

## **Community Involvement in Decision Making**

The district endorses the concept that community participation in the affairs of the schools is essential if the school system and the community are to maintain mutual confidence and respect and work together to improve the academic achievement of students in the district. It therefore intends to exert every effort to identify the desires and concerns of the community and be responsive, through its actions, to those desires and concerns.

All citizens of the district are encouraged to express their ideas, concerns and judgments about the schools through such means as written suggestions or proposals; presentations at hearings; responses to surveys made through interviews, written instruments or other means; comments at meetings of the Board, service on citizens' advisory committees, participation in focus groups and involvement in community engagement processes.

The advice and concerns expressed by the school community will be given careful consideration. In the evaluation of such input, the first concern will be for the educational program as it affects students. The district's final decision may depart from the views expressed by some members of the school community when in the judgment of the district such views are not consistent with the good educational practice or within reach of available financial resources.

Adopted by the Board: December, 2005

CROSS REF.:

*Board policy:*

EL-9, Treatment of Students, Parents and Community

