

Coosa Elementary School School Improvement Council By-Laws

Article 1

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization will be the Coosa Elementary School Improvement Council.

Article 2

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Coosa Elementary School Improvement Council will be to:

- 1) Assist in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the five-year School Improvement Plan (also known as the School Renewal Plan or Strategic Plan);
- 2) Assist in the preparation of yearly plan updates;
- 3) Write the school's annual Report to Parents, which provides information on the school's progress in meeting school and district goals and objectives, due for distribution by April 30th of each year;
- 4) Prepare the annual narrative for the annual S.C. School Report Card, in conjunction with the principal;
- 5) Provide advice on the use of school incentive award expenditures (if allocated by the State Legislature and awarded to the school);
- 6) Participate in the revision of the School Improvement Plan if the school is rated as "At Risk" on the S.C. School Report Card;
- 7) Serve as liaison between the school, school organizations, the community, and the local school board by collecting and disseminating pertinent information; and
- 8) Provide other assistance that the principal may request as well as carrying out any other duties prescribed by the local school board.

The council will not have the powers and duties reserved by law or regulation for the local school board.

Article 3

REPRESENTATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- 1) A minimum of two will be elected by the parents.
- 2) A minimum of two teachers will be elected by the teachers.
- 3) A minimum of two members from the greater school community will be appointed by the principal. The appointments will be made from the nonparent portion of the community with attention to the representation on the council in

terms of race, sex, geography, grade level representation, or other variables important to the school.

- 4) A ratio of two-thirds elected members to one-third appointed members will be maintained (i.e. twice as many elected members as appointed members) as mandated by state law, excluding ex-officio membership.
- 5) All members will have one vote. Absentee ballots or proxy voting will not be permitted.

Article 4

ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES

Elections will be held by October 15th each school year – the council reserves the right to hold elections at the close of the current school year or wait until the beginning of the new school year.

Information about the upcoming election of parent representatives will be placed in the school newsletter, posted to the school's website and shared by other means of communication as needed.

A ballot will be available to all parents/guardians of every student, during the election period. No write-in votes will be allowed. Votes will be tallied by three individuals (not administrators) appointed by the Principal. Upon completion of tallying, the name of the winners will be given to the Principal. Winners will be announced.

Teacher representatives to the council will be elected by the faculty prior to the first SIC meeting of the school year.

The names and addresses of all council members will be forwarded to the school district's SIC contact within 30 days following the elections and membership data will be entered by the school into the SC-SIC Member Network online data base by November 15th of each year as required by state law.

The names and contact information of all council members will be published in the school newsletter and posted to the school website as soon as possible after the election. The names and contact information of appointed members will be published in the newsletter and posted to the school website as soon as possible after the appointments are made.

Article 5

TENURE

All elected members of the council will serve two-year terms. These terms are to be staggered in compliance with state law. Ex-officio members will serve by virtue of the office they hold as set forth in Article 3, Section 5, or these by-laws, and will serve on the council for as long as they hold that office.

No limit will be set on the number of terms a member may serve.

The council may establish committees made up of teachers, parents, business and community leaders, and other citizens to study specific issues and make recommendations to the council. These committees will not be permanent and will have no responsibilities beyond those outlined by the council when established.

Membership on the council will terminate when a member:

- 1) No longer has a child enrolled in the school;
- 2) No longer holds a teaching position at the school;
- 3) Has missed two consecutive scheduled meetings without proper notice to the chairperson;
- 4) Submits a letter of resignation to the chairperson; or is elected to the district school board.

In the event of any of the above situations, the chairperson will appoint, in the case of an elected member, the person with the next highest number of votes in the most recent election. In the case of an appointed member, the principal will select a replacement. In both situations, the replacement will finish the term of the person being replaced.

Article 6

OFFICERS

The officers of the Coosa Elementary School Improvement Council will consist of a chairperson, vice chairperson and secretary. Officers will be elected annually by the full council membership. Ex-officio members are not eligible to be officers of the council nor to vote for the SIC officers.

The term of office for elected SIC members is (2) years. For appointed SIC members, the term of office is one (1) year. Terms will be staggered so that the terms of office of half of all SIC elected and appointed positions expire at the end of each year.

Article 7

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The chairperson will preside at all meetings and have general supervision of the activities of the council. The chairperson will work with the principal in planning and directing the activities of the council including monitoring committee progress.

The chairperson, in consultation with the principal, will prepare an agenda for all council meetings and ensure that the agenda will be sent to all council members prior to the meeting. The chairperson retains the right to modify the agenda if it is determined to be in the best interest of the council and direct the pace of the meeting as best accomplishes the agenda. The chairperson will appoint temporary or standing committees as needed and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

The vice chairperson will exercise all functions in the absence of the chairperson and assist the chairperson as needed. The vice-chairperson will serve as chair of one of the standing committees, selected in collaboration with the chairperson.

The secretary is responsible for:

- 1) Keeping a full and accurate account of the proceedings and actions of all council meetings (minutes) and ensuring that each council member receives this information in a timely fashion following each meeting;
- 2) Preparing any official correspondence that the chairperson may request;
- 3) Assisting in maintaining a council file in the school's administrative offices containing copies of all minutes, council correspondence, the annual school improvement report, the Report to the Parents, and the current council-bylaws;
- 4) Maintaining a listing of council membership with current telephone numbers, addresses, and (if available) email addresses.

Article 8

MEETINGS

The meeting calendar for the academic year will be determined annually at the initial meeting of the newly elected council. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson or the principal as long as all council members are notified of the meeting at least 24 hours in advance. Committee meetings will be called as needed with at least one week's notice.

The first council meeting of the academic year will be held no later than September 30th.

All council meetings are open to the public and anyone showing an interest in the council and its activities will be encouraged to attend. Persons interested in presenting at a council meeting may request to be put on the agenda no later than seven days before the meeting date. The chairperson will time the agenda to ensure that council business is properly conducted and that persons scheduled to speak will have the opportunity to do so. The chairperson has the option to schedule a segment of the agenda for open comments from the public as needed and as time permits.

At meetings, the principal or designee will be scheduled on the agenda to share information on school activities, successes, and concerns. Committees will provide reports as scheduled.

Article 9

VOTING

Whenever possible, council decisions should be made by consensus. If voting becomes necessary, a simple majority will be sufficient for a vote on any issue. A simple majority of the council membership will constitute a quorum if at least one parent and one teacher representative are present.

Article 10

TRAINING

An orientation session will be held annually for all council members that includes information about council roles, responsibilities and functions, as well as information on school and local district policies and procedures. Council members will be encouraged to attend school improvement council training workshops sponsored by the district office and/or the South Carolina School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) of the University of South Carolina's College of Education.

Article 11

AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the council by a two-thirds vote of those present provided that the specific amendments have been introduced at a prior meeting, included in the minutes of that meeting, and are listed on the agenda for the current meeting.

Date Revised: October 13, 2022

Date Approved: October 13, 2022

