

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Board recognizes that the public has vast resources and experience useful to schools.

Residents of the District who are especially qualified because of training, experience, or personal characteristics shall be encouraged to take an active part in school affairs. Such persons shall be invited to serve on advisory committees as the need for such committees arises. In general, individual members of such committees shall not be requested to perform specific services for the Board. Unique talents of members can best be utilized on a consultative basis. Advisory committees shall not be used to avoid paying for professional advice.

The following three principles should be followed when the Board enlists the counsel of advisory committees:

1. Advisory committees should be broadly representative.
2. Recommendations should be based on research and facts.
3. Recommendations should be submitted to the Board, which alone has the authority and responsibility to act upon them.

Advisory committees should be appointed only when there is a definite function to be performed, and this function should be indicated to the committee in writing when it is appointed. Committees may be short-term for a specific task or may be ongoing to serve a particular need of the District.

Advisory committees should not be appointed to advise on matters requiring a decision by the Board unless adequate time is available for a thorough study by the committee.

The Board and staff shall give substantial weight to the advice which they receive from individuals and community groups interested in the schools, especially those individuals and groups which they have invited or created to advise them regarding selected problems, but the ultimate responsibility for decision making rests with the Board.