



St. Cecilia Catholic School

Advisory Council Bylaws (Updated July 2022)

PREAMBLE

This document is intended to be the bylaws of the St. Cecilia Catholic School Advisory Council and will regulate the powers and responsibilities of the Advisory Council, its officers and committees and will be observed for the procedure and dispatch of business at the meetings of the Advisory Council and its committees.

These bylaws will be approved by the Pastor of St. Cecilia Catholic Community and will be reviewed annually as directed by the Pastor or as recommended by the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston. Likewise, the administrative organization of the Advisory Council will be subject to periodic review by the Superintendent and/or the Pastor to ensure that it is designed to meet the needs of the school.

All dealings of the Advisory Council will be their best efforts to be in compliance with the philosophy, mission, terms, and intent of the Document labeled “PURPOSE OF LOCAL SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL” and issued by the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston (also referred to as the School Advisory Council Handbook), where it is both practical and reasonable to do so.

The purpose of the St. Cecilia Catholic School shall be to maintain a day school offering a strong academic program in a Christian atmosphere and character training for the entire personality of a child regardless of race, creed, or color.

St. Cecilia has the following as its Mission Statement:

Our mission at St Cecilia Catholic School is the ongoing Catholic formation and education of the whole child in mind, heart, and spirit, in preparation for an adult life of commitment and service.

St. Cecilia Catholic School is Christ-centered and educationally excellent.

In the practical application of this philosophy, opportunity shall be provided within the educational program for each individual to develop the following capabilities:

- A sound understanding and appreciation of the Catholic Faith
- Fundamental academic skills
- Knowledge and understanding of his or her natural environment
- Moral and ethical values
- Physical, mental, and emotional health
- An appreciation of his/her role in their family, the Catholic Church and society
- An appreciation of the arts
- Intellectual skills
- Zeal for continuous learning and self-improvement



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INTERPRETATION

Definitions and Meaning of Terms

For the purpose of these bylaws, the terms used will have the following meaning:

- “AD HOC COMMITTEE” means a temporary committee or task force established to address a specific issue.
- “ANNUAL MEETING” means the first meeting held at the beginning of the school year.
- “ADVISORY COUNCIL” means the St. Cecilia Catholic School Advisory Council.
- “CLOSED MEETING” or “Executive Session” means a private meeting of the whole Advisory Council or a committee from which the public are excluded.
- “CHAIRPERSON” or “CHAIR” means the lead Advisory Council member of any committee or subcommittee established by the Advisory Council.
- “COMMITTEE” means any standing, special or ad hoc committee established by the Advisory Council. Any Committee that is recommended by the Advisory Council must have the approval of the Pastor and the Principal.
- “EX-OFFICIO” means by “virtue of office.” The President of the Advisory Council when acting in “ex-officio” capacity to a committee is not counted in the quorum of the committee, but has the right to make motions, discuss motions and vote on all questions.
- “INAUGURAL MEETING” means the first meeting of a newly appointed Advisory Council to be held following appointment and the commencement of the term of office.
- “MEETING” includes a meeting of the Advisory Council and/or of Advisory Council committees.
- “MEMBER” means a person appointed to the office of Member of the Advisory Council.
- “MEMBER AT LARGE” means an individual appointed to represent the interests of the general school community and conducts projects and accepts duties as assigned by the President of the Advisory Council.
- “OFFICERS” or “EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE” means the President of the Advisory Council, the Vice President of the Advisory Council, the Secretary of the Advisory Council, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee of the Advisory Council, the Principal, the Pastor and the Superintendent/Superintendent’s Delegate when necessary.
- “PASTOR” means Canonical administrator of the St. Cecilia Catholic Community or St. Cecilia Parish.
- “PRESIDENT” or “PRESIDENT OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL” means the President of the St. Cecilia Catholic School Advisory Council.
- “PRINCIPAL” means Chief administrator of the school.
- “STANDING COMMITTEE” means any committee to which the Advisory Council continually or regularly appoints one or more members.
- “STRATEGIC PLAN” means the Long-Range Strategic Plan the school prepares to meet requirements of the Archdiocesan School Council of the Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston.
- “SUPERINTENDENT” means the Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston.
- “SUPERINTENDENT’S DELEGATE” means a member of the Office of Catholic Schools staff assigned to represent the Superintendent.
- “VICE CHAIR” means the designated representative of the Chair of any committee or subcommittee



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established by the Advisory Council.

