

School District 57 Advisory Committee

Norms

Purpose

To provide perspective and advice to Trustees on matters referred to it by the Board, staff or by a Rightsholder or Stakeholder group. These matters may be related to any area of the District’s operation and Board Policy.

School District 57 Values

Community

We engage all members of our learning community through open and respectful relationships.

Integrity

We are ethical, fair and follow through on our commitments.

Inclusion

We ensure all students contribute and participate in all aspects of school life.

Transparency

We are open, honest and accountable for the decisions we make.

Respect

We demonstrate kindness and care for ourselves, others and the environment.

Equity

We create systems where every student has opportunities and supports to be successful.

First Peoples Principles of Learning

- ✓ Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits and the ancestors.
- ✓ Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one’s actions.
- ✓ Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships and a sense of place)
- ✓ Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.
- ✓ Learning recognizes the role of indigenous knowledge.
- ✓ Learning is embedded in memory, history and story.
- ✓ Learning involves patience and time.
- ✓ Learning requires exploration of one’s identity.
- ✓ Learning involves recognizing that some knowledge is sacred and only shared with permission and/or in certain situations.

Advisory Committee Meeting Norms

Meeting dates and times	Meetings will occur on the Tuesday before the Public Board Meeting Meetings will be open to the public to witness and observe Meetings will begin at 4:00 pm and end at 6:00 pm
Room set up <i>How do we create a space for inclusion and equity?</i>	Every meeting starts with introductions Meeting will be in a circle formation, small groups will be in circles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This eliminates titles, in circles everyone is equal No assigned seating, try to sit in a different place each time When virtual, try to keep the camera on
Participation <i>How will we ensure all voices are heard?</i>	Trustees and participants are there to listen, try to keep comments brief Break into smaller groups for discussion Try to use different technology tools when appropriate (ie. mentimeter)
Communication <i>How do we respect each other and each other’s ideas and contributions?</i>	Be aware of unconscious biases Phones should be off or silent Listen, use respectful words, be kind, be calm Listen to learn Try to limit acronyms, stay away from educational jargon

Agendas	<p>Meeting dates are set, agendas will be sent out the Friday before the meeting</p> <p>Acknowledge the time sensitivity of some items- not always known in advance</p> <p>Suggested agenda items should be submitted 3 weeks in advance of the meeting using the submission form</p> <p>Keep agenda small to allow for fulsome discussion</p>
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What is the difference between Dialogue and Discussion?

Dialogue: A dialogue is a conversation that takes place between two or more people.

Discussion: A discussion is talking about something so as to reach a decision.

In a discussion, opposing views are presented and defended and the team searches for the best view to help make a team decision. In a discussion, people want their own views to be accepted by the group. The emphasis is on winning rather than on learning.

In dialogue, people freely and creatively explore issues, listen deeply to each other and suspend their own views in search of the truth. People in dialogue have access to a larger pool of knowledge than any one person enjoys. The primary purpose is to enlarge ideas, not to diminish them. It's not about winning acceptance of a viewpoint, but exploring every option and agreeing to do what is right

Dialogue helps teams to open closed subjects, remove blocks to communication and heal rifts. To build a climate that supports dialogue, try:

- **Asking Questions.** Clarify what others are saying and ask others if they understand what you are saying.
- **Making Suggestions.** Build on your team mates' ideas. Acknowledge their contributions and integrate their ideas into your suggestions.
- **Encouraging Others.** Not only have the courage to express your ideas, but have the consideration to listen to others. Make it a point to encourage others to contribute at least one new idea.
- **Asking for Feedback.** Ask others what they think of your ideas and give constructive feedback on other people's ideas.
- **Looking for Common Ground.** As people share and build on their ideas, look beyond the positions to the deeper issues. Identify areas of agreement or "common ground" to serve as a foundation for positive discussion.

[What's the Difference Between Dialogue and Discussion? - Kristin Arnold - The Extraordinary Team](#)