

The Alliance School
Governance Council Bylaws

~~2022-23~~

Revised February 2025

Article I. **The Alliance School Governance Council**

The name of this organization shall be: "The Alliance School Governance Council."

Article II. **Purpose**

The purpose of The Alliance School Governance Council is to provide a forum for communication and decision-making amongst staff, students, parents and community members. The Council mission is to promote shared decision-making with the goal of ensuring the success of all students and enhancing the overall teaching/ learning environment. Primary goals of the Council are to participate in the development and approval of the school budgets and the school educational plan. The Council is to serve in an advisory capacity to ~~Phyllis D. Smith~~ the Administrator, the entire school, and the community. Councils are not intended to replace parent organizations.

Article III. **Membership and Elections**

All members of the Alliance School community are eligible to become elected members of the Council. The Alliance School Governance Council shall be comprised of parents, staff, students, community partners, and ~~Phyllis D. Smith~~ the Administrator. There shall be an independent, autonomous school governing body that is comprised, at a minimum of 51% of members who are neither employees of the Charter School nor employees or officers of the Milwaukee Public School District. Council Membership shall be by peer group election. Nominations will be held prior to the election. Individuals may nominate themselves. Parents shall comprise a majority of the Council membership. Council members shall serve two year terms in office. Positions of members not returning to the school in the fall, or members who resign, shall be filled by peer group elections. Members must be present for 50% (2 out of 4) of the Council meetings, or forfeit their position on the Council. Anticipated absences shall be reported to the Chairperson ~~or Phyllis D. Smith~~. The minutes of the meeting shall record present and absent members. The Administrator ~~Phyllis D. Smith~~ shall be responsible for assigning who will be taking attendance and recording the minutes.

The election process will follow these steps:

1. March, solicitation of parents to serve. Parents of incoming students will receive a mailing detailing the election process.
2. April, nomination forms are returned.
3. May, ballots are mailed to households, if there are more candidates than slots available, and ballots will be counted, and members will be notified of their membership.

The faculty and support staff will be elected from their constituent groups. The student representatives will be selected by an application and teacher selection process.

All newly selected Council members will participate in in-service training in August.

The term of office for parents is limited to the time their child is enrolled at Alliance.

MPS Code of Ethics applies to all employees.

Article IV. Fiscal Year

The Governance Council fiscal year shall begin on July 1st and end on May 30th.

Article V. Quorum

To conduct business, a simple majority must be in attendance, virtually, or available by phone. If there is less than a simple majority in attendance, the meeting shall be adjourned.

Article VI. Officers

The only officer position will be that of Chairperson. The term of office for the chairperson shall be one year. The duties of the chairperson shall be to facilitate the Council meetings and be the official representative of the Council. The Chairperson position shall be filled by a majority vote election among Council members at the first meeting of the year.

Article VII. Meetings

The schedule of meetings for the year shall be determined at the August meeting of the Council. This schedule will be posted in the school office. Any member of the Alliance community may attend any and all meetings. Each meeting will be followed by a 15 to 30 minute open forum that will give non-Council members the opportunity to speak to agenda items for the next Council meeting. All decisions made by the Council shall be made by consensus. Only official Council members may participate in the consensus negotiations. Discussion by the Council members shall continue until a consensus decision is reached. In the event that consensus is not reached in a reasonable amount of time, the Council members may ask to table the discussion until the next meeting. If unable to reach consensus at the next Council meeting, a vote will be taken where majority will rule.

Article VIII. Duties

- A. Parents: Council parents are responsible for soliciting input from the parental community with respect to the issues of concern to the Council. Parent members shall relay Council activities to the parent community at large, as well as to any parent organizations. The Council shall have the responsibility of training and informing incoming parents elected to the subsequent Council. Parent members shall have the responsibility of promoting the organization of a parent group.

- B. Teachers/ Support Staff: School staff Council members are responsible for soliciting input from the faculty and staff with respect to issues of concern to the Council. School staff members shall report to faculty and staff, as well as to outside teacher/ staff organizations. Faculty members shall present the school's educational plan to the Council for input. Faculty members shall be responsible for playing an active role in addressing issues such as curriculum additions/ deletions, grading practices, standards, test scores, building concerns, staffing needs, and resource/ budget concerns.

- C. Students: Student members shall report Council activities to the student body and shall solicit student input and areas of concern for presentation to the Council. Student members shall be responsible for organizing student representative groups when there are none.

- D. ~~Administrator Phyllis D. Smith~~: The Administrator is responsible for keeping the Council informed of all relevant school information and for keeping the minutes from all Council meetings. The Administrator shall assist in promoting new programs at the school. The Administrator ~~Phyllis D. Smith~~ shall report to the Council with respect to principal meetings, building meetings, etc. The Administrator ~~Phyllis D. Smith~~ shall seek the active participation of the Council in deciding all school budget matters and shall present to the Council in a timely fashion all information dealing with programming and budget items. The Administrator ~~Phyllis D. Smith~~ shall be responsible for creating and distributing an email of Council activities and agendas to school members and shall provide administrative support for Council members seeking supplies and/ or resources. The Administrator ~~Phyllis D. Smith~~ may not serve as the Chairperson, but shall have a vote equal to all other Council members.

Article IX. **Evaluation**

The effectiveness of the Council shall be evaluated by an assessment of the results of decisions and the amount of satisfaction with decisions made by the Council. A survey format will be used in late spring to determine Council effectiveness, with the opportunity to make suggestions for improving Council performance.

Article X. **Staff Development**

Appropriate in-service sessions will be conducted as recommended by School Board action, Central Services, school staff, and the Council. Topics may include, but are not limited to: team building, meaningful parental involvement, school and Council mission, community resources, group dynamics, conflict resolution, budget, school educational plans, and consensus building.

Article XI. **Amendments**

Council bylaws may be amended by Council action. Amendments must be submitted in writing at Council meetings. An amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the membership Council.