

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Board recognizes the importance of ongoing community engagement in supporting the district's mission and is committed to engaging the community in meaningful and intentional ways.

### Definitions

*Community* - The district's community includes district parents/guardians; residents; students; taxpayers; representatives from business, social services and local government; civic organizations; advocacy groups; religious leaders; employers; and others who have a stake in the district's success. The composition of community members participating in any particular engagement activity will vary depending on the purpose and type of the activity.

*Community Engagement* - The process by which school boards actively involve diverse citizens in dialogue, deliberation and collaborative thinking around common interests for their public schools. Community engagement focuses on long-term, significant issues involving the district's values, beliefs, mission, vision and goals. The board and district administration make operational decisions.

*Engagement Activities* - Include, but are not limited to, community forums, focus groups, study groups, listening circles, training and education on education-related topics, dialogue, visioning, polling/surveys, media strategies, webinars, wikis and shared workspaces.

### Written Communication

It is crucial that district residents have the opportunity to communicate directly with the board, including outside of board meetings, where time is limited and where the district must conduct business. Community members may provide written comments to the board on a school-related topic by submitting the comments, electronically or otherwise, to the board secretary. Any communications directed to the board will be provided to all board members. When appropriate, the board president may respond on behalf of the board. The district may post on the district's website an email address or other electronic tool for the public to use to submit comments to individual board members or the board as a whole.

### Board Meetings

The board encourages the public to attend open school board meetings. As required by law and provided in policy BDDH, the board allows district residents to request that an agenda item be added to regularly scheduled board meetings. The board provides other opportunities for the public to speak at board meetings as well. The board will, with community input, review the process that allows community members to place items on a meeting agenda.

### Community Engagement

Board members themselves will remain mindful that they are elected to represent, and are directly accountable to the patrons of the district. Patrons of the district will be encouraged to express ideas, concerns, and judgments about the school programs in the following ways:

- Written suggestions or proposals to the Board.
- Presentations at hearings.
- Responses to surveys made through interviews, written instruments or other means conducted under the auspices of the Board.
- Comments at meetings of the Board.
- Service on citizens advisory committees.
- Appropriate input into the district's proposals and applications for federal and state monies.

Adopted: April 5, 1982  
Revised: December 3, 1990  
Revised: June 26, 2023

Cross Refs: AD, School District Mission (Continuous School Improvement Plan)  
BCE, Board Committees/Advisory Committees to the Board  
BDDH, Public Participation at Board Meetings  
BF, Board Policy Development  
IGBC, Parent and Family Involvement and Engagement

Legal Refs: 162.058, 167.700

Fort Zumwalt School District, O'Fallon, Missouri