



Forsyth County Schools'

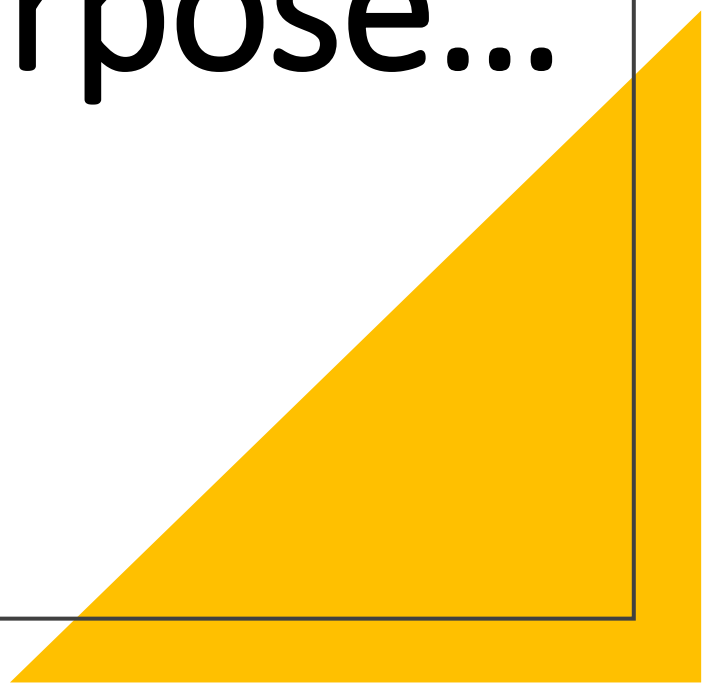
Local School Council

Training Session



FCS Local School
Councils

The Original Purpose...





**The
Original Purpose**

~ Parents & the community are critical to the success of schools!

~ To improve communication and participation of parents & community partners



**The
Original Purpose**

~ Bring communities and schools closer together to solve challenges

~ Improve academic achievement





**The
Original Purpose**

- ~ Provide support for teachers & staff
- ~ Bring parents into the school decision-making process



**The
Original Purpose**

~ Help the Board of Education
develop & nurture participation

~ Increase mutual-respect among
parents, community, teachers, and
school administrators

~ Share ideas for school
improvement



FCS Local School
Councils

The Basic Structure...





The Basic Structure

- ~ Each LSC has its own set of bylaws that guides its operations
- ~ Each member of the LSC represents the community of parents and businesses that are affiliated with that school



The Basic Structure

~ The LSC should have a *minimum* of seven (7) members

~The LSC is made up of parents/guardians of students who attend *that* school, parent/guardian businesspersons, teachers, and the principal

~ Others per bylaws



The Basic Structure

~ Parents/guardians MUST make up the majority of the LSC (teachers who are also parents count as *teachers*)

~ At least two parent/guardian should also be businesspersons



The Basic Structure

Minimal Membership:

- * 1 Principal
- * 2 Teachers
- * 2 Parent Businesspersons
- * 2 Parent/Guardians

(Four of seven members are parents,
none of which can be school employees)



The Basic Structure

~ Members elected to the LSC serve two-year terms; they may serve more than one term

~ Election dates & procedures are guided by the bylaws; terms should be staggered



The Basic Structure

~ Those wishing to run **MUST** be parents/guardians of students at *that* school

~ **ONLY** parents/guardians of students at that school are eligible to vote on parent representatives



The Basic Structure

~ Vacancies on the LSC must be replaced within 30 days via election (unless he/she had less than 90 days left in the term)