- “YEAR” means, unless qualified by the word “calendar,” the school year.

ARTICLE I - NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization will be the “St. Cecilia Catholic School Advisory Council,” hereafter called the Advisory Council.

ARTICLE II – JURISDICTION OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Section 1. Purpose and Function

The Advisory Council, an advisory council of delegated responsibility, gathers in the spirit of the gospel to promote, sustain and ensure the ministry of quality Catholic education. This is accomplished by providing vision, leadership, and accountability in collaboration with diocesan and local administrators as well as with other key representatives of the school, parish, and business communities. This is further achieved by making informed recommendations concerning policies and goals to the Pastor and Principal.

The Advisory Council is advisory in nature and consults with the Pastor and Principal in recommending policies, budgets, and financing. The function of the Advisory Council is to discuss and offer recommendations to issues addressing general policy, budgeting and finances of the school. Issues related to discipline, personnel, and day to day operations are the responsibility of the Principal.

Section 2. Roles and Responsibilities

Roles of the Advisory Council include the following:

- Actively assist the Pastor and Principal in the role of short and long term planning
- Support identification, development, and assessment of progress for initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan for St. Cecilia Catholic School
- Identify and articulate the educational needs and aspirations of the school and the community
- Mobilize resources at Advisory Council’s discretion (primarily via the Committee structure, with the approval of the Pastor and Principal) to meet the identified goals; provide advice and guidance to the Pastor in the area of finances for the School
- Provide the opportunity for appropriate communication with parents
- Evaluate Advisory Council members and the Principal as required by the Archdiocesan Schools Office
- Actively assist school with hosting the Accreditation Team

A major task for the Advisory Council is to provide advice and guidance in the area of finances. Approving tuition rates and salary increases for the staff is the Pastor’s responsibility, but the Pastor will rely upon solid information provided by the Principal and the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council should assist the Principal in providing communication to parents about the financial status of the school.



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ARTICLE III – RELATIONSHIPS

- A. Parish--Pastor is the representative of the Parish
- B. Superintendent is representative of the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Office
- C. School--Principal is representative of the school
- D. President is representative of the Advisory Council
- E. Chairperson of the Finance Committee – only if he/she is a voting member of the Advisory Council.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP, APPOINTMENTS, AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1. Number and Term of Members

The Advisory Council will be composed of nine members or such number as approved by the Pastor. Members will serve a term of three years. They may, at the sole discretion of the Pastor, be discerned to serve one additional three-year term. Members may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. An absence of at least one (1) year is required before one may be discerned to the Advisory Council after having served two (2) consecutive terms.

If, for any reason, an Advisory Council member does not complete their term, it may be necessary to make an irregular appointment to the Advisory Council. This appointment will be at the sole discretion of the Pastor, but it will be the responsibility of the President of the Advisory Council to make recommendations to the Pastor and to assist the Pastor in the process. The appointee will be designated to serve the remainder of the unexpired or incomplete term. Members appointed to unexpired or incomplete terms in this manner may later be discerned to one three-year term.

For special circumstances identified by the Pastor or Superintendent, a member may be appointed to additional terms beyond the limits of this section without a change of bylaws.

Section 2. Qualification and Selection of Advisory Council Members

Each year the Advisory Council members whose terms have expired shall be replaced by new Advisory Council members through the discernment process. A majority of Advisory Council members shall be parents of students currently enrolled at the school with no more than two Advisory Council members not meeting this qualification for any given year.

