

Parmenter School Council

March 10, 2023

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Agenda

1. Review School Improvement Plan
2. Review Parmenter Highlights Presentation for 3.15.23 School Committee Meeting
3. Plan Development: School Council initiatives for next school year - current focus on Passion Projects with an increased level of parent/guardian involvement
 - Other ideas/needs/priorities?
4. Next Meetings
 - May
 - June (if needed)

School Council – Statement of Purpose

The School Council serves as the representatives of our larger school community. Through its recommendations, the School Council seeks to enrich and enhance opportunities for teaching and learning that result optimal achievement for all students. The School Council strives to improve the supports available to teachers, students and their families to better meet the needs of all students.

Responsibilities of the School Council

As outlined in the Education Reform Act of 1993, the School Council is comprised of representatives from the parent body, the school staff, and the community at large. Elections are held to insure that all parents and staff have a full opportunity for representation.

The law outlines four major areas of responsibility for councils. School councils are to assist principals in:

1. Adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
2. Identifying the educational needs of students attending the school
3. Reviewing the annual school building budget
4. Formulating/reviewing the school improvement plan

The School Council's Role in the School Budget

The law specifies that the school council "shall assist [the principal] in the review of the annual school budget." This language refers to the school building budget, not to the district budget. "Review" means that the council and the principal read through documents that describe the budget in order to understand the implications for items in the school improvement plan that will be developed by the council. In many communities, the school budget is prepared by mid-year in order to allow for negotiation with other municipal agencies, i.e., finance committee, city council, town meeting. A council's review of the budget, therefore, enables it to predict better which improvement projects that require funding could be implemented in the next school year under a budget that was constructed in the previous fall. Also, in school districts that encourage building-based budget planning, a school's improvement plan objectives developed in any given year can guide the development of the school's budget in the next year. In these cases, the council's review of the budget helps in the implementation of the previous year's school improvement plan.