

Policy Reference No. 1440

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Title: SCHOOL CLOSURE

Effective Date:

Revised 2 October 1990

7 October 1986

Section: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Revised: 4 May 2010

SCHOOL CLOSURE

PROCEDURE

1. The Superintendent will present the annual report on enrollment and facilities to the Board on or before the first regular meeting of November.
 - 1.1 At a regular or special meeting, the Board will conduct a public hearing.
 - 1.2 In deciding whether to study school closure, the Board will consider the importance of maintaining student body enrollment in schools at a size which is conducive to desirable educational programming and of maintaining diversity in student population within each school.
2. If, upon receipt of the enrollment and facilities report, the Board decides that a school closure study should take place, the Superintendent will provide the Board with a list of patrons who have volunteered to serve on district committees during the current school year.
3. Upon a decision by the Board to study school closure, the Superintendent will prepare a specific schedule of activities and submit it to the Board for approval.
4. The Superintendent will appoint an administrator to serve as district liaison to the school closure committee. The administrator will:
 - 4.1 Arrange for the committee to receive training in group processes.
 - 4.2 Provide the committee with written information concerning past school closure activities and provide other pertinent information to help the school closure committee with its deliberations.
 - 4.3 Arrange for knowledgeable individuals to make oral presentations. These may include historical growth patterns, special programs or past school closures, including evaluations of the effects of such closures on the students and neighborhoods.
5. The committee will consider inviting patrons and staff from the potentially affected school communities to meet and discuss relevant characteristics of schools with which they are associated. Such a meeting would focus on building consensus regarding facts and issues that can help the closure committee with its deliberations. Administrative staff will provide appropriate support to the committee in the conduct of such a meeting.

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- 5.1 This meeting will ordinarily not replace the hearing requirement in 6.3 of the policy.
- 6. The committee will recommend the school(s) to be closed in accordance with the number specified by the Board. It may provide alternative proposals.
 - 6.1 If the committee considers school closure plans other than those developed by staff, staff will prepare proposed boundary revisions.
 - 6.2 The committee will consider public comments on the proposed boundary revisions and adjust its recommendations if appropriate. Its final recommendations concerning which school(s) should be closed will then be submitted.
- 7. The committee report will identify which factors caused it to make its recommendations.
 - 7.1 In addition to considering the decision factors listed in section 7 of policy 1440, other decision factors deemed appropriate by the committee may be used.
- 8. If, in the judgment of the Board of Directors, exigent circumstances make adherence to the above policy infeasible (e.g., losing accreditation, not meeting state or federal standards, etc.), the Board may so declare and make a school closure(s) decision following a process consistent with only the minimum requirements of RCW 28A.335.020.

Prepared by: _____
Signature

Approved by: _____
Signature

Title: Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Employee Relations/General Counsel

Title: Superintendent