

School Advisory Council Inservice

2016-2017

Leadership of our schools

The diocesan Bishop has the right to watch over and inspect the Catholic schools situated in his territory, He has the right to issue directives concerning the general regulation of Catholic schools; ..., although they retain their autonomy in the internal management of their schools (Canon Law Society, 1983, canon 806).

The parish priest is the proper pastor of the parish entrusted to him. He exercises the pastoral care of the community entrusted to him under the authority of the diocesan Bishop, whose ministry of Christ he is called to share, so that for this community he may carry out the offices of teaching, sanctifying and ruling with the cooperation of other priests or deacons and with the assistance of **lay members** of Christ's faithful, in accordance with law (Canon Law Society, 1983, canon 519).

What's the Difference?

Public School Board vs Catholic Sch Advisory Coun

Makes regulations
Majority vote
Has final word

Offers advice to administration
Consensus
Pastor has final word



What does the Advisory Council do?

The Advisory Council is charged with advising the principal and pastor in such areas as school planning and policy.

NOT the Advisory Council's Duties:

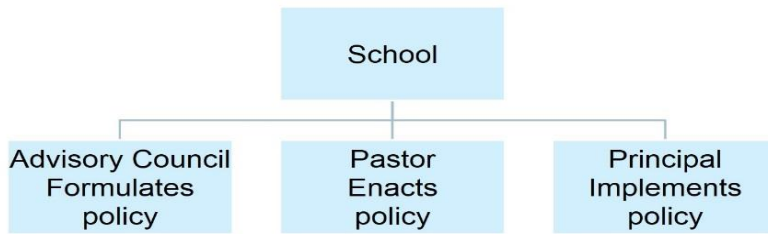
- Regulation* and Administration
- Issues dealing with individual students
- Issues dealing with individual staff members

Beware of Defamation of Character: "An unprivileged communication that harms the reputation of another."

*Regulation vs Policy making:

POLICY: A general guide for discretionary action
REGULATION: A specific rule which mandates certain procedures or behaviors.

Policy-Making Structure



Distinguishing Characteristics of an Effective Advisory Council

1. They have members that include business people and alumni.
 2. They take ownership of issues under their jurisdiction.
 3. They are involved with issues pertaining to budget, policy, mission, philosophy, and planning.
 4. They have goals, review or update them annually and use them as a basis of self-evaluation.
 5. They have actively working committees: finance, nominating, policy, marketing, development, facility, and executive committees.
 6. They have contact and communication with their constituencies.
 7. They assess their progress periodically.
 8. They have effective meetings.
 9. They are dedicated and committed to the school's mission.
 10. They train their new members and provide annual in-service for all members.
 11. Their main achievements are in the areas of development/fundraising, budget/financial stability, long-range planning, marketing/public relations/recruitment, and plant upgrade.
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Communication is Key:

Inform and dialogue with school parents
Inform and dialogue with parishioners
Inform and dialogue with the diocesan community
Prepare surveys and reports
Be aware of the "grapevine"
Respond to requests from the principal and the pastor for advice and/or help
Provide members for committees.

Most difficult things for Advisory council members to learn:

1. Determining your function on the Advisory Council and how to be effective.
2. No matter what you think you know about Advisory Council service, you still have something to learn.
3. Learning to acknowledge publicly that you have no power as an individual member.
4. Recognizing the difference between formulating policy (the Advisory Council's job) and administering the policy (the principal's job).
5. That you must represent all the parents/students.
6. Learning how to respond to complaints and concerns.
7. Keeping meetings efficient.

Code of Ethics for Advisory Council Members

As a member of a Catholic School Advisory Council, I acknowledge:

- that schools are a significant expression of the teaching mission of the Catholic Church and function within its structure;
- will become more knowledgeable about the mission of Catholic education, as expressed in this school, and sincerely promote it to the various publics with whom I have influence;
- recognize the need for continuing education about my responsibilities and know that I do not represent the advisory council officially unless explicitly authorized to do so;
- will be fully and carefully prepared for each meeting by doing the required readings and completing necessary tasks for committee work and reports;
- support the principal in authorized functions and avoid intruding in administrative details unless requested to do so;
- will be loyal to advisory board decisions even though personally opposed to the final recommendations and decisions;
- will be alert to alternate solutions to problems by keeping an open mind;
- will disqualify myself from discussion and vote on an issue where there is a conflict of interest with my family or business interests or if the outcome will grant me any pecuniary or material benefits;
- and pray often for other members of the advisory board, this Catholic school, and the community it serves.



Your dedication to our students means a lot to us!

We are so grateful for your dedication to the excellent education of students.

You can get further involved:

Be an Advocate: State laws that govern public schools often impact our students as well. Even if it's affecting a public high school, for instance, remember that is where most of our diocesan students will be in a few years.

A few letters or phone calls can have tremendous impact. To receive occasional emails: Join the Catholic Advocacy Network at www.mncc.org. Click on "Take Action."

Join the Diocesan School Advisory Council The Diocesan School Advisory Board is an advisory body to the Superintendent of Schools and the Bishop in matters designated by the Council's constitution and bylaws. Meetings will also be training or discussions in matters of interest to your school. Send your email address to Tina Stanger: tstanger@crookston.org.

Effective Meetings

Effective boards engage in big picture discussions and strategic thinking. They avoid lengthy discussions about operational issues and know when to refer topics to the appropriate committee.

Why We Do What We Do

The [Declaration on Christian Education](#) reminds us that the goal of Catholic education is the full and complete development of the human person which includes the natural and supernatural realities of his or her existence.

This goal of education is seen visibly and experienced directly in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God. The integration of the divine and human is a pattern for the life of each Christian person.

Prayer for School Advisory Councils

God, the source of every good gift
You have called us together as servants to do your will
Grant us the light of your Spirit
To guide us in our responsibilities as a School Council.

May we work together in harmony for the common good
May we listen to one another in a spirit of genuine respect
May we encourage and reverence one another's unique talents
May we use the gifts of the Spirit in creative Christian leadership
May we approach our decision making through discernment and prayer
May we respond effectively to the needs of the children in our care.

God of Love
You give us the gifts of the Holy Spirit
For the common good
May your blessings radiate from us to others
In a new spirit of service
We ask this through Jesus Christ
The Light of the World

Amen

Thank you, once again, for your dedication!