

School Community Council Bylaws
December 10, 2015
Salt Lake County Sandy, Utah
Diamond Ridge High School Community Council

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization is Diamond Ridge High School Community Council (DRHS SCC), Sandy, UTAH. It is a local School Community Council unit recognized by the Canyons School District.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

In Utah the annual distribution from the permanent fund, where revenue from school trust lands is deposited, is distributed to every public school in the state through the School LAND Trust Program. Site-based committees prepare plans, approved by local school boards that identify an academic need and a proposed solution using the annual dividend.

ARTICLE III: DUTIES AND
RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 1. The Diamond Ridge High School Community Council (DRHS SCC) is responsible for the School Improvement Plan (53A-1a-108(3) (a) (i))

Section 2. DRHS SCC will assess academic needs and identify the most pressing academic needs of the school. (53A-1a-108(3) (a) (ii))

Section 3. DRHS SCC will prepare an action plan called a School Land Trust Plan to address the need and meet the goal identified. (53A-1a-108.5 (5), (53A-16-101.5(6) (a) (i), (53A-3-701(3), (53A-1-606.5(4))

Section 4. DRHS SCC will submit the Plan for the upcoming school year and the Progress Report for this school year, on the School LAND Trust website each spring for approval by the Canyons School District School Board. (53A-1a-108.5 (5), (53A-16-101.5(6) (a) (i), (53A-3-701(3), (53A-1-606.5(4))

Section 5. DRHS SCC will participate in the development of the Professional Development Plan (53A-1a-108(3)(a)(iii))

Section 6. DRHS SCC will advise the school administration on local school issues (53A-1a-108(3)(v))

Section 7. DRHS SCC will provide an opportunity for issues of concern in the community to be presented to the school administration. (R277-491-6F and G)

Section 8. The DRHS SCC provides ongoing support in implementation of approved plans. (53A-1a-108.5(7), (53A-16-101.5(6), (53A-3-701(1), (53A-1-606.5(3),

Section 9. DRHS SCCs may assume other tasks and responsibilities relating to their school, such as safety, school climate, student and teacher recognition, etc. that are best addressed through local school collaboration. (53A-1a-108(3) (a) (iv))

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The voting membership of the DRHS SCC must include:

- a. The school principal (53A-1a-108(5)(a))
- b. At least one school employee members, including the principal. 53A-1a-108 (4)(b)(i)
- c. At least four parent or guardian members. 53A-1a-108 (4)(b)(i)
 1. Any parent is eligible if they have a child who will be enrolled at the school during the first two-year term of office.
 2. They may work at the school, but no more than an average of six hours per week.

Section 2. The DRHS SCC may have more members. The number of parent members must exceed the number of school employees, including the principal. (53A-1a-108(4))

ARTICLE V: DEFINITIONS

Section 1. "Parent or guardian member" 53A-1a-108:

- a. "Parent or guardian member" means a member of a school community council who is a parent or guardian of a student who is attending the school or who will be enrolled at the school at any time during the parent's or guardian's initial term of office. 53A-1a-108 (1)(a)(i)
- b. "Parent or guardian member" may not include a person who meets the definition of a school employee member unless the person's employment at the school does not exceed an average of six hours per week. 53A-1a-108 (1)(a)(ii)

Section 2. "School employee member" means a member of a school community council who is a person employed at a school by the school or school district, including the principal. 53A-1a-108 (1)(b); these include:

- a. Employee or staff of Diamond Ridge High School
- b. Employee or staff of Canyons School District

ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS

Section 1. Each school employee member, except the principal, shall be elected by secret ballot by a majority vote of the school employees and serve a two-year term. The principal shall serve as an ex officio member with full voting privileges. 53A-1a-108 (5)(a)

Section 2. Each parent or guardian member shall be elected by secret ballot at an election held at the school by a majority vote of those voting at the election and serve a two-year term. 53A-1a-108 (5) (b) (i)

