



215 SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

I. PURPOSE

The School Board recognizes the value of public engagement and participation to support student achievement and school effectiveness. The Board is committed to having clearly defined goals for the public to understand how and to what extent the public participation is needed.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The School Board recognizes that a climate of mutual understanding and cooperation among staff, students, parent, and community is essential and that these goals are achieved by clearly articulated definitions.

The School Board believes it is the responsibility of each School Board member, as well as each employee of the District, to actively encourage two-way communication that promotes effective school/home/community relationships.

The School Board recognizes that citizens and staff members have a right to be well informed about the District and its schools. School Board members and administrators have an obligation to clearly define the public's participation in decisions. The School Board may solicit public participation by **informing, consulting, involving, collaborating or empowering*** the public.

III. BOARD COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The School Board through the Superintendent or designee will engage public participation through **information** by providing the public with balanced and objective information to assist in understanding the problems, alternative and/or solution. The School Board will keep the public informed in a variety of means such as printed materials, website, digital media, and electronic communication.

The School Board through the Superintendent or designee will engage public participation through **consultation** by obtaining public feedback on analysis, alternative ad/or decisions. The School Board will keep the public informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision through a variety of means such as public forums, focus groups surveys or public meetings.

The School Board through the Superintendent or designee will engage public participation through **involvement** by working directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered. The School Board will work with the public to ensure that concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternative developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision through a variety of means such as workshop and direct polling.

The School Board through the Superintendent or designee will engage public participation through **collaboration** by partnering with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution. The School Board will look to the public for direction, advice, and innovation in the formulating of solutions and incorporate the public's advice and recommendations into the decisions to the extent possible through a variety of means such as citizen advisory committees, consensus building and/ or participatory decision making.

The School Board through the Superintendent or designee will engage public participation through **empowerment** by final decision-making in the hands of the public. The School Board will implement the decision as a result of official election ballots.

*Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)

School Board Action:

Adopted as Policy August 16, 2016