Advisory Council members will be selected through a process of discernment at a meeting of the Advisory Council to be held at a time that is mutually agreed upon by the Pastor and Principal. The discernment process will not be part of the Advisory Council's regular monthly meeting unless the Pastor, President and Principal have otherwise reached prior consensus with the Advisory Council's current members.

The Advisory Council, Principal, Pastor and others will solicit interest from potential candidates for Advisory Council membership. Potential candidates shall meet the qualifications for Advisory Council members as described by the Catholic Schools Office of the Archdiocese.

Persons in the following categories may not be considered as candidates for the Advisory Council:

- Employees of the parish and school, whether teaching or non-teaching personnel



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- Spouses, children or siblings of employees of the parish or school
- More than one member of an immediate family at a time
- Advisory Council members or professional educators of another school or school system

Potential candidates will be invited to a meeting for the purpose of discernment, where they will be informed of the roles, responsibilities, duties, and expectations of Advisory Council members and they will participate in the discernment process. The discernment process shall be moderated or conducted by someone other than a current Advisory Council member, the Pastor, the Principal, or any representative of these persons.

The discernment process is meant to demonstrate that certain principles of the Catholic faith guide the roles, responsibilities, purpose, and function of the Advisory Council. The discernment process shall include an inquiry of Advisory Council members and/or potential candidates and shall include an opportunity for Advisory Council members and potential candidates to prayerfully consider appointment of new members to the Advisory Council.

The selection process for discernment will be determined by an independent moderator (someone other than a current Advisory Council member, the Pastor, the Principal, or any representative of these persons) and should result in the selection of new Advisory Council members. Those newly selected Advisory Council members shall become Advisory Council members for the following year.

The provisions of this Section 2 notwithstanding, in the event that a discernment to select new Advisory Council members cannot be conducted due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances, as determined by the Pastor in his sole discretion, then the Pastor shall appoint the requisite number of new Advisory Council members in his sole discretion but after consultation with the Principal. In addition, the Pastor has the sole discretion to appoint the Chair of the Finance Committee and a Liaison from the Parish Council to serve as members of the Advisory Council, each of whom shall serve a three year term.

Section 3. Suspension and Removal of a Member

The Pastor, after consulting with the Superintendent, may suspend or remove an Advisory Council member from office at any time during their term with or without cause. Such suspension or removal will be executed by written notice to the affected Advisory Council member.

Section 4. Resignation

A Member may resign by delivering to the Pastor and President of the Advisory Council a written notice indicating that he or she is resigning. The resignation will be effective upon receipt unless specified to be effective at some other time.

Section 5. Advisory Council Member Responsibilities

Members show their acceptance of responsibility as members by regular attendance and participation at meetings. Members shall furthermore participate in at least one training session a year that is specifically designed by the Galveston-Houston Archdiocesan Board of Education for local Advisory Councils. The Advisory Council chair must provide an orientation detailing the work of the Advisory Council for all new members.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS



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Section 1. The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will be comprised of the following:

- a. Pastor
- b. Principal
- c. President of the Advisory Council
- d. Vice President of the Advisory Council
- e. Chairperson of the Finance Committee
- f. Secretary of the Advisory Council

Section 2. Functions of the Officers

The Officers' functions include planning and preparation for Advisory Council meetings, coordination and communication among Advisory Council members, planning and organizing for orientation of new members, coordinating ongoing Advisory Council education for all members and succession planning for the Chief Administrator or Principal as necessary, in addition to performing other duties that may be determined by the President.

Section 3. Appointment and Duties of the President

The President will take over that position the year following that individual's role as Vice President. The President of the Advisory Council will serve in that role for a term of one (1) year. The President of the Advisory Council will:

- a. Preside at all meetings of the Advisory Council and exercise and perform such powers and duties as may be assigned from time to time to the office.
- b. Work with the Principal and the Secretary to prepare the agenda prior to all meetings.
- c. Actively coordinate assignment of committee chairs as advisable to the Principal and Pastor. Approval and establishment of school committees are based on the authority and approval of the Pastor and Principal.
- d. Call special meetings of the Advisory Council as necessary.
- e. The President of the Advisory Council, when present, will be an ex-officio member of all committees and has the right to vote at all committee meetings. The President will not be counted in determining a quorum of the committee.

