

# **Harmony Leland Elementary School Council Bylaws**

## **Article I: Harmony Leland**

A school council has been established in the **Harmony Leland Elementary** in the **Cobb County School District** on **October 14, 2017**. The name of this school council shall be the **Harmony Leland School Council**, hereinafter referred to as the school council, organized under the authority of state law (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-85 – 20-2-86).

## **Article II: Purpose**

The establishment of school councils is intended to help local boards of education by bringing parents and the community together with teachers and school administrators to create a better understanding of and mutual respect for each other's concerns and share ideas for school improvement. School councils shall represent the community of parents and businesses.

The members of the school council are accountable to the constituents they serve and shall:

1. Maintain a school-wide perspective on issues;
2. Regularly participate in school council meetings;
3. Participate in information and training programs;
4. Act as a link between the school council and the community;
5. Encourage the participation of parents and others within the school community; and
6. Work to improve student achievement and performance.

## **Article III: School Council Authority**

The school council shall advise and make recommendations to the principal, local board of education and local school superintendent on matters relating to school improvement and student achievement.

The school council shall participate in the selection of the school principal in accordance with the written policy of the local board of education.

The school council shall review and approve the school improvement plan.

The school council shall review school site budget and expenditure information, and class sizes by grade.

The school council has the authority to appoint committees, study groups, or task forces for such purposes as it deems helpful and may utilize existing or new school advisory groups.

The school council shall have the same immunity as the local board of education in all matters directly related to the functions of the school council.

#### **Article IV: Role of the School Council**

The school council provides advice and recommendations to the school principal and, when appropriate, the local board of education and local school superintendent, on any matter related to student achievement and school improvement, including but not limited to, the following:

1. School board policies;
2. School improvement plans;
3. Curriculum and assessments;
4. Report cards issued or audits of the school conducted by the Office of Student Achievement;
5. Development of a school profile which shall contain data as identified by the school council to describe the academic performance, academic progress, services, awards, interventions, environment, and other such data as the school council deems appropriate;
6. School budget priorities, including school capital improvement plans;
7. School-community communication strategies;
8. Methods of involving parents and the community;
9. Extracurricular activities in the school;
10. School-based and community services;
11. Community use of school facilities;
12. Student discipline and attendance;
13. Reports from the principal regarding progress toward the school's student achievement goals, including progress within specific grade levels and subject areas and by school personnel; and
14. The method and specifications for the delivery of early intervention services or other appropriate services for underachieving students.

#### **Article V: Membership**

Membership on the school council shall be open to principals, teachers, parents, business representatives and other such members as the school council may specify in its bylaws. Members of the school council shall not receive compensation to serve on a school council. Members of the school council shall include:

1. **Two** parents or guardians of students enrolled in the school, excluding parents or guardians who are also employees of the school;
2. Two parents who are businesspersons;
3. **Two** certificated teachers who are employed at least four of the six school segments at the school, excluding any personnel employed in administrative positions;
4. The school principal; and
5. **The Assistant Principal and the Parent Liaison.**

## Article VI: Terms

Council members shall be elected for two year terms beginning in September. Council members may serve more than one term.

## Article VII: Elections

Elections shall take place in **September**.

The electing body for the parent members shall consist of all parents and guardians eligible to serve as a parent member of the school council. **Parents will be notified by home/school communications means when council seats are open. Nominations will be open for a minimum of 5 days. Nominees will be contacted and have 5 days to provide a written statement about themselves in regard to the school council position as well a headshot of themselves. Parents will be able to view the nominees and their written statements on the school websites as well as on the voting ballots. Parents will have 2 days to vote.**

The electing body for the teacher members shall consist of all certificated personnel eligible to serve as a teacher member of the school council. **Staff will be notified via email/staff meeting when council seats are open. Nominations will be open for a minimum of 5 days. Nominees will be contacted and have 5 days to provide a written statement about themselves in regard to the school council position as well a headshot of themselves. Staff will be able to view the nominees and their written statements on the school websites as well as on the voting ballots. Staff will have 2 days to vote.**

Public notice shall be provided at least two weeks before the meeting of each electing body.