~ Parent businesspersons are selected by the principal



The Basic Structure

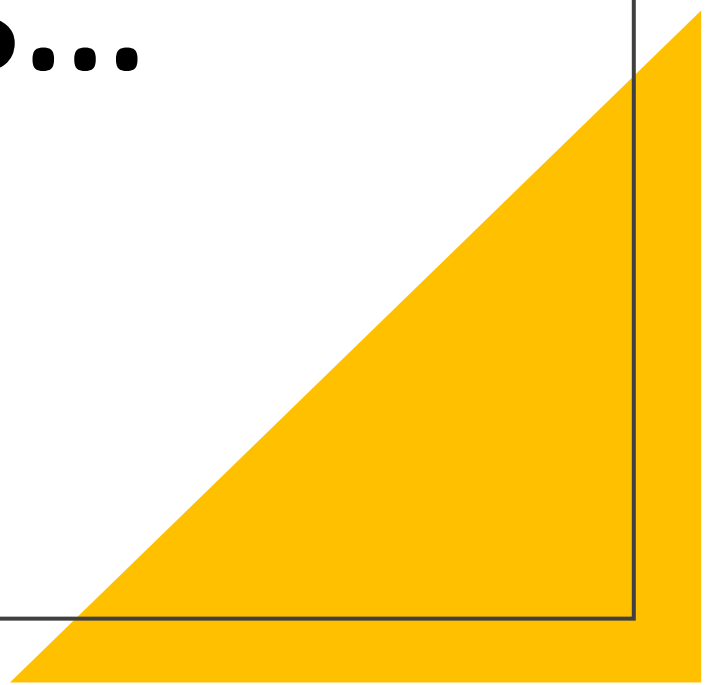
- ~ Each LSC will vote for three officers:
 - * Chairperson (must be a parent)
 - * Vice Chairperson
 - * Secretary

- ~ Officer election & terms are guided by the bylaws



FCS Local School
Councils

Major Operations...





Major Operations

~ The bylaws guide the conduct of the business of the LSC

~ Adoption or changes to bylaws require a two-thirds affirmative vote.



Major Operations

~ All meeting dates/times shall be determined by a majority vote

~ All meetings require a quorum of LSC members



Major Operations

~ The LSC must meet no fewer than four times per year, advertising these meetings in advance, and providing the opportunity for public attendance

~ Additional meetings may be determined in the bylaws or called via LSC vote



Major Operations

~ Meeting minutes must be captured and made available to the public, as well as council members, within 20 days of the meeting

~ Like the board of education, all council activities are subject to open records legislation



Major Operations

~ The LSC may appoint committees, study groups, or task forces it deems helpful

~ The LSC may request & receive information (not made lawfully confidential) of the BOE and district administration



Major Operations

~ The LSC may provide recommendations to the board of education

~ The LSC will provide an annual report to the board of education



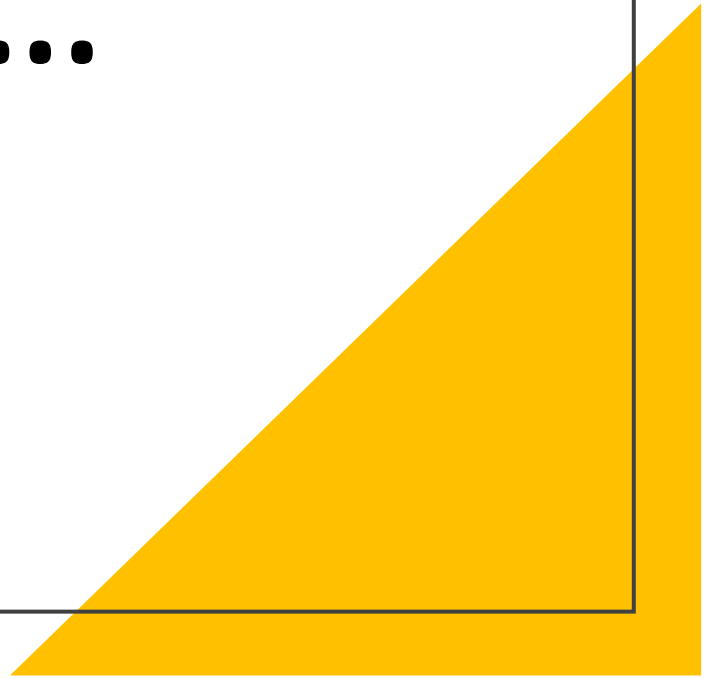
**Major
Operations**

~ Per FCS practice, the LSC will be consulted regarding the selection of a new principal when a vacancy emerges



**FCS Local School
Councils**

Major Topics for Discussion...





Major Topics

~ The LSC is an “advisory body”

~ The LSC should provide advice and recommendations to the school principal, the board of education, & the superintendent on matters relating to student achievement & school improvement



Major Topics

Main Focus:

- * School Board Policies
- * Curriculum & Assessment
- * Development of School Profile
- * Community Engagement
- * Extracurricular Activities
- * School-based Community Service
- * Student Discipline & Attend
- * School Improvement Plans
- * State Report Cards/Audits
- * School Budgets
- * Communication Strategies
- * Community Use of Facilities
- * School Progress Reports
- * Special Needs Services



Major Topics

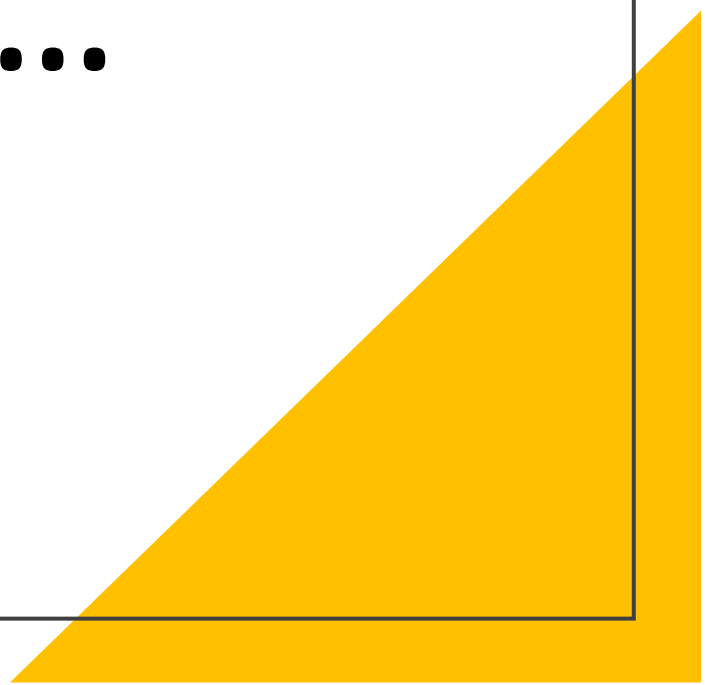
Focus of LSC:

- * School Board Policies
- * Curriculum & Assessment
- * Development of School Profile
- * Community Engagement
- * Extracurricular Activities
- * School-based Community Service
- * Student Discipline & Attend
- * School Improvement Plans
- * State Report Cards/Audits
- * School Budgets
- * Communication Strategies
- * Community Use of Facilities
- * School Progress Reports
- * Special Needs Services



**FCS Local School
Councils**

LSC Success Reminders...





Success Reminders

~ LSC members represent the entire school community – NOT special interest groups, clubs, or teams of which individual member's children are a part

~ LSC members' constituents are the whole school community



Success Reminders

- ~ Successful LSCs see themselves as a team
- ~ Trust among LSC members is VITAL
- ~ Positive communication is the key to that trust



**Success
Reminders**

~ The members of GREAT teams understand their roles...

- * LSC Members are *advisors*
- * Principals are the *deciders*





**Success
Reminders**

~ Focusing on what we are all “FOR” rather than all the things we stand against will aid forward thinking & progress

~ Regularly reviewing our district & school belief statements are great reminders of our “FOR”



Safe, Connected, Thriving

Success Reminders

FCS Belief Statements:

- * **Respect & empathy** are vital to building trust.
- * All students and staff must be **connected & supported**.
- * All students and staff must have a **strong sense of purpose**.
 - * All students and staff must be challenged to **think critically & creatively**.
- * Family & community **engagement** are essential to continuous improvement.