Section 4. President's Participation in Debate and Discussion

The President may participate in any debate or discussion from his/her position as President. Should the President elect to vacate the Presidency to take part in any debate or discussion or for any other reason, he/she will call upon the Vice President or in his/her absence, one of the Members to fill his/her place until he/she resumes it.

Section 5. The Appointment and Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President will be appointed by the President. The Vice President will:

- a. Serve in the absence of the President
- b. Perform duties as outlined by the President
- c. Will become the President the year immediately following the year he/she serves as the Vice President.

Section 6. Secretary of the Advisory Council



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The Secretary will:

- a. Attend all meetings of the Advisory Council.
- b. Prepare, in consultation with the other officers of the Advisory Council, the draft agenda of Advisory Council meetings. He or she may construct the Advisory Council Agenda after the draft has been developed and approved by the principal, pastor and Advisory Council president. All items to be placed on the Agenda must be given to the Principal & President 10 working days prior to the meeting date for their approval.
- c. Prepare minutes of all meetings.
- d. Maintain reports from committees and/or subcommittees.
- e. Keep records as directed by the Advisory Council.
- f. Receive and pass on to the Advisory Council, or relevant committee, all correspondence, petitions and reports of other officials as determined by the Executive Committee.
- g. Maintain a current record of all policies as approved by the Pastor. The Advisory Council suggests and assists in policy making, and the Pastor approves. The school principal enacts or implements the policy after the Pastor's approval.
- h. Maintain charge of all correspondence, reports, and other documents of Advisory Council business, including these By Laws and any Amendments hereto.

Section 7. The Chair of the Finance Committee

The Chair of the Finance Committee will:

- a. Communicate with the Parish Finance Committee with the approval of the Pastor.
- b. Submit to the Advisory Council for review the budget for the upcoming year in the January Advisory Council meeting of the current year.
- c. Assist any committee in need of financial information.
- d. Coordinate with appropriate school administrators and staff to obtain and review all available information needed to perform the responsibilities of this office.
- e. Consult and assist the principal on preparation of a balanced budget.

Section 8. The Principal of the School

The Principal of the School serves at the discretion of the Pastor. Should the need arise to select a new Principal; at least three Advisory Council Members should participate in the search process. The Pastor retains sole decision making authority on the selection of the Principal of the School.

The Principal will be a member of the Executive Committee and will approve with the President and Pastor the appointment of Committee or Subcommittee members. The Principal will provide an update to the Advisory Council in Monthly Meetings on issues of interest to the Advisory Council, as appropriate and have prepared for submission to the Advisory Council the annual financial reports.

Advisory Council members are required to give assistance to the Pastor in the annual evaluation of the Principal as part of the Principal Professional Growth Process identified in the Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston Advisory Council Handbook. The Principal will provide Advisory Council members with the Principal Professional Growth Form and review the document with them. Each Advisory Council member will complete the Principal Professional Growth



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Form and submit the form to the Principal. The Principal and Pastor will meet to review the forms.

Section 9. At Large Members

Any member of the Advisory Council not designated as one of the aforementioned positions will be considered an “At Large Member of the Advisory Council” with the approval of the Pastor and Principal.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Section 1. Meeting Schedule and Location of Meetings

Unless otherwise ordered by special motion, the Advisory Council will conduct regular meetings on a monthly schedule. Standing and Ad Hoc Committees will meet as necessary. A schedule of all Advisory Council meetings is to be submitted to the Pastor and Principal by September 1 of each year.

