

## Policy AAA\* Legal Status Of Area Advisory Councils

Issued 10/16

**Purpose:** To establish the basic structure for area advisory councils and for the duties of the liaison officer assigned to each such advisory council.

The Aiken County Board of Education is authorized to appoint area advisory councils for each of the five administrative areas in the county. The board will consider appointments annually at its May meeting with newly appointed members taking office on July 1 following their appointments. Unexpected vacancies will be filled as soon as possible, but in all cases within 60 days. Act 503 specifies the manner of appointment and provides for their election as follows:

The board of education is authorized to appoint for each administrative area an area advisory council composed of seven members in each area, whose terms of office will be three years. In Administrative Area No. 4, two members of the area advisory council will be appointed as provided in Act 244 of 1959 (formerly designated as Section 21-3954, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1962); provided, however that in the event there are no candidates filing for the advisory election prior to appointment, as set forth in the 1962 Code section herein mentioned, then the two members otherwise anticipated will be appointed in accordance with the procedures for all other area advisory members throughout the school district, except that at least one member of the advisory council will reside in that portion of Saluda County formerly known as Ridge Springs School District No. 2, and at least one member appointed will be a resident of the Aiken County portion of the Ridge Spring or Monetta areas, or their surrounds.

### How Appointed

Board members in those districts that represent a significant portion of an administrative area will make nominations for citizens to serve on the five area advisory councils. All nominations will be submitted to the board in writing. The method by which the nominations are derived rests with the board members involved. In administrative areas where two or more board members are participating in the nominating process, nominations may be rotated, made by mutual agreement, or made by majority opinion. Board members will participate in the nomination process on the following basis:

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AREA 1**

Board members in districts: 7, 8, & 9

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AREA 2**

Board members in districts: 4 & 5

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AREA 3**

Board members in districts: 3 & 6

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AREA 4**

Board member in district: 1

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE AREA 5**

Board member in district: 2

In those cases where districts overlap into administrative areas, other than those described above, board members in overlapping districts may act in an advisory capacity for nominations to the appropriate councils.

## **Authority**

The area advisory councils may determine local administrative rules in their respective administrative areas, provided such rules are consistent with the policies set forth by the county board of education. The county board of education may delegate additional authority to the area advisory councils to the extent necessary for the effective operation of the public schools in the county.

The Aiken County Board of Education recognizes that the area advisory councils are a key organizational link in the formulation and development of procedures and programs for their respective administrative areas. Area advisory councils should also recommend to the county board policies for countywide application. Policies in regard to the relationship between area advisory councils and the Aiken County Board of Education are as follows.

### Budget

In consultation with their assigned administrator, the area advisory council considers the projected capital needs items.

### Local funds

All funds, revenues, fees, including accrued interest, etc., originating within the administrative area, are to be expended for the exclusive use of the schools and the students within the administrative area. Such expenditures must be approved by the area advisory council and so recorded in the official minutes of the meetings of the council. The area council establishes procedures to govern such expenditures within the guidelines of district fiscal policies.

### Audit

There will be an annual audit of the revenues and expenditures of all local funds no later than 120 days after the close of the fiscal year. After review of the audit by the county board of education, a copy is distributed to the area advisory council.

### Annual inspection

Each area advisory council or designated committees thereof will inspect all of the schools in its administrative area at least annually and will report its findings to the full council and the assigned administrator for transmission to the district superintendent and to the county board. If possible, inspections should include visits during the school day in order to observe how the schools function and to report those findings to the full council as part of the report to be forwarded to the district.

### Administrative review

Each area advisory council will prepare annually a report of the effectiveness of the schools in its area with respect to facilities and will submit the report and its comments to the district superintendent for review with the county board.

### Grievances

Patrons of the schools in each administrative area will present their grievances to their area advisory council through their council's assigned administrator. Appeals may be made to the county board of education. Personnel grievances and personnel issues are the exclusive province of the board of education.

### Hearings

The Aiken County Board of Education designates the five respective area advisory councils to be its designated hearing committees for purposes of considering student transfer appeals. Area advisory councils will adopt a

rule or standing procedure, with regard to hearings, which will serve to prevent tie votes.

Principals may, in their sole discretion, include area advisory councils in the discipline loop as non-action interventions for students who have accumulated office referrals and who may be likely headed for more serious disciplinary action soon.

#### Review of disciplinary reports

The area councils will receive and review at least once each nine weeks a compiled report of the types of disciplinary referrals from their respective area, heard by the district's tribunal and the nature of disposition being made.

#### Local procedures

Area advisory councils may establish procedures for their respective areas, consistent with state law and county board policies. The councils will meet in centrally convenient locations on a periodic basis, normally once per month. After approval, the council will mail a copy of the minutes of each area council session to the district superintendent for distribution to the county board of education. Area councils should receive communication from the community and provide feedback to their administrator and the board on topics of local concern and should provide input on the types of characteristics and qualifications they are interested in seeing in candidates for high profile local positions such as principals, athletic directors, and coaches.

Adopted 2/28/78; Revised 5/25/82, 11/22/83, 10/27/87, 2/28/90, 7/14/92, 5/10/94, 1/10/95, 5/22/01, 10/9/01, 10/12, 10/25/16

#### Legal references:

##### Federal Law:

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 4071 - Providing for equal access by students to limited open forums.

##### S.C. Acts and Joint Resolutions:

1982 Act No. 503 - An act to establish all of the area of Aiken County and a portion of Saluda County as The School District of Aiken County.

1984 Act No. 572 - An act to provide for the appointment of residents of Saluda County to the Area Advisory Council of Administrative Area 4 of the Aiken County School District.

Aiken County Public Schools