

Policy 1500**DIRECTIVES FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOL GOVERNANCE**

The Second Vatican Council called for greater involvement of the laity in the total life of the parish and school. Catholic schools should appropriately involve the laity in shared responsibility and participatory decision-making through local school committees, commissions or boards.

Local School Boards

Boards, commissions, councils, and committees constituted in the diocese are to be consultative and function within Diocesan policies. Specific areas where they are to give advice are defined by the constitution of the group. Membership should reflect a representation of the school community.

Members are appointed and/or elected as the local constitution stipulate. Membership also includes the administrator (principal/superintendent) and the appropriate pastor or the bishop.

Details regarding the number of persons on the local committee, who votes and who holds ex-officio membership, etc., are to be determined by the local Board (Council or Commission).

Each local school board (committee, commission, and council) should prepare its own constitution and is to submit it to the Diocesan Catholic School Board for review and final approval by the Superintendent. Educational matters which are not determined by diocesan policies may be determined by the local consultative group.

Areas of committee responsibility may include:

Planning

Establishing and reviewing a mission statement and a strategic plan.

Finance

Developing plans and means to finance ongoing educational programs to include working with the principal to develop the annual budget.

Advancement/Development

Understanding the school's mission, a commitment to that vision, the involvement of people, the formulation of a plan, the development and presentation of a case statement to the public and finally the acquisition of funds to bring to fruition the plan for public relations and marketing;

Evaluation

Determining whether goals and plans of the board are being met. This does not include evaluating individual staff members, administrators or students.

Facilities and Grounds

Consensus-building is the appropriate mode of decision-making for a Catholic school board (council, commission, and committee). Consensus means that all members agree to support the decision which appears to be the best, under the present circumstances, for the greatest number of people. In those cases where a vote needs to be recorded for legal purposes, Roberts Rules of Order, (Revised,) should be followed.

Diocesan Catholic School Board

The Diocesan Catholic School Board is established and receives its authority from the Bishop of the Diocese of Salt Lake City through a constitution formally adopted and approved by the bishop. The board operates within the direction of diocesan policies.

The board is not a public body but acts as a consultative body to the Catholic school superintendent on all matters concerning Catholic schools. Being consultative, actions taken by the board, except for those which are operational to the board, must be approved by the superintendent.

In collaboration with the superintendent, the board:

- Develops standards, goals and policies on matters concerning Catholic schools.
- Identifies needs and objectives of Catholic schools and expresses methods and means for meeting them.
- Reviews and evaluates programs and policies already developed and established and revises such programs/policies as needed.
- Develops standards and methods of evaluation and criteria for meeting goals.

The nomination and appointment of members to the Catholic School Board should take place during May as defined by the constitution and by-laws; the term of office is for three years.

End