Section 2. Summer Meetings

The Advisory Council will recess from its regular meeting schedule only in July. The President, with the approval of the Pastor and Principal, is authorized to schedule Advisory Council meetings and executive sessions during June and August, with the June meeting recommended to be designated as the Inaugural Meeting of a newly appointed Advisory Council.

Section 3. Special Meetings of the Advisory Council

Special meetings of the Advisory Council may only be called by the Pastor or the President, or at the request of the Principal. The members will be given 24-hour notice for special meetings, except in emergency situations. Such meetings will be called for specific reasons. Such subjects will be stated in the notice calling the meeting. Subjects addressed cannot relate to personnel or discipline issues. Notwithstanding any other provisions to the Advisory Council’s bylaws, no other business will be considered at such special meetings.

Section 4. Quorum for Meetings

A majority of the Members of the Advisory Council will constitute a quorum for meetings of the Advisory Council. If a quorum is not present within fifteen (15) minutes after the time appointed for any meeting (or such longer time as may be agreed upon by the Members who are present), the person assigned as recording secretary will record the names of the persons present and the meeting will stand adjourned, to be reconvened within seven (7) days at the call of the President. A member can be present via electronic communications so long as the Advisory Council feels the individual has ability to participate.

Section 5. Notice of Meetings

Written notices of all regular meetings of the Advisory Council will be transmitted by the Advisory Council Secretary, along with the agenda of the meeting, at least 72 hours before the time of meeting.

The agenda may be amended at the opening of a meeting with the consensus of Advisory Council Members present at the meeting and with approval from the Pastor and Principal.

Section 6. Absences

A Member who cannot attend an Advisory Council meeting will inform the President at or before noon on the day of



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the meeting; or in the case of a morning meeting, the evening prior to the scheduled meeting. If a Member is absent from three consecutive regular Advisory Council meetings without being authorized by resolution entered in the minutes, that Member thereby vacates their seat and procedures will be initiated to replace the Member. The Advisory Council President may authorize an extended absence of a Member; this authorization will be noted in the minutes.

Section 7. Code of Conduct

The Advisory Council may adopt rules for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the Advisory Council, as they deem proper and consistent with these bylaws, canonical law, “Archdiocese of Galveston – Houston, Secretariat for Catholic Schools, Catholic Schools Office Advisory Council Handbook”, and the laws of the State of Texas. The Advisory Council Code of Conduct is as follows:

The Advisory Council commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike, and lawful conduct including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Advisory Council members. Accordingly, members of the Advisory Council:

Will uphold the teachings of the Catholic Church and protect the Catholic identity of the school;

- a. Must represent un-conflicted loyalty to the interests of the school;
- b. Avoid conflict of interest with respect to the fiduciary responsibility. May not attempt to exercise individual authority over the school except as explicitly set forth in the Advisory Council policies;
- c. Do not have any power or authority over the Principal or staff members of the school
- d. In their interaction with the public, press or other entities must not speak for the Advisory Council except to repeat stated Advisory Council decisions;
- e. Will not engage in conversations or correspondence with non-Advisory Council members about confidential Advisory Council matters in which information is shared, solicited or received unsolicited. Advisory Council members should always direct concerned individuals to the appropriate channels of authority;
- f. Will respect all confidential matters;
- g. Will be properly prepared for Advisory Council deliberations.

ARTICLE VII - STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

The various committees and the Advisory Council as a whole should be actively involved in assisting the Principal in the role of short and long-term planning. The Texas Catholic Conference Education Department requires each school, under the direction of the local governing body and leadership, to have a written site based long-range strategic plan. An outline of this plan is as follows:

- Long-Range Strategic Plan
- Is a process to develop both long-term vision and goals for the school with specific interim steps to reach these goals;
- Flows from the school’s mission statement;
- Encompasses a period of 3-5 years;



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- Outlines realistic operational and strategic goals;
- Addresses areas such as Catholic identity, enrollment, personnel, curriculum, facilities, development, administration, finances and any other needs specific to the school community;
- Involves an annual review of the school's mission statement, philosophy, goals and objectives as well as a review of the plan's goals and action steps, with any necessary adjustments being made including goals. These plans will provide a road map for all involved in the parish/school community.

