



Mount Vernon Exploratory Magnet School Council Bylaws

Article I: Name

A magnet school council has been established in the Mt. Vernon Exploratory School in the Hall County School district. The magnet school council bylaws were drafted by the council on October 18, 2016 and voted and approved on February 7, 2017. Previously, on November 9, 2015, the Hall County Board of Education approved MVES's petition to terminate its charter and become a magnet school as part of the Hall County School District's Strategic Waivers School System (SWSS/IE2) status. The name of this school council shall be the Mt. Vernon Exploratory Magnet School Council, hereinafter referred to as the magnet school council, organized under the authority of state law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-85 – 20-2-86).

Article II: Purpose

The establishment of school council is intended to help local boards of education by bringing parents and the community together with teachers and school administrators to create a better understanding of and mutual respect for each other's concerns and share ideas for school improvement. School councils shall represent the community of parents and businesses.

The members of the school council are accountable to the constituents they serve and shall:

1. Maintain a school-wide perspective on issues;
2. Regularly participate in school council meetings;
3. Participate in information and training programs;
4. Act as a link between the school council and the community;
5. Encourage the participation of parents and others within the school community; and
6. Work to improve student achievement and performance.

Article III: School Council Authority

The school council shall advise and make recommendations to the principal, local board of education and local school superintendent on matters relating to school improvement and student achievement.

The school council shall review the school improvement plan.

The school council shall review school budget priorities and class sizes by grade.

The school council has the authority to appoint committees, study groups, or task forces for such purposes as it deems helpful and may utilize existing or new school advisory groups.

The school council shall have the same immunity as the local board of education in all matters directly related to the functions of the school council.

Article IV: Role of the School Council

The school council provides advice and recommendations to the school principal and, when appropriate, the local board of education and local school superintendent, on any matter related to student achievement and school improvement, including but not limited to, the following:

1. School board policies;
2. School improvement plans;
3. Curriculum and assessments;
4. Report cards issued or audits of the school conducted by the Office of Student Achievement;
5. College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI);
6. Development of a school profile which shall contain data as identified by the school council to describe the academic performance, academic progress, services, awards, interventions, environment, and other such data as the school council deems appropriate;
7. School budget priorities, including school capital improvement plans;
8. School-community communication strategies;
9. Methods of involving parents and the community;
10. Extracurricular activities in the school;
11. School-based and community services;
12. Community use of school facilities;
13. Student discipline and attendance;
14. Reports from the principal regarding progress toward the school's student achievement goals, including progress within specific grade levels and subject areas and by school personnel; and
15. The method and specifications for the delivery of early intervention services or other appropriate services for underachieving students.

Article V: Membership

Membership on the school council shall be open to principals, teachers, parents, business representatives and other such members as the school council may specify in its bylaws. Members of the school council shall not receive compensation to serve on a school council. Members of the school council shall include:

1. Two parents or guardians of students enrolled in the school, excluding parents or guardians who are also employees of the school;
2. Two business people (from business partners);
3. Two certificated teachers who are employed at least four of the six school segments at the school, excluding any personnel employed in administrative positions;
4. The school principal

Article VI: Terms

Council members shall be elected for two year terms beginning in July. Terms will be staggered for parents, teachers, and business people. Council members may serve more than one term.

Article VII: Elections

Elections shall take place in May.

The electing body for the parent members shall consist of all current kindergarten through 4th grade parents and guardians eligible to serve as a parent member of the school council. The principal will accept nominations March 15th through April 15th. Elections will take place during the month of May through electronic and/or paper ballots.

The electing body for the teacher members shall consist of all certificated personnel eligible to serve as a teacher member of the school council. The principal will accept nominations March 15th through April 15th. Elections will take place during the month of May through electronic and/or paper ballots.

Business persons will be nominated and then elected by the new five non-businessperson council members. Elections will be completed by June 30th.

Public notice shall be provided at least two weeks before the meeting of each electing body.

Article VIII: Vacancies

The position of a school council member shall be automatically vacated if:

1. A member resigns by delivering a written resignation to the school council;
2. A member no longer meets the qualifications specified by law; or
3. A member is removed by an action of the school council.

The school council may, by a majority vote, determine a position vacant if it finds that a member of the council is no longer active in the council or fit to serve. The effective date of a vacancy shall be determined by the school council.

An election within the electing body for a replacement to fill the remainder of an unexpired term shall be held within 45 days, unless there are 90 calendar days or less remaining in the term in which case the vacancy shall remain unfilled.

Article IX: Meetings

All meetings of the council shall be open to the public. The school council shall meet no less than four times annually. The council shall also meet at the call of the chairperson or at the request of a majority of the members of the school council.

Notice by electronic mail shall be sent to school council members at least seven days prior to a meeting and shall include the date, time and location of the meeting. School councils shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act in the same manner as local boards of education.

A quorum must be present in order to conduct official school council business. A quorum is comprised of a majority of school council members. Every question shall be determined by a majority vote of members present. Each member of the school council is authorized to exercise one vote. Proxy votes are not allowed. Members must be present in order to vote.

Article X: Minutes

School councils shall be subject to the Open Records Act, relating to the inspection of public records, in the same manner as local boards of education. A summary of the subjects acted on and the members present at the meeting of the school council shall be made available to the public through the school website. The minutes shall be provided to the school council members, each of whom shall receive a copy of such minutes, within twenty days following each school council meeting. The official minutes shall be open to public once approved by the school council immediately following the next regular meeting of the school council.

Minutes at a minimum shall include the names of the school council members present at the meeting, a description of each motion or other proposal made, and a record of all votes. In the case of a roll-call vote, the name of each school council member voting for or against a proposal or abstaining shall be recorded. In all other votes, it shall be presumed that the action taken was approved by each person in

attendance unless the minutes reflect the name of the persons voting against the proposal or abstaining.

Article XI: Officers of the School Council

The officers of the school council shall be a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. Officers of the school council shall be elected at the first meeting of the school council following the election of school council members. The term of the officers of the school council shall be one year.

The chairperson, which shall be a parent, shall develop the agenda for all meetings, preside at all meetings of the school council, and perform such duties as may be required by the school council.

The vice chairperson shall, in the absence of the chairperson, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the chairperson and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the school council.

The secretary shall act as the clerk of the school council, record all votes and minutes of all proceedings, give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the school council, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the council.

Article XII: Duties of the Principal

The school principal shall have the following duties pertaining to school councils:

1. Cause to be created a school council by convening the appropriate bodies to select school council members; setting the initial agenda, meeting time, and location; and notifying all school council members of the same;
2. Call meetings of the elected bodies after providing public notice at least two weeks before such meetings;
3. Communicate all school council requests for information and assistance to the local school superintendent and inform the school council of responses or actions of the local school superintendent;
4. Develop the school improvement plan and share the plan goals to the school council for its review, comments, and recommendations;
5. Provide progress reports regarding the school's student achievement goals; and
6. Perform all of the duties required by law and the bylaws of the council.

Article XIII: Bylaws

The school council shall adopt the bylaws as it deems appropriate to conduct the business of the school council. The adoption of bylaws or changes thereto requires two-thirds affirmative votes.

Article XV: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the governing parliamentary authority for school councils in all cases applicable but not inconsistent with these bylaws.