

School Advisory Council By-laws

Article I: Palm Valley Academy

The name of this organization is the Palm Valley Academy School Advisory Council (SAC).

Article II: Purpose

Section 1. The functions of the School Advisory Council are:

- a) assist in the preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan in support of the Palm Valley Academy mission and vision

Section 2: Other board functions of the School Advisory Council are:

- a) initiate activities or programs that generate greater cooperation between the community and the school
- b) assist in the development of educational goals and objectives
- c) recommend various support services in the school
- d) assist in the preparation of the accreditation report
- e) perform any such functions as prescribed by the regulation of the School Board
- f) assist in the preparation and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan required by Florida Statutes, and annually reviewing, amending, or continuing such School Improvement Plan as required by Florida Statutes
- g) review the SAC budget to be sure it is aligned with the School Improvement Plan
- h) perform other functions as requested by the principal
- i) assist in maintaining and promoting the mission and vision of Palm Valley Academy

Article III: Membership

Section 1. The principal shall assure that the membership shall be representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school.

Section 2. This council shall include parents, teachers, education support employees, community members, and the principal. A majority of the membership shall be non-staff.

Section 3. For purposes of SAC membership, parents shall be defined as anyone who has a student currently enrolled at the school.

Section 4. The principal shall be the only member of that school's administration who is a member of the SAC.

Section 5. Peer election shall be used to select parent, education support staff, student, and teacher members of the SAC.

Such elections shall be held at the beginning of each school year (after the first day of school) such that the membership list is ready to submit to Planning, Accountability, and Assessment (PAA) by October 23.

Section 6. Community members shall be appointed by the principal.

Section 7. Term of office for newly elected members shall be for a period of one year.

Section 8. Members not attending for two consecutive meetings, without an excused absence, will be replaced. Vacancies for parents, teachers, educational support personnel and students will be filled by peer election. Elections to fill vacant positions may be held as necessary throughout the year.

Section 9. Membership in the SAC shall be limited to any odd number of voting members. SAC is a sunshine organization and non-members are encouraged to attend meetings but may not vote. Voting in SAC meetings shall be limited to duly elected/appointed School Board approved members.

Section 10. The Parent-Teacher Organization president may be a member of the SAC.

Article IV: Responsibilities

Section 1. The School Advisory Council is a resource to the school and the principal. The term “advisory” is intended to mean 1) inquiring, 2) informing, 3) suggesting, 4) recommending, and 5) evaluating.

Section 2. The School Advisory Council, since it is advisory only, has some limitations. 1) It may not dictate School Board or local school center policy, and 2) it must deal with issues rather than particular person, whether they are administrators, teachers, students, citizens, or parents.

Article V: Officers

Section 1. Officers and their election:

- a) The officers of the School Advisory Council shall be a chairperson, a co-chairperson(s), treasurer, and a secretary. All officers must be members of the SAC.
- b) These officers shall be elected, by written ballot, at the first meeting of SAC at the beginning of the school year provided notice of election has been served.

Article VI: Roles of the Principal and SAC Members

Section 1. The Principal

- a) serves as a resource providing information regarding the local school education program
- b) appoints all non-elected SAC members
- c) maintains the appropriate statutory composition of the SAC
- d) acts as an active resource

- e) encourages leadership from within the council
- f) assists in training members in leadership skills
- g) arranges for presentations of interest to the council
- h) keeps the SAC apprised of county policies, curriculum, etc. Establishes, maintains, and consults with the SAC on a regular basis involving it in decisions in accordance with state purposes and policies
- i) develops, through positive actions, feelings of trust and understanding among SAC, community, and staff
- j) serves as the administrator in charge of the school with total responsibility to arrange all affairs of the school including general control and supervision of its employees

Section 2. The Chairpersons

- a) works closely with the administrator and the council to plan each meeting and establish an agenda in time to notify the community of the purpose of each meeting
- b) calls the meeting to order, maintains order, and sees that the meeting is properly adjourned
- c) instructs the secretary and other officers in their duties
- d) sees that minutes are taken, prepared, read, approved, and properly filed in the school
- e) sees that business is ordered, considered, and disposed of properly
- f) is an impartial, conscientious arbiter of discussion and debate, and insists on fairness in the actions and debate of the members

Section 3. The Secretary

- a) keeps accurate and complete minutes and files them for inspection. A copy of the minutes should be provided to the principal for the school file
- b) keeps accurate records of council membership, attendance, duties, and special assignments

Section 4. Parents and other community representatives

- a) act as a council member according to established procedures by making suggestions and recommendations representative of the views of parents, citizens, and community organizations of the school community
- b) participate regularly in SAC meetings and carry out council assignments
- c) become knowledgeable about personnel and material resources of the school and community and the school's education program
- d) act as resource persons for the SAC, especially in the solutions of community-related problems which affect the school and its students
- e) assist in obtaining community resources to aid the school's education program
- f) serve as a communication link between SAC, the community, and the school

- g) participate in activities aimed at obtaining parent and community support and assistance for school related programs

Section 5. Faculty and school staff representatives

- a) act as members of the council to represent the views and interest of the school staff
- b) participate regularly in SAC meetings and carry out council assignments
- c) act as a resource person for the SAC by making available specialized information about the education programs, innovative ideas, and available resources
- d) assist in identifying community resources which can aid in the school's educational programs
- e) serve as a communication link between the SAC and the school staff, and keep the staff informed of actions and activities of the council
- f) participate in efforts to encourage school staff support for goals and activities of the SAC.

Article VII: Committees

The SAC may create such committees as necessary to carry on the work of the council.

Article VIII: Meetings

Sections 1. The SAC shall meet as often as necessary to perform its duties, but no less than **eight times per year. The first meeting shall be held in September. **Meetings must be scheduled when parents, students, teachers, education support personnel, and community members can attend. **All meetings shall be open to the public.

Section 2. A quorum must be present to conduct business. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Three days written notice will be given to members concerning any item that will be voted on at the upcoming meeting.

Article IX: Amendments to By-laws

Section 1. These by-laws shall be amended at any regular meeting of the SAC by a majority of the membership.

Section 2. The amendment shall become effective immediately upon passage.

Article X: Ratification of By-laws

The by-laws of the SAC will be ratified by a majority of its members.