## Article VIII: Vacancies

The position of a school council member shall be automatically vacated if:

1. A member resigns by delivering a written resignation to the school council;
2. A member no longer meets the qualifications specified by law; or
3. A member is removed by an action of the school council.

The school council may by a majority vote determine a position vacant if it finds that a member of the council is no longer active in the council due to inactivity **(not in attendance for 2 meetings without notice and when the student no longer attends Harmony Leland)**. The effective date of a vacancy shall be determined by the school council.

An election within the electing body for a replacement to fill the remainder of an unexpired term shall be held within 30 days, unless there are 90 calendar days or less remaining in the term in which case the vacancy shall remain unfilled.

## Article IX: Meetings

All meetings of the council shall be open to the public. The school council shall meet 4 times annually. The council shall also meet at the call of the chairperson, or at the request of a majority of the members of the school council.

Notice by mail shall be sent to school council members at least seven days prior to a meeting and shall include the date, time and location of the meeting. School councils shall be subject to the Open Meetings Act in the same manner as local boards of education.

A quorum must be present in order to conduct official school council business. A quorum is comprised of a majority of school council members. Every question shall be determined by a majority vote of members present. Each member of the school council is authorized to exercise one vote. Proxy votes are not allowed. Members must be present in order to vote.

#### **Article X: Minutes**

School councils shall be subject to the Open Records Act, relating to the inspection of public records, in the same manner as local boards of education. A summary of the subjects acted on and the members present at the meeting of the school council shall be made available to the public for inspection at the school office within two business days of the meeting. The minutes shall be provided to the school council members, each of whom shall receive a copy of such minutes, within 20 days following each school council meeting. The official minutes shall be open to public inspection once approved by the school council immediately following the next regular meeting of the school council.

Minutes at a minimum shall include the names of the school council members present at the meeting, a description of each motion or other proposal made, and a record of all votes. In the case of a roll-call vote, the name of each school council member voting for or against a proposal or abstaining shall be recorded. In all other votes, it shall be presumed that the action taken was approved by each person in attendance unless the minutes reflect the name of the persons voting against the proposal or abstaining.

#### **Article XI: Officers of the School Council**

The officers of the school council shall be a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. Officers of the school council shall be elected at the first meeting of the school council following the election of school council members. The term of the officers of the school council shall be **2 years**.

The chairperson, which shall be a parent, shall develop the agenda for all meetings, preside at all meetings of the school council, and perform such duties as may be required by the school council.

The vice chairperson shall, in the absence of the chairperson, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the chairperson and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the school council.

The secretary shall act as the clerk of the school council, record all votes and minutes of all proceedings, give or cause to be given notice of all meetings of the school council, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the council.

## **Article XII: Duties of the Principal**

The school principal shall have the following duties pertaining to school councils:

1. Cause to be created a school council by convening the appropriate bodies to select school council members; setting the initial agenda, meeting time, and location; and notifying all school council members of the same;
2. Call meetings of the electing bodies after providing public notice at least two weeks before such meetings;
3. Communicate all school council requests for information and assistance to the local school superintendent and inform the school council of responses or actions of the local school superintendent;
4. Develop the school improvement plan and school operation plan and submit the plans to the school council for its review, comments, recommendations, and approval;
5. Provide progress reports regarding the school's student achievement goals; and
6. Perform all of the duties required by law and the bylaws of the council.

## **Article XIII: Bylaws**

The school council shall adopt the bylaws as it deems appropriate to conduct the business of the school council. The adoption of bylaws or changes thereto requires two-thirds affirmative votes.

## **Article XIV: Parliamentary Authority**

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the governing parliamentary authority for school councils in all cases applicable but not inconsistent with these bylaws.