- a. Only parents or guardians of students attending the school or who have students who will be attending the school in the fall may vote at the election. 53A-1a-108 (4)(b)(ii) and R277-491-3 (B)
 1. Parents with students currently enrolled at DRHS are eligible to vote in May elections.
- b. Parent members must have a child at the school at least one of the two years of their initial term. 53A-1a-108 (4)(b)(i)
 1. Parents with students currently enrolled in May as tenth or eleventh graders at DRHS are eligible as candidates
- c. Any parent or guardian of a student who meets the qualifications of this section may file or declare himself as a candidate for election to a school community council. 53A-1a-108 (5)(b)(iii) and R277-491-3(A)
 1. A candidate may submit a short biography to be posted in the school newsletter(s) or posted on Community bulletin board(s) at DRHS.
 2. Any potential candidate missing the filing window may declare themselves a write-

in candidate up until 7 days prior to the election. Should this occur a write-in line will be provided on the ballot.

- d. Parent members may work at the school for up to six hours per week (average). Those working more must run as employees. 53A-1a-108 (1) (a) (ii)

Section 3. DRHS SCC will conduct a spring SCC election with newly elected members present at the May SCC meeting. (R277-491-6 (A))

Section 4. Voting

- a. "Secure ballot box" means a closed container prepared by the school for the deposit of secret ballots for the school community council elections (R277-491-1(L))
- b. Secure ballot boxes will be supplied at the DRHS main office.
- c. All parents of current DRHS students are eligible to vote.
- d. All eligible voters must vote in person at DRHS. Eligibility shall be verified from a roster of DRHS students. This is to ensure full accountability of the election results and provide verification and tracking of votes cast.
- e. Each parent will cast a vote for each open seat (i.e.: 3 votes total per parent for 3 open seats), there are no additional votes for subsequent children attending DRHS.
- f. Voting will occur on two consecutive days in May of each school year. Results will be tabulated following the closure of the poles on the second day.
- g. A simple majority of those parents or guardians voting will determine the election. (53A-1a-108(5)(a) and (5)(b))
- h. DRHS SCC may establish procedures that allow for ballots to be clearly marked and mailed to the school in the case of geography or school distances that would otherwise discourage parent participation. Hand-delivered or mailed ballots shall meet the same timelines for voters voting in person. (R277-491-3(C))
- i. DRHS SCC may allow parents to vote by electronic ballot. If school districts/schools allow voting by electronic means, the opportunity shall be clearly explained on the school district/school website including (R277-491-3(D)):
 1. directions for electronic voting
 2. security provisions for electronic voting
 3. statement to parents and community members that violations of a school district's/school's voting procedures may disqualify a parent's vote or invalidate a specific school election, or both.

Section 5. The DRHS Community Council Chair shall provide notice of the available community council positions to school employees, parents, and guardians at least 14 days before the date that voting commences for the elections (53A-1a-108 (c)(i) and (R277-491-4 B)

- a. The notice shall include:
 1. The dates and times of the elections
 2. A list of council positions that are up for election
 3. Instructions for becoming a candidate for a community council election
- b. The principal of the school, or the principal's designee, shall oversee the elections
- c. Ballots cast in an election held shall be deposited in a secure ballot box.

Section 6. Results of the elections held shall be made available to the public upon request. (53A-1a-108(5) (d))

Section 7. Ballots and voting are required only in the event of a school community council contested race (R277-491-3 (E))

Section 8. Unfilled positions (53A-1a-108(5) (e))

- a. If a parent or guardian position on a school community council becomes vacant at any time for any reason (other than the ending of a two-year term), the other parent or guardian members of the council shall appoint a parent or guardian who meets the qualifications of this section to fill the position.
- b. If a school employee position on a school community council becomes vacant at any time for any reason (other than the ending of a two-year term), the other school employee members of the council shall appoint a school employee to fill the position.
- c. The Chair of the community council shall notify the local school board of each appointment. (53A-1a-108(5)(e) and (R277-477-3F))
- d. A member appointed to a school community council shall serve out the remainder of a two-year term (53A-1a-108 (1)(e)(iv))

