

Venice Elementary
School Advisory Council
Operational Guidelines
2017-2018

Article I. General

- A. These guidelines are adopted pursuant to Rule 8.200 of the Sarasota County School Board and shall govern the operation of the Venice Elementary School Advisory Council.
- B. The provisions of Florida law and rules of the School Board, now existing or hereafter adopted, governing School Advisory Councils, are incorporated herein by reference.
- C. To the extent that an inconsistency exists now or in the future between these guidelines and any rule or regulation of the School Board or any Florida law concerning School Advisory Councils, such rule, regulation, or law shall control.

Article II. Name

The official name of this body shall be the School Advisory Council of Venice Elementary School.

Article III. Purpose

The purpose of the School Advisory Council is to enhance school site decision making, to serve in an advisory capacity to the principal regarding school improvement, to assist in the preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan, and to provide input on the budget and use of school improvement funds pursuant to Florida Statute 229.58.

Article IV. Membership Responsibilities

The School Advisory Council shall:

- 1. Review the results of any needs assessments conducted at the school.
- 2. Assist in the development of the school improvement plan and provide recommendations on specific components of the plan, such as the goals of the school, indicators of school and student progress, strategies, and evaluation procedures to measure student performance. The school advisory council shall be the final decision-making body at the school relating to school improvement.

3. Assist school to align school goals with state standards and assessments.
4. Participate in decisions regarding the distribution of A+ funds awarded to the school.
5. Monitor students' and the school's progress in attaining goals.
6. Prepare and distribute information to the public to report the status of implementing the school improvement plan, the performance of students and educational programs, and progress in accomplishing the school goals.
7. Make recommendations on the accumulation and reporting of data that is beneficial to parents.
8. Serve as a resource for the principal and advise the principal in matters pertaining to the school program.
9. Provide input on the school's annual budget and the use of school improvement funds to assist in the preparation of the school budget.
10. Make recommendations on the waiver of School Board Policy/Rules, Florida Statutes or State Board of Education Rules, which will allow school personnel to establish innovative educational practices and methods.
11. Act as a liaison between the school and the community.
12. Assist in the preparation of the feedback report to the Commissioner of Education as required by and pursuant to Florida Statutes.
13. Identify other duties and functions of the School Advisory Council.

Article V. Composition

The School Advisory Council shall include the school principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and business and community representatives. The composition shall be as follows:

1. Membership shall be representative of the ethnic, racial and economic community served by the school, including students in the count.
2. A majority of members shall be persons that are not employed at the school, excluding students in the count.
3. Teachers shall be defined as any person on the instructional salary scale.
4. Education support employee shall refer to any person on the classified salary schedule employed by the school for twenty or more hours during a normal working week.

5. The SAC shall consist of no less than 15 and no more than 23 members.
6. The membership shall be comprised, at a minimum, of the following: Principal (1), teachers (5), Assistant Principal (1), support employees (1), ~~students (2)~~, parents (6), business/community members (2).

Article VI. Selection of Members, School Board Approval, Vacancies, Membership Term and Attendance

A. Selection of Members:

1. Teachers, education support employees, students, and parents shall be elected by their respective peer groups in a fair and equitable manner as set forth in these guidelines:
 - a) Teachers shall be elected by teachers by nominations solicited from Grade level, ESE, or Specials team. The purpose for including the entire staff is to keep the feeling of solidarity that exists in the school. Staff nominees shall then be elected by a majority vote of the teachers by team.
 - b) Education support employees shall be elected by education support employees by nominations solicited from the classified staff. The purpose for including classified staff is to keep the feeling of solidarity that exists in the school. Classified nominee shall then be elected by a majority vote of the classified peers.
 - c) Parents shall be elected by parents by being chosen by the VES Parent-Teacher Organization from a ballot of nominated parents when appropriate..
2. Business and community members shall be selected by the School Advisory Council after reviewing a list of nominees prepared by the school principal using the following guidelines:
 - a) The principal shall:
 - 1) Seek candidates from businesses and the community through letters, or personal contacts.
 - 2) Prepare a list of individuals seeking nomination and present the list to the School Advisory Council for selection, when appropriate.
 - b) The School Advisory Council shall:
 - 1) select/elect the business/community member(s) from the list presented by the principal.
 - 2) hold a vote to include the business/community member(s) on the SAC by majority agreement.
3. The school principal is a required member by law.

