

SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCILS

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Julie Fisher

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies the membership of school community councils.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

► provides that one of the parent or guardian members of a school community council shall be the president of the school's parent-teacher group or the president's designee, who shall be an elected officer of the parent-teacher group, if the school has a parent-teacher group.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-1a-108, as last amended by Chapter 324, Laws of Utah 2002

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53A-1a-108** is amended to read:

53A-1a-108. School community councils authorized -- Duties -- Composition -- Selection of members.



(1) As used in this section:

(a) "booster club" means an entity that:

(i) is organized and operated to benefit school functions; and

(ii) has a narrow or one-dimensional focus, such as supporting sports, a band, or other extra-curricular activity;

(b) "parent-teacher group" means a nonprofit entity that:

(i) is organized to operate for the benefit and support of an individual school;

(ii) has a defined organizational structure, purpose, and goals;

(iii) provides programs within a school that promote the education, health, and safety of children; and

(iv) is authorized to operate within a public school by the governing authority of the school; and

(c) "parent-teacher group" does not include a booster club.

~~[(1)]~~ (2) Each public school, in consultation with its local school board, shall establish a school community council at the school building level.

~~[(2)]~~ (3) (a) Each school community council shall:

(i) develop a school improvement plan in accordance with Section 53A-1a-108.5;

(ii) develop the School LAND Trust Program in accordance with Section 53A-16-101.5;

(iii) assist in the development and implementation of a staff professional development plan as provided by Section 53A-3-701;

(iv) develop a child access routing plan in accordance with Section 53A-3-402; and

(v) advise and make recommendations to school and school district administrators and the local school board regarding the school and its programs, school district programs, and other issues relating to the community environment for students.

(b) In addition to the duties specified in Subsection ~~[(2)]~~ (3)(a), a school community council for an elementary school shall develop a reading achievement plan in accordance with Section 53A-1-606.5.

~~[(3)]~~ (4) (a) (i) Each school community council shall consist of school employees, including the school's principal, and parents or guardians of students who are attending the school, except for parents or guardians who are employed at the school.

(ii) One of the parent or guardian members of a school community council shall be the president of the school's parent-teacher group or the president's designee, who shall be an elected officer of the school's parent-teacher group, if the school has a parent-teacher group.

(b) Except as provided in Subsection [~~(3)~~] (4)(c):

(i) each school community council for a high school shall have six parent or guardian members, including the parent-teacher group representative specified in Subsection (4)(a)(ii), and five employee members, including the principal; and

(ii) each school community council for a school other than a high school shall have four parent or guardian members, including the parent-teacher group representative specified in Subsection (4)(a)(ii), and three employee members, including the principal.

(c) (i) A school community council may have a larger membership provided that the number of parent and guardian members exceeds the number of employee members.

(ii) A school community council may have a smaller membership provided that:

(A) the number of parent and guardian members exceeds the number of employee members; and

(B) there are at least two employee members on the school community council.

~~[(4)]~~ (5) (a) Each employee member, except the principal, shall be elected by a majority vote of the employees and serves a two-year term beginning July 1. The principal shall serve as an ex officio member with full voting privileges.

(b) (i) ~~(A)~~ Each parent or guardian member, except the parent-teacher group representative specified in Subsection (4)(a)(ii), shall be elected at an election held at the school by a majority vote of those voting at the election and serves a two-year term beginning July 1.

(B) The parent-teacher group representative specified in Subsection (4)(a)(ii) shall serve as an ex officio member with full voting privileges.

(ii) Only parents or guardians of students attending the school may vote at the election under Subsection [~~(4)~~] (5)(b)(i).

(iii) A parent or guardian of a student qualifies to be a candidate for election to a school community council if at any time during the parent's or guardian's initial term of office, the student will be enrolled at the school.

(iv) Any parent or guardian of a student who meets the qualifications of this section

may file or declare himself as a candidate for election to a school community council.

(c) Written notice of the elections held under Subsections ~~[(4)]~~ (5)(a) and ~~[(4)]~~ (5)(b) shall be given at least two weeks prior to the elections.

(d) Results of the elections held under Subsections ~~[(4)]~~ (5)(a) and ~~[(4)]~~ (5)(b) shall be made available to the public upon request.

(e) (i) If a parent or guardian position on a school community council remains unfilled after an election is held, the other parent and guardian members of the council shall appoint a parent or guardian who meets the qualifications of this section to fill the position.

(ii) If an employee position on a school community council remains unfilled after an election is held, the other employee members of the council shall appoint an employee to fill the position.

(iii) The chair of the community council shall notify the local school board of each appointment made pursuant to ~~[Subsections (4)]~~ Subsection (5)(e)(i) or (ii).

(iv) A member appointed to a school community council pursuant to Subsection ~~[(4)]~~ (5)(e)(i) or (ii) shall serve a two-year term beginning July 1.

(f) Initial terms shall be staggered so that no more than 50% of the council members stand for election in any one year.

(g) Council members may serve up to three successive terms.

(h) (i) Each school community council shall elect a chair and vice chair from its parent or guardian members and elected employee members.

(ii) No more than one parent or guardian member or elected employee member may at the same time serve as an officer specified in Subsection ~~[(4)]~~ (5)(h)(i).

~~[(5)]~~ (6) (a) A school community council may create subcommittees or task forces to:

(i) advise or make recommendations to the council; or

(ii) develop all or part of a plan listed in Subsection (2).

(b) Any plan or part of a plan developed by a subcommittee or task force shall be subject to the approval of the school community council.

(c) A school community council may appoint individuals who are not council members to serve on a subcommittee or task force, including parents, school employees, or other community members.

Legislative Review Note

as of 1-10-06 10:34 AM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Fiscal Note
Bill Number HB0099

School Community Councils

20-Jan-06
9:57 AM

State Impact
No Fiscal Impact

Individual and Business Impact
No Fiscal Impact

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst