. The agenda must also be posted at TUSD's District offices at 1010 E. 10th Street, at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.
- Section 3.** All meetings shall be open to the public and the press, according to Arizona State Statutes 38-431.02, Public Open Meeting Laws.
- Section 4.** Special meetings of the District Council may be called by the moderator or upon the request of three members provided that:
- a. An agenda is posted and representatives are notified at least 24 hours in advance.
 - b. The Superintendent or his/her representative is notified at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Article VIII – Conduct of Business

- Section 1.** Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised, shall govern all meetings of the District Council, unless otherwise provided herein.
- Section 2.** Preferred consensus of the members present shall be necessary for the exercise of any of its duties. Preferred consensus occurs when a group reaches a conclusion, which has blended the best ideas into a decision that everyone in the group can support. In the event that preferred consensus cannot be reached, a decision shall be reached by simple majority vote.
- Section 3.** The business of the District Council shall be transacted at a duly called regular or special meeting.

Article VIII Conduct of Business (cont.)

- Section 4.** Representatives of the District Council shall provide for communication of results of meetings, recommendations, and activities to the Area Councils.
- Section 5.** Non-Council persons who wish to address the Council may request that the moderator place them on the agenda. Requests must be received 48 hours prior to meeting.
- Section 6.** Minutes of the District Council meetings will be available.

Article IX – Voting

- Section 1.** Five representatives constitute a quorum.
- Section 2.** Only duly elected representatives from Area Councils to the District Council and standing committee chairs shall have voting rights in all matters. Standing committee chairs shall have voting rights, except in the election of District Council officers. A duly elected alternate may vote only when representing an absent representative from that Area Council. When a vote is required, voting shall be by a show-of-hands unless a secret ballot is requested, and a simple majority shall make the decision.

Article X – Committees

- Section 1.** The District Council shall function as a group rather than on an individual basis. The District Council shall have the authority to establish Special (Non-Standing) Committees. Committees other than standing committees shall be considered dissolved unless specifically extended by the Council at the first meeting of the following year.
- Section 2.** Special (Non-Standing) Committees:
- a. Unless otherwise provided by the District Council, committee membership shall be open to any SCPC members.
 - b. The committee shall elect committee chairs, unless otherwise provided for by the District Council.

Article X – Committees – (cont.)

Section 3. Standing Committees:

- a. There shall be three standing committees as follows:
 1. Education
 2. Budget
 3. Legislative
- b. Membership shall be open to any **SCPC** representatives.
- c. The chair shall be elected by the committee membership for a term to end the following September.
- d. The standing committee chairs shall attend District Council meetings. The standing committees and their chairs shall be under the guidance of the District Council, and shall be accountable to the District Council.
- e. The standing committee chairs shall have the right to vote at District Council meetings.

Section 4. The District Council shall retain the right to remove and/or replace any officer or officers of any of its committees by a two-thirds vote of the District Council representatives.

Article XI – Public Statements

A public statement on behalf of the District Council may only be made by the moderator, his/her designee, or someone specified by the District Council. A public statement as to the position of the District Council must either be on one of the stated goals, or a position reached by preferred consensus of the District Council members at their regular or special meeting.

Article XII – Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting, or special meeting called for that purpose, provided the proposed changes have been given to the District Council members one month prior to the meeting. A majority vote of the membership present shall be required for passage of the proposed amendment(s).