B. School Board Approval:

1. The principal shall submit the list of School Advisory Council members to the Superintendent or designee for review and submission to the School Board for approval each school fiscal year. The membership list shall include:
 - a) the name of each council member.
 - b) the peer group represented.
 - c) a description of how membership reflects the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the council.
 - d) the number and percent of school-based and non-school-based members.
 - e) a description of how members were selected for each peer group.

2. The principal shall also submit a revised list to the Superintendent for School Board approval when vacancies occur and are filled. A line shall be drawn through the name of the member to be replaced and the name of the new member will be recorded above it. Revisions in other data that result from the member change will also be noted.

C. Vacancies:

The principal shall:

1. Fill School Advisory Council vacancies as they occur throughout the year using the process described above.

2. Submit a revised list to the Superintendent for School Board approval when vacancies occur and are filled. A line shall be drawn through the name of the member to be replaced and the name of the new member will be recorded above it on the list. Revisions in other data that result from the member change will also be noted.

D. Membership Term:

1. Members will serve a **minimum of two years**. New members will begin their term at the first School Advisory Council meeting of the regular school year and exiting members will serve until the final School Advisory Council meeting of the regular school year of their second year as members. SAC will meet on the second Thursday of each month from September through May.

2. A member may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms. For each of these terms the member must be selected following the procedure for member selection. Although current membership is greatly appreciated, new and different members may replace current members when there are requests for SAC membership and new members are approved.

3. Terms will be staggered to ensure a mix of new and experienced members each year.

E. Attendance:

A member may be removed from the School Advisory Council prior to the expiration of his term when he has been absent from **two meetings**. At that time a letter will be sent to the member requesting his attendance at all future meetings or his resignation if attendance is not possible.

Article VII. Officers

A. Officers:

There shall be a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and a Recording Secretary nominated and selected at the first School Advisory Council meeting of the regular school year.

B. Duties:

1. The Chairperson shall preside at all School Advisory Council meetings, schedule meetings, prepare agendas in collaboration with the principal, advertise the agenda to the school community at least 48 hours in advance of each scheduled meeting, and disseminate pertinent information to members.
2. The Vice-Chairperson shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the Chairperson and perform such other duties as requested by the Chairperson or by the School Advisory Council.
3. The Recording Secretary shall keep a proper record of all meetings of the School Advisory Council, including a record of attendance. The Secretary shall maintain and have available to all members at all meetings current copies of the Operational Guidelines, previous minutes, and other pertinent papers. The Secretary shall also keep an accurate list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all members, indicating the status of such members (i.e. teacher, parent, etc.) and the expiration date of each member's current term. The Recording Secretary shall notify all members of School Advisory Council meetings.

C. Term of Office

1. Each officer shall serve a term of one year with no officer serving in the same position consecutively for more than three years.
2. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled at the first meeting after the vacancy occurs using the voting procedure described in these guidelines.

Article VIII. Membership Voting

Each School Advisory Council member shall have one vote. A member must cast his or her vote in person. No vote by proxy or by alternates is permitted; however, an absent member may send a non-participating representative to observe a meeting for the purpose of delivering a report to the absent member's constituency group. A simple majority vote of the membership is required for approval.

Article IX. Meetings

The School Advisory Council will adhere to the following guidelines for meetings:

1. Meeting dates, times, and locations will be mutually agreed upon by members.
2. Meetings will be scheduled at times which will support maximum attendance by members of the school community.
3. Meeting agendas will be sent out via e-mail at least 24 hours in advance of meeting.
4. All meetings will be open and public.
5. Each meeting shall require the presence of a quorum. A quorum shall consist of at least one-half of the membership.
6. Minutes from all regularly scheduled meetings will be recorded and maintained in the office of the principal.
7. The School Advisory Council shall be in compliance with Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine Law and Public Records Law.

Article X. Committees

Committees will be formed and guided by the Operational Guidelines of the School Advisory Council. All committees will function as advisory committees unless decision making is delegated to them by the School Advisory Council and principal.

1. Standing Committee(s)

Operational Guidelines Committee: This committee shall be responsible for drafting revisions to the Operational Guidelines when necessary and for presenting the revisions to School Advisory Council for approval.

2. Special Committees

The School Advisory Council may create other committees to address specific needs. The existence of such committees shall terminate upon completion of the specified task.

Article XI. Amendments

The Operational Guidelines shall be reviewed annually and revised as deemed necessary. Changes must be approved by the School Advisory Council.

Approved by the Venice Elementary School Advisory Council this _____

Chairperson
School Advisory Council

Principal