Dent Middle School

School Improvement Council Bylaws

Article 1

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization will be the Dent Middle School-School Improvement Council.

Article 2

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Dent Middle School-School Improvement Council will be to:

(1) Assist in the development, implantation and evaluation of the five-year school improvement plan (also known as the school renewal or strategic plan);
(2) Assist in the preparation of the yearly plan updates;
(3) Write the 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;
(4) Prepare the annual 425-word narrative for the School Report Card, in conjunction with the principal:
(5) Participate in the revision of the School Improvement Plan if the school is rated unsatisfactory on the School Report Card;
(6) Serve as the liaison between the school, school organizations, the community and the local school board by collecting and disseminating pertinent information;
(7) 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 to the local school board.

Article 3

REPRESENTATION AND MEMBERSHIP

(1) Three parents will be elected by the parents.
(2) Three teachers will be elected by the teachers.

(3) Three representatives from the greater school community will be appointed by the principal. The appointments will be made from the non-parent portion of the community with attention to the representation on the council in terms of race, sex, geography, grade level representation, or other variable important to the school.
(4) A ratio of two-thirds elected members to one-third appointed members will be maintained as mandated by state law, excluding ex-officio membership.
(5) If there are no nominations the principal can appoint members
(6) The principal will serve as an ex-officio member of the council. At least three additional ex-officio members will serve on the council including, but not limited to the following positions: the president of the Parent Teacher Organization, the immediate past chairperson of the School Improvement Council, the Teacher of the Year, and a business partner. If the leadership of any of the named organizations or positions is unable to serve, an appropriate representative will be named by the organization sending the representative.
(7) 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 no later than September 1st of each year, and council members will assume their responsibilities immediately. The principal will make appointments to the council in consultation with the elected members by September 30 for the current school year and/or as needed to maintain balance of elected to appointed members.

Information about the upcoming election of parent representatives will be posted on the Principal's Update and other means of communication as needed. Nominees will be asked to attend the Parent Teacher Organization meeting in September where they will be introduced as candidates.

(8) A **google form** will be available to all parents/guardians of every student at the spring Parent Teacher Organization meeting.

Teacher representatives to the council will be elected by the faculty during a regularly scheduled faculty meeting prior to the end of the school year.

The names and address of all council members will be forwarded to the school's district's SIC contact within 30 days following the elections.

The names and contact information of all council members will be published on the Dent blog and the SIC website as soon as possible after the election. The names and contact information of appointed members will be published as soon as the appointments are made.

Article 5

TENURE

All elected and appointed members of the council will serve **a maximum of** 2 year terms. The terms are to be staggered. Ex officio members will serve by virtue of the office they hold which is designated to be on the council.

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

The council may establish committees made up of teacher, parents, business leader 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 three consecutive scheduled meetings without proper notice to the chairperson
(4) Is elected on 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 Dent Middle School-School Improvement Council will consist of a chairperson, Vice chairperson, and secretary. The officers will be elected annually by the full council membership in the first council meeting of each academic year. At no time will these positions be held exclusively by teachers or exclusively by parents. Ex-officio members are not eligible to be officers of the council or to vote for SIC officers.

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 at least one week 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 the 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 full and accurate account of the proceedings and actions of all council meetings (minutes) and ensuring that each council member receives the 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 the minutes, council correspondence, annual school improvement reports, the report to the parents, and the current council by-laws
(4) Maintaining a listing of council membership with current phone numbers, addresses and email address.

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 school 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 7 days before the meeting date. The chairperson will time the agenda to ensure that the 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. More than one training offering should be available per district. Council members will be encouraged to attend school improvement council training and workshops sponsored by the district office and 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 the meeting, and are listed on the agenda for the current meeting.