

Lakeridge Junior High School
School Community Council
By-Laws

1. Establishment of The School Community Council:

In March 2000, the Utah Legislature passed a new law requiring every public school in Utah to establish a School Community Council at the school building level (see Utah Code Section 53A-1a-108). School Community Councils play a key role in the strategic planning process now required by the Legislature for public education.

2. Purpose of The School Community Councils as defined in the law is “to improve student achievement by developing a plan” to include:

- a) The school’s identified most critical academic needs;
- b) a recommended course of action to meet the identified academic needs;
- c) a specific listing of any programs, practices, materials, or equipment that the school will need to implement its action plan to have a direct impact on the instruction of students and result in measurable increased student performance;
- d) how the school intends to enhance or improve academic excellence at the school;
- e) the administration of the Trustlands program;
- f) the preparation of a staff development plan.
- g) Each area of focus identified in the accreditation School Wide Action Plan

3. Powers and responsibilities prescribed to the Lakeridge School Community Council:

The powers and functions of the Council are defined by the law. The Council has full authority to fulfill its responsibilities as defined in the Utah Code Section 53A-1a-108.

The school may develop a multiyear plan, but the plan must be presented and approved annually by the local school board of the district in which the school is located.

The law says that the school shall:

- a) implement the plan as developed by the council and approved by the local board;
- b) provide ongoing support for the Council’s plan;
- c) publicize to its patrons and the general public its plan to enhance and improve academic excellence at the school, including the results of those efforts;
- d) through its Council, prepare and present an annual report to its local school board at the end of each year;
- e) meet school board reporting requirements regarding performance and accountability.
- f) Develop a Safe Access Routing Plan

4. Mission and Importance of School Community Councils and of The Lakeridge School Community Council.:

Public schools belong to the community. Local parents should have a strong say in their neighborhood schools. Schools cannot succeed without help and support from parents who care about their school.

The Council gives parents a new voice at the grassroots level. The Council can help the school be more responsive to local needs. The Council can help the school be answerable to local parents. By developing sound, community-supported plans for school improvement, the Council can play a major role in increasing the academic achievement of neighborhood students.

Each Council may create its own mission statement. The mission as defined by the Lakeridge School Community Council is to ensure high levels of learning for ALL students.

5. The Lakeridge School Community Council Membership and Election Process:

The Lakeridge School Community Council will consist of ten parents and seven school employees.

- a) Automatic parent membership will be extended to the PTSA President and the PTSA President Elect. A vote to support participation will be taken during the PTA back-to-school meeting at the beginning of the school year.
- b) Eight other parent positions will be elected positions. The eight positions will be elected by Lakeridge parents through a nomination and voting process, as provided in Utah Legislation. (See Utah Code Section 53a-1a-108.)
- c) In the event a parent vacancy occurs, the council will appoint a replacement as deemed necessary.
- d) Faculty, Staff, and Administration membership on the School Community Council will consist of four teachers, one counselor, one classified employee, and the school principal, for a total of seven.

One teacher will be selected as a student advocate. One teacher comes from the elective area. One teacher will come from the core academic areas. One teacher will be elected at large. One counselor will be elected. One classified employee will be elected. The faculty will elect the four faculty members and counselor position by popular vote. The classified employee will be selected by the classified employees by popular vote. The principal has automatic membership.

Elections will be held each year at Back to School Night. All terms are for two years. Half of the Council members will be elected on even years and the other half will be elected on odd years.

6. Organization of The School Community Council Committee:

The Council will be divided into three action committees: School Improvement Committee, Trustlands Committee, Professional Development Committee, and Public Relations/Outreach Committee. Each one of the committees will be chaired by a parent council member. Each committee will have specific responsibilities, but any decision will be made by the vote of the entire Community Council.

7. Procedures of the The Lakeridge School Community Council:

All formal decisions made by the School Community Council will follow Parliamentary procedure, i.e., a motion on an agenda item, a second on the motion, a call for discussion or clarification, a call for a vote, a restatement of the motion that has passed or failed to pass. Motions may be called for, and then passed by a simple majority, provided that there is at least one more parent than school employees present at the time of the vote. **No decisions can be made without a simple majority of the School Community Council being present.**

8. Budget authority and responsibilities of the The Lakeridge School Community Council:

The Council is given stewardship over the Utah State Trustlands money that is allocated for Lakeridge. This amount varies from year-to-year. Depending on the allotment from the state and the health of the market, this varies from year to year. Current projections will be between \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year.

The Council is required by law to use the money for the Critical Academic Needs of the school. All requests for use of this money will be evaluated against that requirement. The Council must also be able to show some measurable impact for the expenditure of those monies.

The Council will have the discretion to raise additional monies to meet identified school needs.

9. Amendments to the Lakeridge School Community Council By-Laws:

The procedural and operational guidelines of the School Community Council may be amended by the majority vote of the School Community Council recommending those changes. All changes should be included as new by-laws of the Lakeridge School Community Council.

10. Meeting Schedule of the Lakeridge School Community Council:

Meetings will be held the monthly at times determined by the council at the beginning of the school year. Each meeting will last two hours. The Chair may call additional meetings as deemed necessary and approved by the vote of the Council.

Meetings of the three action committees will be scheduled by the committee chair of each committee.

BY LAWS UPDATE – January 11, 2006

Tim Stay proposed that the Hispanic PTSA nominate one parent to be a voting member of the Community Council each year. Seconded by Rachel Gonzalez. Approved unanimously. Alfredo Lacayo was nominated by the Hispanic PTSA and will be the Community Council member representing the Hispanic PTSA.

Proposal: Tim Stay made a motion for Alfredo Lacayo to be an immediate member of the Community Council. Seconded by Sara Hacken. Approved unanimously. The By-Laws will be updated to reflect this change.

BY LAWS UPDATE – May 8, 2007

The Trustland Committee made the following proposal:

We propose that the Community Council Trustlands Committee create a policy to accommodate spending overages in the Trustlands accounts. If a proposal is approved and funded by the Community Council, but the amount actually spent significantly exceeds the approved funding, we will ask the Community Council for permission to cover the difference in the event that all the Trustlands monies are already encumbered, the remainder of the overage to be paid for by the school. Motion for approval by Sterling Hilton. Seconded by Cheryl Radmall. All in favor.

BY LAWS UPDATED November 13, 2013

Lynn Eyestone proposed that the Latino PTSA Representative now be appointed by the parent members of the Community Council and will be a Diversity Parent Representative. Based on an administrative and faculty recommendation, and/or parent self-selection, the parent council members will vote to appoint the proposed diversity parent. The appointed representative will be a voting member for a two year term. This will take place at the first Community Council Meeting of the school year.