

PTA SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCILS

- WHEREAS, School Community Councils (SCCs) were created statewide in 1992 by the Utah State Legislature to address the academic needs of students with decisions being made at the site based level;^{1, 2} and
- WHEREAS, In 1999 the Utah State Legislature established the School LAND Trust Program, intended to improve student academic performance in each public school;^{3, 4, 5, 6} and
- WHEREAS, In 2002 the Legislature restructured the membership of SCCs to mirror the School LAND Trust Committees, and made the SCCs responsible for approving the School LAND Trust Plans, which became an academic subset of the School Improvement Plan, Professional Development Plan, Child Access Routing Plan (elementary and middle), Reading Achievement Plan (elementary);^{7, 8, 9} and
- WHEREAS, Parents were granted a majority voice on School LAND Trust Committees and School Community Councils;^{10, 11} and
- WHEREAS, It is recognized that effective councils go beyond the requirements in the law requiring collaboration and team building, as well as training about how to make decisions based on valid data;^{12, 13, 14} and
- WHEREAS, Parental involvement is proven to be instrumental in the success of students;^{15, 16, 17, 18, 19} and
- WHEREAS, SCC plans are for the benefit of students and dedicate resources of the school for student academic improvement;^{20, 21} and
- WHEREAS, Training is important for local school boards who have the responsibility for SCC operations, plans, oversight and training; along with review of the School Improvement Plan and the review and approval of the School LAND Trust Plan;^{22, 23, 24} and
- WHEREAS, PTAs work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals and local PTAs have recognition and size to influence the formation of laws, policies and practices -education or legislative;^{25, 26, 27, 28} and
- WHEREAS, The School LAND Trust program is instrumental in local schools addressing their individual academic needs;^{29, 30} and

WHEREAS, PTA states as historical goals to bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth; and to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education;^{31, 32, 33, 34} now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that Utah PTA encourage local PTA members to run for and actively serve on the SCC; and be it further

Resolved, that Utah PTA and its constituent bodies support quality training for SCCs; and be it further

Resolved, that Utah PTA work with the Utah State Board of Education to develop high level training for local SCCs and school boards; this training may include, but is not limited to, assuring that the trust funds be spent on the greatest academic need, data evaluation, establishing measurable goals, the meaning of participation in the development of School Improvement Plans, School LAND Trust Plans, safe walking routes, Professional Development plans, Reading plans and other required plans; the roles of chairman and principal; how to conduct a meeting; Open Meetings Act compliance, and the use of sub-committees; and be it further

Resolved, that Utah PTA and its constituent bodies support and encourage elected school boards to participate in thorough training which would enable them to know, understand and follow the law to support SCCs; and be it further

Resolved, that Utah PTA train local PTA units on the different roles of SCCs and PTAs; training will include, but not be limited to, how to develop cooperation and support between the two organizations, where appropriate; how PTA can support the decisions of the SCC in efforts to improve academic learning and provide the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education; and, pertaining to the community partnerships which PTA forms, how to work collaboratively and cooperatively with other school entities, including SCCs.

Documentation:

¹“School Community Councils,” Center for the School of the Future, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services, Logan, UT, <http://www.csf.usu.edu/scc/scc.pdf>

²“Site-Based Management: Making It Work,” ASCD Educational Leadership, December 1995/January 1996, volume 53, Number 4, http://sbruzzese.org/edem628/readings/1_site_based_management.pdf.

³“School Community Councils,” Center for the School of the Future, Emma Eccles Jones College of Education & Human Services, Logan, UT, <http://www.csf.usu.edu/scc/scc.pdf>.

⁴Utah State Legislature 1999 HB350 Disposition of Interest on State School Fund, Mel Brown, sponsor’s speaking points and support.

- ⁵Utah State Legislature 1999 HB350 Use of Interest on State School Fund, Sponsor: Melvin R. Brown, HB350.
- ⁶Dave Moss, "Good Law," Salt Lake Tribune, March 30, 1999.
- ⁷Utah State Legislature 2002 SB167 Substitute School Community Councils, Sponsor: Bill Wright, SB167.
- ⁸School Community Councils; Improving schools through local decision making; SCCs.
- ⁹Utah Code; 53A-1a-108.5 School Improvement Plan.
- ¹⁰Utah Code; 53-1a-108 School Community Councils Authorized – duties – composition – election procedures and election of members.
- ¹¹Utah Administrative Code; R277-491 School Community Councils
- ¹²Michigan Department of Education, What Research Says About Parent Involvement In Children's Education, In Relation to Academic Achievement, March 2002, Information on Parent Involvement.
- ¹³"Professional Development Resources for Educators & Librarians," Teacher Tap, 2007, Evidenced Based Practice, www.eduscapes.com.
- ¹⁴"Will at Work Learning," Evidenced Based Learning, July 19, 2007, Evidence Based Learning.
- ¹⁵"Parent Involvement," Education Week, September 21, 2004, Ed Week Parent Involvement.
- ¹⁶PTA Resolution on Parent Involvement in Site-Based Shared Decision-Making, PTA Resolution Parent Involvement.
- ¹⁷"Family Engagement as a Systemic, Sustained, and Integrated Strategy to Promote Student Achievement," Harvard Family Research Project, President and Fellows of Harvard College, April 2010.
- ¹⁸"Site-Based Decision Making: Its Potential for Enhancing Learner Outcomes," Southwest Education Development Laboratory, Issues...about Change, Volume 1 Number 4, 1991.
- ¹⁹"Linking Student Achievement to School, Family and Community Involvement," Research Brief, Appalachia Educational Laboratory(AEL) at Edvantia, December 2005.
- ²⁰"School Land Trust Program FY2009," Utah State Office of Education, School LAND Trust Section, School LAND Trust.
- ²¹"Utah Trust Lands and Education Funding; How does the revenue get to the beneficiaries?" Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 10/2/2007, pg. 3, How does the revenue get to the beneficiaries?.
- ²²Utah Administrative Code R277-491-2-B.
- ²³Utah Administrative Code R277-491-6-F,G,H.
- ²⁴"USBA Board Training January 2010 School Land Trust Program FY2009", Utah State Office of Education, School Community Council Section, Local School Board and District, 2. Training for Board Members.
- ²⁵"Critical Issue: Constructing School Partnerships with Families and Community Groups," Learning Point Associates, 1998, Family/School Partnerships.
- ²⁶Women's State Legislative Council of Utah, membership list.
- ²⁷Utah Family Partnership Network, list of partners.
- ²⁸Utah State Legislature 1999 HB350 Disposition of Interest on State School Fund, Mel Brown, sponsor's list of support.
- ²⁹"Legislative Letter Audit to Representative Wayne Harper from Auditor General on School Land Trust Account Funds," May 29,2002, Legislative Letter Audit.

³⁰Sample of Individual School Plans, all plans available at Utah Office of Education School LAND Trust Program, School LAND Trust Plans.

³¹Mission, Vision and Values, PTA; PTA Purposes: Historical goals of PTA, Historical Goals of PTA.

³²Anne T. Henderson and Karen L. Mapp, "A New Wave of Evidence", pg 7-8, A New Wave of Evidence in Short, ©2002 SEDL.

³³Utah Administrative Code R277-477-3 Distribution of Funds – Determination of Proportionate Share, D.(6)R277-4-3.

³⁴Betty Boulton, "176 Ways to Involve Parents, Practical Strategies for Partnering With Families," pg 1-2, 2nd Edition, ©2006 Corwin Press, Inc.