

Bylaws of the School Advisory Council

Sarasota High School

Prepared by: Principal and School Advisory Council

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Article I

Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be *The School Advisory Council of Sarasota High School*.^{1[1]}

Article II

Purpose and Function

Section 1: The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a resource for the school, its teachers, parents and principal. Its function is to develop and oversee the implementation of a School Improvement Plan (SIP) that will serve as a framework for school improvement.

Section 2: The primary function of the SAC is to provide all the stakeholders an opportunity to be active participants in the assessment of needs, development of priorities, and identification and use of resources based on an analysis of multiple sources of available school data.

Specific functions include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Develop and review the implementation of the School Improvement Plan.
2. Enlist, promote, and support greater interaction between school and community.
3. Provide input in matters concerning disbursement of school improvement funds and other monies related to school improvement, and to ensure that such expenditures are consistent with the School Improvement Plan.
4. Consult with people or departments needed to support the School Improvement Plan.

Article III

Representation and Membership

In accordance with Florida Statute 1001.452, which outlines the establishment of SACs:
^{2[4]}

Section 1: The membership shall be representative of the student body and community served by the school. The SAC shall have an appropriately balanced number of teachers, parents, support employees, students, business and community members.

^{1[1]} "Each school advisory council shall include in its name the words 'school advisory council.'" Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(a).

^{2[4]} Guidelines for election processes are included in Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(a)

The SAC shall consist of no fewer than 16 members and no more than 25 members.

The membership shall be comprised, at a minimum, of the following: teachers (4), support employees (1), students (4), parents (4), business/community members (3).

Section 2: The majority (50% + 1) of the members of the SAC shall be non-school employees.

Section 3: The SAC membership shall be *appropriately* balanced referring to the racial, ethnic, and socio-economic representation of the SAC in comparison to the community that the school serves.

Article IV

Membership Selection

Section 1: The SAC membership shall be constituted as follows:

1. Parents, teachers, students and support employees will be elected by their respective groups through an election.
 - i. Teachers shall be elected by teachers;
 - ii. Education support employees shall be elected by education support employees;
 - iii. Students, when appropriate, shall be elected by students; and
 - iv. Parents of currently enrolled student(s) at Sarasota High School shall be elected by parents of currently enrolled student(s) at Sarasota High School.
2. There will be wide notice of SAC vacancies and elections through methods to include school marquee, school newsletter, PTO meetings, announcements at Open House, etc. The names of parents willing to serve on the SAC will be listed on a ballot which will be distributed to all parents of current Sarasota High School students who will vote on the nominees.
3. Business and community members will be appointed by the principal to achieve an appropriate balance of membership.
4. Replacement members shall be elected by appropriate constituencies.
5. The principal is automatically a member by legal mandate.

Section 2: Elections shall be held in September of each year and the installation of new members shall follow immediately.^{3[6]}

^{3[6]} Although each school needs to determine the best time of year for elections, it is recommended that elections be conducted in time for new members to be in place for the new school year.

Section 3: Each parent of current Sarasota High School students will be notified of SAC elections in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 286.011, "Public meetings and records; public inspection."

Article V

Tenure

Section 1: The term of office shall be two years staggered, if possible, to provide continuity from year-to-year.

Section 2: ^{4[7]} SAC members, other than those designated to complete unexpired terms, shall be elected to 2-year terms at a minimum.

Section 3: Council members shall serve no more than the specified terms in an elected position.

- i. Teachers may serve unlimited terms while they are employed at Sarasota High School.
- ii. Education support employees may serve unlimited terms while they are employed at Sarasota High School.
- iii. Students may serve no more than 2 terms while they are enrolled at Sarasota High School.
- iv. Parent members shall serve no more than 3 terms in an elected position as long as they continue to have a child enrolled at Sarasota High School.
- v. Community members shall serve unlimited terms with principal approval.

Section 4: No member may miss more than two (2) unexcused consecutive SAC meetings. As required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)4, in the event of two unexcused consecutive absences from a properly noticed SAC meeting, the person's membership will cease and the SAC Chairperson shall arrange for the replacement of the member by election as specified in Membership Selection, **Article IV, Section 1**. Such individuals will fill the remainder of the term to which they were elected.

Meetings

All SAC meetings shall be held in accordance with Florida Statutes § 286.011 - "Public meetings and records; public inspection." At a minimum, the Sunshine Law requires reasonable public notice (seven days' notice is generally recommended); openness of SAC meetings to the general public, in a location accessible to the public; and taking minutes of the meeting, which must be made available for public inspection following the meeting. This public notice is in addition to the minimum three (3) days' advance written notice required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)2 to all SAC members regarding any matter scheduled to come before the SAC for a vote.

^{4[7]} It is recommended that a SAC establish terms of membership that allow for continuity and historical perspective of school improvement planning and implementation.

Section 1: There shall be a council meeting 5-6 times per year, typically once per month in September, October, November, February, March, and April.^{5[8]}

Section 2: SAC meetings shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.^{6[9]} As required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)3, SAC meetings must be scheduled when parents, teachers, businesspersons, and members of the community can attend.

Section 3: The SAC chairperson, on occasion, may call a special meeting, with reasonable public notice.

Section 4: Subcommittees will meet as needed. (See **Article VII**)

Officers

Section 1: The officers of this Council shall be a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary. In the event of a vacancy in a Council office during an existing term, the vacancy will be filled by SAC member election.^{7[10]}

Section 2: The Council shall elect its own officers for the next term at the final SAC meeting of the school year. Officers shall serve a maximum of two terms.

