

SCHOOL COUNCIL BY-LAWS

Copeland Elementary School Council By-Laws

Article I: Name

A school council has been established in the Copeland Elementary School in the Richmond County School District on September 3, 2015. The name of this school council shall be the Copeland School Council, hereinafter referred to as the school council, organized under the authority of state law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-85 – 20-2-86).

Article II: Purpose

The establishment of school councils is intended to help local boards of education by bringing parents and the community together with teachers and school administrators to create a better understanding of and mutual respect for each other's concerns and share ideas for school improvement. School councils shall represent the community of parents and businesses.

The members of the school council are accountable to the constituents they serve and shall:

1. Maintain a school-wide perspective on issues;
2. Regularly participate in school council meetings;
3. Participate in information and training programs;
4. Act as a link between the school council and the community;
5. Encourage the participation of parents and others within the school community; and
6. Work to improve student achievement and performance.

Article III: School Council Authority

The school council shall advise and make recommendations to the principal, local board of

Article IV: Role of the School Council

The school council provides advice and recommendations to the school principal and, when appropriate, the local board of education and local school superintendent, on any matter related to student achievement and school improvement, including but not limited to, the following:

1. School board policies;
2. School improvement plans;
3. Curriculum and assessments;
4. Report cards issued or audits of the school conducted by the Office of Student Achievement;
5. Development of a school profile which shall contain data as identified by the school council to describe the academic performance, academic progress, services, awards, interventions, environment, and other such data as the school council deems appropriate;
6. School budget priorities, including school capital improvement plans;
7. School-community communication strategies;
8. Methods of involving parents and the community;
9. Extracurricular activities in the school;
10. School-based and community services;

Article VI: Terms

Article XII: Duties of the Principal

The school principal shall have the following duties pertaining to school councils:

1. Cause to be created a school council by convening the appropriate bodies to select school council members; setting the initial agenda, meeting time, and location; and notifying all school council members of the same;
2. Call meetings of the electing bodies after providing public notice at least two weeks before such meetings;
3. Communicate all school council requests for information and assistance to the local school superintendent and inform the school council of responses or actions of the local school superintendent;
4. Develop the school improvement plan and school operation plan and submit the plans to the school council for its review, comments, recommendations, and approval;
5. Provide progress reports regarding the school's student achievement goals; and perform all of the duties required by law and the bylaws of the council.

Article XIII: Board of Education Responsibilities

The local board of education shall provide all information not specifically made confidential by law, including but not limited to, school site budget and expenditure information and class sizes by grade, to the school council as requested or as required by state law or state board rule.

The local board shall designate an employee of the school system to attend school council meetings as requested by a school council for the purpose of responding to questions the school council may have concerning information provided to it by the local board or actions taken by the local board. The central administration shall respond to requests for information from a school council.

The local board of education shall receive and consider all recommendations of the school council, including the annual report, as follows:

1. Public notice shall be given to the community of the local board's intent to consider school council reports or recommendations;
2. Written notice shall be given to the members of the school council at least seven days prior to such local board meeting, along with a notice of intent to consider a school council report or recommendation;
3. The members of the school council shall be afforded an opportunity to present information in support of the school council's report or recommendation; and
4. The local board of education shall respond to each recommendation of the school council within 60 calendar days after being notified in writing of the recommendation.

The local board of education shall provide a training program to assist schools in forming a school council and to assist school council members in the performance of their duties. Such program shall address the organization of school councils; their purpose and responsibilities; applicable laws, rules, regulations and meeting procedures; important state

and local school system program requirements; and a model school council organization plan.

Additional training programs shall be offered to school council members annually.

Article XIV: By-Laws

The school council shall adopt the bylaws as it deems appropriate to conduct the business of the school council. The adoption of bylaws or changes thereto requires two-thirds affirmative votes.

Article XV: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the governing parliamentary authority for school councils in all cases applicable but not inconsistent with these bylaws.