

Parent Advisory Council

Handbook



ADVANCED
LEARNING
ACADEMY OF
WISCONSIN

Advanced Learning Academy of Wisconsin

Barron Area School District

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PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Philosophy

We believe that communication is necessary for quality and excellence in education to occur. In the interest of developing communication between school administration and parents, a council consisting of representatives will be formed to meet with Advanced Learning Academy of Wisconsin (ALAW) administration on a regular basis.

Objectives

To provide a system that allows the concerns, questions, and opinions of parents to be brought directly to ALAW administration. To provide a system that allows ALAW administrators with an opportunity to share plans, ideas and concerns directly with parents.

Organization

All delegates will be on a voluntary first come first serve basis for the first five seats on the council. Once initial delegates are designated the council will hold a vote to appoint members to the following positions. The delegates will meet on a consistent basis with ALAW administration.

The Parent Advisory Council will provide a system that allows the concerns, questions, and opinions of parents to be brought directly to the ALAW School Board and ALAW administration. Meetings will be held at the ALAW offices, 1050 E. Woodland Ave, Barron, WI.

At the first meeting of each year, officers will be elected by majority vote. Officers will include: chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary.

Agenda items will be approved by the chairperson and distributed by the administration office. Agenda items may be suggested by any parent representative. These items should be brought to the attention to the chairperson at least ten days prior to the meeting.

At each meeting the agenda shall include a time for items to be brought directly for discussion. The critical criteria for determining the appropriateness of such items will be the degree to which the item has program-wide implications.

Discussions regarding school personnel issues will not be allowed.

An evaluation will be conducted once a year. This will include evaluating the quality of meetings, opportunities for parents to express themselves and the overall value of the committee.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

What is the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)?

The Parent Advisory Council was formed to facilitate communication between Advanced Learning Academy (ALAW) administration and parents. With the knowledge that parent involvement and cooperative partnerships can only enhance the education of our children. This council's philosophy is that communication is necessary for quality and excellence in education to occur. In the interest of developing communication between ALAW administration and parents, a council consisting of two elected representatives, three at large representatives, and the Program Coordinator/or ALAW School Board meet on a regular basis. This group is endorsed by the School Board and Program Coordinator, meetings will be held at the ALAW offices, 1050 E. Woodland Ave, Barron, WI.

What is the PAC's main objective?

Our main objective is to present parents' concerns, opinions, questions and perspectives in an open forum directly to ALAW school administrators. With parental feedback, the administration can then make more informed decisions about issues pertinent to all our children's education. ALAW school policy is not decided by the PAC, the council only discusses the concerns. PAC makes recommendations to the ALAW School Board.

General meeting information:

Meetings dates and times will be determined by the PAC at the beginning of the year. The PAC chairperson will arrange the agenda with feedback from the school representatives along with concerns the Program Coordinator may have. These topics may include but are not limited to:

- Technology Planning
- Internet Safety
- Enrichment Opportunities
- Field Trips
- Curriculum Feedback
- Program Feedback

Questions?

If you have any questions please direct them to any Parent Advisory Representative. You may also direct your questions to ALAW administration.

Roles OF A PAC MEMBER

- Help improve communication between ALAW parents and school administration.
- Attend regular committee meetings.
- Serve as a contact for other parents by assisting them in accessing information and introducing them to individuals who can answer their questions.
- Form a support group or informal network to assist other parents in accessing information about the program and options for their children.
- Find ways to recognize staff and students who have done an outstanding job.
- Encourage other ALAW parents to attend and/or join the PAC.

SUGGESTED GROUND RULES FOR PAC MEETINGS

- Problems and issues discussed in PAC meetings should reflect the need for clarification of school policies and procedures, concentrating, when possible, on the problem or issue itself, rather than who is having it.
- Issues to discuss may also reflect the tone/climate in the charter buildings, or the relationship between ALAW and the Barron Area School District.
- Individual problems should be referred to your teachers and Program Coordinator.
- Try to avoid sharing personal information, but if someone does, please respect the confidentiality of others.
- Everyone should have a chance to comment without interruption or judgment by others committee members.
- Try to limit the comments you make to a few minutes at a time.

CHARACERISTICS OF GROUPS THAT WORK

- Members trust each other
- Goals are clear and are determined by the members
- Members feel as if they belong
- Members identify with each other's experiences
- Conflict is recognized and discussed with the intent to resolve
- Members accept responsibility for group functions
- Communication between members is clear and direct
- Members use each other as a resource and as support
- Members feel empowered
- Individual differences are respected

We hope your experience with the Parent Advisory Council is a rewarding one!

(adapted from the Eau Claire Area School District)