Article VI

Duties of Officers^{8[11]}

Section 1: *Chairperson* - The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall be a de facto member of all committees.^{9[12]}

Section 2: *Vice-Chairperson* - The vice-chairperson shall act as an aide to the chairperson and preside in the absence of the chairperson. In the case of a vacancy in the office of chairperson, the vice-chairperson shall become the chairperson for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 3: *Secretary* - The secretary shall keep minutes [available to the public per Fla. Stat. § 286.011] of the meetings and shall be responsible for such correspondence as is delegated to him/her by the chairperson. The secretary shall also document activities, decisions, and attendance of the Council and its committees for accountability. The School Board will maintain a record of minutes of all SAC meetings, as required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)5.

^{5[8]} These are examples only – each SAC should determine the meeting schedules that best meet their needs and objectives – a minimum of 4 per year.

^{6[9]} See Footnote 8

^{7[10]} Although the terms of office are optional based upon the needs of the school, the intent of this language is recommended for inclusion in the bylaws.

^{8[11]} These are recommended positions and duties – additional and/or different offices and duties may need to be included to better serve your SAC's vision and objectives.

^{9[12]} Required by implication in Fla. Stat. § 1001.452.

Duties of Members

Section 5: *Principal*^{10[13]} - The principal shall provide information regarding the school educational plan, including the school budget. The role of the principal includes the development, through positive actions, of feelings of trust and mutual regard among the SAC, the community, and the staff. The principal arranges for presentations of interest to the SAC and encourages leadership from within the Council.

Section 6:^{11[14]} *Faculty and School Staff Representatives* - The members of the school staff shall represent the views and interests of the total school staff. They will act as resources for the SAC by making available specialized information about educational programs, innovative ideas, and available resources. School staff representatives serve as a communication link between the SAC and the school staff, informing others of actions and activities of the Council.

Section 7: *Parents, Business, and Community Representatives*^{12[15]} - The parent, business, and community members of the SAC shall represent the view of the parents, citizens, and business and community organizations of the school community. They shall act as resource persons for the SAC in the areas of community-related issues that affect the school and its students. They shall serve as a communications link between the SAC, business, community, and parent groups.

Section 8: *Student Representatives*^{13[16]} - The student representatives of the SAC shall serve as voting representatives of all students. They relay suggestions and recommendations from members of the student body and the Student Council to the SAC for consideration. [See Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(a) and Policy 2.09(2)(a)(i), (ii)].

Article VII

Voting Body

The SAC is the formal council that is responsible for voting upon and implementing the decisions for the organization. The SAC will be comprised of an elected membership and will require a quorum if any formal action is to be taken, as required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)1. A quorum is a majority (50% + 1) of the SAC membership. As required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(d)2, all SAC members will receive at least three (3) days' notice in writing of any matter that is scheduled to come before the SAC for a vote.

^{10[13]} Required by implication in Fla. Stat. § 1001.452.

^{11[14]} Required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(a) – Please note that, "A majority of the members of each school advisory council must be persons who are not employed by the school."

^{12[15]} Required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(a) – Please note that Vocational-Technical Centers and Adult Education Centers are NOT required to have parent participation on their SACs. Business and community participation, however, is required for ALL SAC's.

^{13[16]} Required by Fla. Stat. § 1001.452(1)(a) – Please note that Vocational-Technical Centers and High Schools MUST include student representatives on their SAC. Per Policy 2.09(2)(a)(i), Middle and Junior High Schools also MUST include student representatives.

Committees- Committees are formed to research and make recommendations regarding specific areas that affect the organization. Committees may be constituted in several configurations.

Article VIII

Rules of Order^{14[18]}

Section 1: SAC decisions shall be reached by majority vote.

Section 2: The SAC need not operate under Parliamentary Procedures such as Robert's Rules of Order. However, rules that will be used to govern decision-making must be specified.

SAC voting and procedures at SHS shall follow Roberts Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure.

Additional Financial Controls

Section 1: After the SAC has voted to approve an expenditure of school improvement funds by an entity or person, that person/entity has a period of time not to exceed (decide the time limit of at least a few months) to use those funds and seek payment from the SAC. If the SAC (or school bookkeeper) has not been notified that the funds were expended by that deadline, following a reminder notice to the requestor, the funds will be considered as having reverted back to the general SAC funds as available for reallocation, absent extenuating circumstances as determined by vote of the SAC.

Article IX

Amendments

Section 1: The bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the SAC committee by a two-thirds majority (recommended by Robert's Rules of Order) of the members present and voting. Written notice to the members of the proposed amendment shall be at least three (3) days prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon. A quorum is required at any meeting for action to be taken. All SAC meetings shall be held in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 286.011 – “Public meetings and records; public inspection.”

Section 2: The SAC shall review annually, and when appropriate, recommend revisions of the SAC Bylaws. The adoption of revised bylaws shall follow the procedure for amendments. SAC Bylaws

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: §§ 1001.41(2), 1001.42(17), (22), Fla. Stat.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED: §§ 24.121(5)(c); 1000.03(5); 1008.345(6);
 1008.36(4), (5); 1008.385(1); 1001.42(17)(b); 1001.42(16);
 1001.452, Fla. Stat.

^{14[18]} This section is included as an example. Although it is recommended to have rules of order in the SAC bylaws, the rules of order used needs to be determined based on individual SAC needs.