Section 9. Initial terms shall be staggered so that no more than 50% of the council members stand for election in any one year. (53A-1a-108 (1) (f))

Section 10. Terms of office 3A-1a-108(5) (g) and (R277-491-6)

- a. The term of office shall be July 1 through June 30th; each term shall be two years.
- b. Each council member may serve up to three successive terms. (53A-1a-108 (1)(g)(ii))

ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers (53A-1a-108(5) (h))

- a. DRHS SCC members shall elect a Chair and a Vice-chair from its parent or guardian members and elected employee members.
- b. A principal may not serve as Chair or Vice-chair of the SCC (R277-491-4A)
- c. DRHS SCC members shall elect a Vice-chair from the other group.
- d. The Chair and Vice-chair will have terms of office for one year until their successors are elected.

Section 2. Election of officers – Terms

- a. Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected at the final DRHS SCC meeting in the spring of the current school year.
- b. An officer elected by DRHS SCC members may be removed from office for cause by a vote of two-thirds of the DRHS SCC. (53A-3-201)
- c. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Chair or Vice-Chair, a replacement shall be elected for the unexpired term. (53A-3-201)

Section 3. Subcommittees or task forces (53A-1a-108(6) may be created by the DRHS SCC to:

- a. Advise or make recommendations to the council or
- b. Develop all or part of a School Improvement plan.
- c. Any plan or part of a plan developed by a subcommittee or task force shall be subject to the approval of the DRHS SCC.
- d. DRHS SCC may appoint individuals who are not council members to serve on a subcommittee or task force, including parents, school employees or other community members.

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Chair shall:

- a. Preside at all meetings of this DRHS SCC.
- b. Perform such other duties assigned by the organization
- c. Appoint and supervise the DRHS SCC representatives and chairpersons of special committees

- d. Coordinate the work of the officers, representatives, and committees of this DRHS SCC
- e. Provide the following information to the SCC, with assistance from the school administrator (R277-491-4 B):
 - 1. Notice of dates and times of SCC elections at least 14 days before the elections are held
 - 2. Timely notice of SCC positions that are up for election
 - 3. Instructions for applying to become SCC member together with timelines for submitting information and applications
 - 4. Notice of the SCC meeting schedule, provided in the first 14 days of the school year
 - 5. A summary of the SCC's actions and activities for the first half of the school year, provided mid-way through the school year
 - 6. A summary of the annual expenditure report of all School LAND Trust Program funds provided to the SCC and to the local BOE in the fall of the school year following the school year that the school plans were implemented
 - 7. Posting the SCC meeting information (time, place and date of meeting; meeting agenda and previous meeting minutes) on the school's website at least one week prior to each meeting, and on the access door(s) of the school of the day of the meeting.
 - 8. Assisted by the school administrator, shall provide information on the school website and in at least one other direct delivery method ensuring that all parents are notified in Section 53A-1a-108 (7) (a).
 - 9. Assisted by the school administrator, shall act in compliance with the Utah Open and Public Meetings Act (52-4-101)

Section 2. The Vice-Chair shall:

- a. Serve in the absence of the Chair
- b. Support and work closely with the Chair and committee members

Section 3. The Secretary shall:

- a. Record the minutes of all meetings of this DRHS SCC
- b. Be responsible for ensuring minutes of previous meeting are posted on the DRHS website one week before the upcoming meeting
- c. Be responsible for filing a copy of each meeting's minutes in the DRHS SCC binder in the DRHS library.
- d. Conduct correspondence as required and requested.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Make a financial report at every DRHS SCC meeting.

