

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 351

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 5, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-526, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCILS.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 5, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-526, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-526. SCHOOL COMMUNITY COUNCILS. (1) Each school in a school district shall establish a school community council for the purpose of:

(a) Involving parents of students in decision-making at the school level;

(b) Analyzing data and information regarding the school's academic performance, including:

(i) The school district's continuous improvement plan created pursuant to section 33-320, Idaho Code; and

(ii) The school report card as required under the every student succeeds act, P.L. 114-95;

(c) Analyzing school and school district revenues and the expenditure of funds;

(d) Developing and submitting to the school district board of trustees a school continuous improvement plan for the purpose of improving the education of students, which plan shall:

(i) Set clear and measurable targets based on student outcomes;

(ii) Include a clearly developed and articulated vision and mission;

(iii) Include key indicators for monitoring performance; and

(iv) Include a report of progress toward the previous year's improvement goals;

(e) Making recommendations and offering advice to school administrators, school district administrators, and the school district board of trustees on issues relating to the items described in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this subsection; and

(f) Increasing public awareness of school initiatives and other issues relating to the school.

(2) A school administrator, school district administrator, or school district board of trustees may not prohibit or discourage a school community council from discussing issues or offering advice or recommendations as provided in subsection (1) of this section.

(3) Each school community council shall consist of parent members and school employee members.

1 (a) A school community council for a high school shall have six (6) par-
2 ent members and four (4) school employee members, including the princi-
3 pal.

4 (b) A school community council for a school other than a high school
5 shall have four (4) parent members and two (2) school employee members,
6 including the principal.

7 (c) A school community council may increase its membership by a major-
8 ity vote of a quorum of the council, provided that the membership in-
9 cludes at least two (2) more parent members than school employee mem-
10 bers.

11 (4) School community council members, other than a principal, shall be
12 elected for two (2) year terms, except as provided in subsection (9) of this
13 section. Election shall be by secret ballot by a majority vote of:

14 (a) School employees, for school employee council members; or

15 (b) Parents of students voting at the election, for parent council mem-
16 bers.

17 (5) Elections for school community council members shall be held in
18 April. Only a parent of a student who is currently attending the school, or
19 who will be attending the school in the following school year, may vote in or
20 run as a candidate in the election. A parent member of the school community
21 council may not be employed by the school district during the parent member's
22 term.

23 (6) At least thirty (30) days before the date of an election held to
24 elect school community council members, the principal of the school or the
25 principal's designee shall provide notice to each school employee and, to
26 the extent possible, each parent of a student currently attending the school
27 and each parent of a student who will be attending the school in the following
28 school year of the opportunity to vote in and run as a candidate in an elec-
29 tion held pursuant to this section. The notice shall include:

30 (a) The date and time of the election;

31 (b) A list of council positions that are up for election; and

32 (c) Instructions for becoming a candidate for a school community coun-
33 cil position.

34 (7) The principal of the school or the principal's designee shall over-
35 see elections held pursuant to this section. Ballots cast in the election
36 shall be deposited in a secure ballot box. Results of an election shall be
37 made available to the public upon request.

38 (8) If a vacancy occurs on a school community council, a member may be
39 appointed for a two (2) year term by:

40 (a) The school employee members of the council, if the vacancy is for a
41 school employee member; or

42 (b) The parent members of the council, if the vacancy is for a parent
43 member.

44 (9) Terms shall be staggered so that approximately half the council
45 members stand for election each year, and half the initial members of a
46 council shall serve (1) year terms to comply with the provisions of this
47 subsection.

48 (10) A school community council member may serve more than one (1) term
49 as long as the member meets eligibility requirements provided in this sec-
50 tion.

- 1 (11) Each school community council shall elect:
2 (a) A chair, who must be a parent member; and
3 (b) A vice chair, who can be either a parent member or a school employee
4 member, but shall not be the principal.
5 (12) A majority of the members of a school community council is a quorum
6 for conducting business. The action of a majority of the members of a quorum
7 is the action of the school community council.
8 (13) A school district board of trustees shall provide training for a
9 school community council each year, including training on the authority and
10 responsibilities of the council.
11 (14) Meetings of a school community council shall comply with the open
12 meetings requirements provided in chapter 2, title 74, Idaho Code.