

SAFE SCHOOLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To involve the public in the promotion of school safety, the Washington County Board of Education has created a standing Board advisory committee, known as the Safe Schools Advisory Committee. This committee shall be comprised of representative parents, businesspersons, and community leaders who are interested in the development of policies and procedures, which promote school safety.

THE COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

1. Review school system data and staff assessments relative to school safety issues, including student discipline Category III offenses as defined in Board regulation JG-R.
2. Review materials on the best practices regarding school safety issues.
3. Monitor programs and strategies for determining effectiveness in addressing school safety issues (i.e., early intervention, mental health, conflict resolution, peer mediation).
4. Examine security issues related to the school system's physical facilities.
5. Explore ways to involve the community in promoting school safety.
6. Report at least semi-annually to the Board on findings regarding school safety issues and recommendations for improvement.
7. Regularly assess the emergency preparedness of the school system.

MEMBERSHIP SPECIFICATIONS

The members of the Safe Schools Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Board. Membership on the Safe Schools Advisory Committee shall be limited to no more than 30 members of the staff and community. Appointments shall include: three (3) school principals (one elementary, one middle, and one high); three (3) parents-at-large; three (3) representatives from the county Sheriff's Office, Hagerstown Police Department, and Maryland State Police (one each); two (2) representatives of the State's Attorneys Office and the Department of Juvenile Justice (one each); three (3) teachers (one elementary, one middle, and one high—from schools different than the principal representatives); one (1) representative from the Washington County Association of Student Councils; one (1) representative from the County Citizens Advisory Council; one (1) representative from the County Parent/Teachers Association; three (3) representatives from WCTA, ESP-1, and WCASA (one each); three (3) guidance counselors (one elementary, one middle, and one high—from schools different than the principals and teachers); one (1) school psychologist; one (1) Pupil Personnel Worker; one (1) community mental health professional; one (1) representative shall be the Director of Student Services; one (1) representative shall be the Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Education; and two (2) representatives shall be from the Facilities Management Division, including the School Safety Specialist. The Safety and Security/Risk Manager is designated as Chair, and as a voting member.

The Chief Financial Officer and the Supervisor of Pupil Personnel/Guidance will serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Committee.

TERMS OF OFFICE

1. Individuals may be appointed to a term of office of up to four (4) years.
2. The terms of office may be staggered to allow for the rotation of up to 1/3 of the membership of the Committee every two (2) years.
3. No individual shall be appointed to serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms on the Committee unless specifically exempted by the Board. Reappointment to a second term is not automatic.

OPERATIONS SPECIFICATIONS

1. Minutes of each committee meeting shall be kept and forwarded promptly by the staff liaison to the Board and the Superintendent.

2. The Committee will report to the Board at least at the following times:
 - a. semi-annual report on the status of school safety issues (in January and June)
 - b. as requested by the Board

3. The reports to the Board shall focus on the following criteria of review:
 - a. school system policies and enforcement
 - b. student interventions
 - c. safety programs and strategies
 - d. security status of school system facilities
 - e. community and agency involvement