Section 5. Parent members shall participate fully in the development of various school plans described in Section 53A-1a-108 (3) including, at a minimum (R277-491-5 C):

- a. School Improvement Plan
- b. School LAND Trust Plan
- c. Professional Development Plan
- d. Review of School Health Plans required under Section 53A-11-204

ARTICLE IX: DRHS SCC MEETINGS

Section 1. DRHS SCC meetings are open to the public (52-4-103(7) and (52-4-201(1))

- a. A Public Comment Period will be the first agenda item.
- b. Visitors giving input during the Public Comment Period will be limited to 5 minutes during the DRHS SCC meeting. Any additional concerns or comments may be directed to any DRHS SCC member via email or phone. Those additional concerns or comments will then be disseminated to the entire DRHS SCC.
- c. The DRHS SCC will hear/receive input but will not comment during the Public Comment Period.
- d. The DRHS SCC Chair may ask a visitor to tell the council the subject of their concerns and may decide to put the topic on a future agenda. If the topic is not within the purview of the council, the Chair may ask the individual to take their concern to those who may address it. (School Lands Trust FAQ #23)
- e. The DRHS SCC may ask for removal of any person from a meeting who willfully disrupts the meeting to the extent that orderly conduct is seriously compromised. (54-4-301)

Section 2. DRHS SCC meeting agendas are posted on the school website at least one week in advance and include the date, time, location, and minutes of the last meeting (53A-1a-108(8)and R277-491-4(7)

Section 3. DRHS SCC meeting agendas are posted on the front door of the school at least 24 hours in advance and include the date, time, and location of the meeting (52-4-202(1))

Section 4. All DRHS SCC minutes include: date; time; location; names of members present and absent; substance of all matters proposed, discussed or decided; a record of votes; name of each person who is recognized by the chair to speak in the meeting; and substance of what is said. (52-4-203(1-2) and 52-4-203(4)(c))

Section 5. A simple majority is required to take action. (52-4-103(4) and (9)

Section 6. A recording of each meeting is kept and labeled with the date, time and location of the meeting. (52-4-203(1) and (3)

Section 6. The following schedule and report summaries are provided on the school website AND via required means, to each individual household with a student attending the school (53A-1a-108(7)

- a. The DRHS SCC provides a yearly meeting schedule within the first two weeks of the school year
- b. The DRHS SCC provides a mid-year summary of the council's actions and activities to date
- c. The DRHS SCC provides a summary of the Final Report of the School LAND Trust Program Plan implementation for the prior year in the fall of the following year

Section 7. A school administrator shall assist a DRHS SCC to provide information on the school website and in the newsletter ensuring that all parents are notified as provided in Section 53A- 1a-108(7)(a).

ARTICLE X: FISCAL

The fiscal year of this DRHS SCC shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at meeting of this DRHS SCC provided:

- a. That notice of the proposed amendments shall have been given at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which the amendments are voted upon,
- b. The proposed amendment passes by simple majority of the members present.

Approved this 10th day of December, 2018.

Witnessed and signed by current DRHS SCC members:

Chair: _____ /s/ _____

Vice Chair: _____ /s/ _____

Parent: _____ /s/ _____

Parent: _____ /s/ _____

School Emp.: _____ /s/ _____

DRHS SCC By-laws have been written with the guidance of the State of Utah School Lands Trust Organization:

http://www.schoollandtrust.org/gen_about_sltr.php

http://www.schoollandtrust.org/geninfo/SCC_Law.pdf http://www.schoollandtrust.org/geninfo/School_Community_Council_Rule_10-08.pdf http://www.schoollandtrust.org/geninfo/R277-477passed_third_reading.pdf

http://www.schoollandtrust.org/geninfo/The_School_Community_Council_for_Website_1-09.pdf

http://www.schoollandtrust.org/geninfo/Compliance_Checklist_updated_3-15-09.pdf

http://www.schoollandtrust.org/geninfo/Compliance_Checklist_with_references_3-25-09.pdf

References

In parenthesis, at the end of each item, is the reference of the original source document that created the requirement. References that begin with "R" reference the State Board Rules on School Community Councils and the School LAND Trust Program. The other references are state law. You may review the rules and law at the following web addresses: