



MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Site Councils

### Frequently Asked Questions

- What is a Site Council?
  - A Site Council is a group of people selected to advise the principal on school issues, plans and rules. Every school at MPS is expected to have a Site Council that consists of parents, staff and community members, and in secondary schools, students.
- Why should I join my school's Site Council?
  - In order for a principal to make choices that serve the students, their parents and the school staff, your voice is critical to ensure the principal has necessary information to make decisions that benefit the school community. As a parent, community member or school staff member, you help bring a unique view to the table and your thoughts are essential to the deliberation of issues.
- Does everyone on the Site Council have the same role?
  - No. Some members may volunteer to be officers of the Site Council, such as co-chairperson or secretary. These people have additional duties beyond attending meetings and representing the student body or staff.
- Is there a minimum or maximum amount of time a person can be on a Site Council?
  - Each Site Council determines in its by-laws its own rules about length of service, number of times a person may serve, etc... Check with your Site Council for more information.
- How frequently does the Site Council meet?
  - This, too, is a local decision made by each individual Site Council. The Site Council determines this based on the preferences of members and what work needs to be accomplished. During certain times of the year, the Site Council may choose to meet more frequently to handle larger jobs like budgeting or establishing a School Improvement Plan.
- What should I expect at a Site Council meeting?
  - Every meeting should have an agenda stating the topics for discussion, review or decision making at the meeting. Your Site Council may choose to allow any person in attendance to join the conversation or may limit speakers to those who are members of the Council. This is a local decision.
- How do Site Councils work to build a sense of community?
  - Through discussion and sharing of ideas, concerns and solutions, members of a Site Council work together to improve the school and students' success and achievement. Site Councils are asked to communicate to other parents, staff members and community members what the Council is discussing in order to gather as many viewpoints as possible.
- What is the priority to include highly mobile families?
  - All families are important to school success, and high mobility brings special needs and concerns that a school needs to understand. The Site Council advocates for these needs and concerns to help the principal understand them. The voice of these parents is particularly important to assure all students have opportunities to succeed academically, emotionally and socially toward our goal of helping students become ready for college or career.

- How do we incorporate students into Site Councils? What is available to help them understand their role?
  - High schools must have student representation on their Site Councils, while other schools may include students in the membership. Student members have the same rights to discuss, suggest, participate and serve as all other members of a Site Council.