Section 1. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will include the Officers of the Advisory Council as defined in Article V, Section 1. In addition to carrying out the duties listed in Article V, the Executive Committee may be authorized to act in the name of the full Advisory Council when authorized by the full Advisory Council to do so. Specific functions will include:

- a. Ensure the school's Strategic Plan is appropriately aligned with the school's mission statement;
- b. Develop the succession plan of the Advisory Council.

Section 2 Standing Committee Membership

Each standing committee will have at least one Advisory Council Member representative.

Section 3. Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will include the Chair of the Committee, the Principal, a member of the school staff or administration having adequate working knowledge of the school's financial records and statement, and at large members as deemed appropriate by the Chair. The finance committee members will be appointed by the President with the approval of the Pastor and Principal and should include the school bookkeeper.

Functions of the Committee include:

- a. Communicate with the Parish Finance Council and Home & School Association (HSA).
- b. Monitor the development and evaluation of the school budget.
- c. Work closely with the Principal to create budget drafts for the Pastor and the Advisory Council.
- d. Support school staff and administration in preparation of long-term strategic planning in conjunction with the Planning Committee of the Advisory Council.
- e. Review internal budgetary controls and make recommendations for any deficiencies.
- f. Review financial reporting process and develop recommendations to ensure integrity with regard to the school's financial statements.
- g. Support school staff and administration in development of financing strategies for the long-term strategic plan.
- h. Help to ensure financial records and reporting conform to requirements of the Archdiocese and cooperate with Archdiocesan auditors.

Section 4. Community Engagement Committee

The Community Engagement Committee will include at least one Advisory Council member and a member of the school staff or administration having adequate working knowledge of the school's fundraising efforts.

With the approval of the Pastor and Principal and in accordance with Archdiocesan Policy and procedure, the Committee functions include:



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- a. Supporting development of capital campaigns tied to requirements developed by the Finance and Planning Committees.
- b. Ensuring that all fund raising is coordinated by a centralized group and planned with appropriate goals.
- c. Supporting development of a public relations plan tied to the strategic plan to promote enrollment and effective communication with students, parents, faculty and administration.
- d. Support creation and implementation of a marketing plan to increase and sustain enrollment.
- e. Presenting plans and action items to the full Advisory Council.

Section 5. Ad Hoc Committees

The Advisory Council with the approval of the Pastor and the Principal may establish ad hoc committees as deemed appropriate. The establishing motion will indicate the mandate of the committee, the membership of the committee, the length of the committee's service and the due date of the final report or activities.

Section 6. Committee Procedures

Each committee will record its deliberations, recommendations and conclusions and will deliver a copy of the report to the Principal and Secretary of the Advisory Council for submission to Advisory Council Members and Pastor. Meetings of any committee will be coordinated with the Principal and notice given to the committee members and the President of the Advisory Council, each of whom will have the right to attend and participate in the deliberations of the committee. The President or the committee Chair may invite to any committee meeting any individuals who may be helpful to the deliberations of the committee. A majority of the members of each committee will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and the act of a majority of the members of any committee at which a quorum is present will be the action of the committee.

ARTICLE VIII - ACCESS TO MEETINGS

All meetings of the Advisory Council are to be open to the public but may not address the Advisory Council without being on an agenda which was approved by the Pastor, Principal and President. The presiding officer or Pastor may expel or exclude from any meeting any person who has been guilty of improper conduct at the meeting. The Pastor, at his sole discretion, may ask anyone to leave an Advisory Council meeting at any time for any reason. Person(s) asked to leave must leave the meeting immediately.

