

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF COMMITTEES

Statement

A school district is a complex organization dedicated to the instruction of children from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The goal of the district's programs is to provide children of all ages served with curricular experiences which will provide them with the skills necessary to function in a complex world and with information or content which will enable them to function as competent citizens of a democracy. The Board of Education is a body elected by citizens and is responsible under the statutes to provide an educational program consistent with the statutes of the state and with the perceived needs of the children to be served. The complexity of these responsibilities dictates that the Board of Education and the superintendent of schools need the advice and counsel of professional educators trained in curriculum and instruction as well as a parental perspective to assist them in many aspects of the formulation of an educational program .

It is a practice in the Torrington School District to request members of the professional staff, parents, and members of the community to participate in the formulation of decisions which will affect the district's educational program. The composition of a committee will depend on the nature of the issue under consideration. Such participation will be voluntary and advisory. It will also include faculty representatives with different philosophical positions and creative ideas. It will be founded on the principles of collaboration and cooperative consideration. It will be inclusive and broad-based. Its underlying responsibility will be the formulation of action for consideration by the superintendent of schools and/or the Board of Education.

Guidelines for Committees

1. The need for a committee will be published and communicated to the entire professional staff and the school PTO officers.
2. A charge for the committee will be included in the publication of the need along with the size of the membership and the committee representation. The publication will include the number of teachers, administrators, board members (if appropriate) and parents and community members (if appropriate). Volunteers will be sought. Should a sufficient number of volunteers not indicate a desire to serve, members of the professional staff will be approached to ask that they consider volunteering.
3. The work of any committee involves the consideration of the opinions of all members. It may also include the solicitation of opinion from others, both within the district and outside the district, prior to and during the committee's deliberations. It may also include a hearing on the tentative work of the committee prior to the formulation of final recommendations.
4. The work of all committees constitutes the formulation of recommendations to the superintendent of schools or the Board of Education. Unless otherwise specified, the work of all committees is advisory.