

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

The Board of Education believes that the school district belongs to the people it was created to serve. The Board recognizes that many residents of the district may be especially qualified to take an active part in school affairs because of their training, experience or personal characteristics, and encourages them to take an active part in school affairs. The Board also believes that effective citizen participation cannot always be obtained if citizens participate in decision making only at the district level. To respond fully to the needs and concerns of individuals and community groups, individual schools in the district must work closely with their own school communities. It is the Board's belief that the individual schools should be the basic unit around which community participation should be encouraged.

The Board shall give substantial weight to the advice it receives from individuals and community groups interested in the district's schools, but shall use its own judgment in arriving at decisions. The following are two major avenues by which the will of the community may influence the Board's decisions and/or the development of Board policies, rules and procedures:

1. Board members themselves will remain mindful that they are elected to represent, and are directly accountable to, the patrons of the district.
2. Patrons of the district will be encouraged to express ideas, concerns and judgments about the school programs in the following ways:
  - ▶ Written suggestions or proposals to the Board.
  - ▶ Presentations at hearings.
  - ▶ Responses to surveys made through interviews, written instruments or other means conducted under the auspices of the Board.
  - ▶ Comments at meetings of the Board.
  - ▶ Service on citizens advisory committees.
  - ▶ Appropriate input into the district's proposals and applications for federal and state moneys.

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FILE: KC  
Critical

***Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.***

Adopted: 03/03/1997

Cross Refs: A, School District Mission  
BCE, Board Committees/Advisory Committees to the Board  
BDDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings  
BF, School Board Policy Process

Legal Refs: Education Consolidation and Improvement Act (ECIA) as part of P.L. 97-35, the  
Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981

Columbia School District No. 93, Columbia, Missouri