ARTICLE IX - DELEGATIONS

Section 1. Request to Address the Advisory Council

Any stakeholder or group may request to address the Advisory Council as an individual or as a delegation. Topics will only be in those areas of the Advisory Council's jurisdiction. The individual or delegation must provide the request in writing to the Principal or President, at least ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting of the Advisory Council or committee at which the individual or delegation wishes to be heard. The request will contain the topic to be discussed and the identity of the spokesperson(s). The person or persons wishing to address the Advisory Council or committee will be notified of the date, time and location of the meeting at which the presentation will be made.

The President, after consultation with the Pastor and Principal, may deny the request of an individual or delegation to



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address the Advisory Council. The person or persons making the request will be notified in writing of the denial.

Section 2. Procedures

Individuals or delegations will, upon notification, have these regulations shared with them prior to their presentation. Copies of the presentation will be shared with the full Advisory Council or Executive Committee at the time that the agenda is distributed or at such time as the presentation is made. Nothing of a confidential nature should be addressed such as discipline problems or personnel issues. In any case, the subject matter of the individual or delegation may not be discussed at the meeting at which the presentation is made, and a decision may not be made, other than in closed session. An individual or delegation's presentation will be limited to 15 minutes.

Amendments as to the length of time are at the discretion of the President, Pastor and Principal.

Following the presentation by the individual or delegation, only the President will allow questions of clarification. No discussions will follow the presentation. Notwithstanding the above, the Advisory Council, the Pastor, and the Principal retain authority to decide all matters concerning individual or delegations as well as the right to invite an individual or delegation or individual who may provide necessary information to the Advisory Council for consideration. Response will be given in writing by the Advisory Council President within five working days.

ARTICLE X - VOTING PROCEDURES

All those present will dispose of every matter considered by the Advisory Council. The Members may reach consensus either in person or by written proxy according to rules agreed upon in advance by the Members at a regular meeting. No written proxy is valid after thirty (30) days. Advisory Councils must strive to reach consensus on all issues, and voting should not occur.

ARTICLE XI - RULES OF ORDER

The rules of order to be observed at meetings will be in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws and will be interpreted and enforced as necessary by the Advisory Council President. In all cases for which no specific provision is made in these bylaws, the rules and practice of Robert's Rules of Order, latest revised edition, will govern as applicable. The presiding officer will preserve order and decorum and decide upon all questions of order.

ARTICLE XII—CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Advisory Council members must disclose any existing or potential conflicts of interest and abstain from discussions or other actions in those areas where a conflict exists. The Advisory Council minutes should reflect abstention. A conflict of interest would occur if the outcome will grant the Advisory Council member any financial or personal benefit.

ARTICLE XIII—CONFIDENTIALITY

All Advisory Council members are bound to maintain confidentiality with respect to certain information obtained in their role as Advisory Council members (including verbal presentations, written materials, discussions and deliberations). A serious moral obligation exists to not release confidential information. Certain information shall include but not be limited to the following:



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- a. Financial information for individual school families
- b. Information discussed in closed sessions of the Advisory Council

The President, Pastor, or Principal may further determine that certain other information shall be treated as confidential. Any breach of confidentiality may result in a member being removed from the Advisory Council. If a topic of confidential nature is allowed by the Pastor or Advisory Council President, a regular meeting will be adjourned, all guests asked to leave temporarily and the meeting reopened in an executive or closed session. Anything said in the executive or closed session will be treated as confidential and not subject to disclosure unless required by law. The minutes, as recorded by the Advisory Council's Secretary, will only reflect that a discussion was held in an executive or closed session. The specific topic of discussion will not be listed in the minutes.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

Bylaws of the Advisory Council may only be amended with the signature consensus of all Members of the Advisory Council and the approval of the Pastor, under the following conditions:

- a. The Pastor has had adequate opportunity to review proposed amendment text prior to the Advisory Council's deliberation and/or discussion.
- b. Written notice of a motion proposing the amendment(s) will have been given at a regular meeting held prior to the meeting.
- c. The text and a brief statement of intended purpose of the amendment will have been included in the notice of motion.