

**Statement of Collaborative Intent
for the
Pemi-Baker School District**

The School Community Council (SCC)

Preamble: The School Board of the Pemi-Baker Regional School District hereby establishes the School Community Council (SCC). This will be a forum where ideas and concerns of the school community may be freely brought forth without prejudice or judgment. These ideas may be studied for merit, effectiveness, and possible implementation in a united School Board and community effort to improve and to strengthen Plymouth Regional High School.

Rationale: The representation on the SCC will promote well thought-out proposals and innovative ideas that may lead to positive change and progress in our school. Focusing on several issues at once with the involvement of all stakeholders will save time and effort. Stakeholders will see that the reward for participation is problem solving and that improving the learning environment is the goal for the entire school community.

I. Collaborative Decision Making

The Pemi-Baker Regional High School hereby agrees to embark upon a process of collaborative decision making that will encourage greater participation, in education and in related decisions, by all stakeholders. Through collaboration, consensus building, open communications, mutual trust, and an ability to problem solve, the members of the school community will jointly explore changes in structures and procedures that will facilitate the following goals:

I. Improve the quality of education by:

- a. Including within the decision making process teachers and school/community members.
- b. Listening to the needs of parents and students.
- c. Improving the learning environment for all students.
- d. Improving the working environment.

II. SCC Structure

The committee will be composed of:

- 7 Citizens/Parents – one from each community to be recommended by the remainder of the council and confirmed by the Board.
- 4 students – one from each class (selected by each class)
- 5 faculty – (selected by faculty)
- 2 support staff (selected by support staff)
- 1 Superintendent – SAU #48
- 1 Principal – PRHS
- 3 School Board Members and two alternates (selected by the School Board) – only three may vote

Limited council membership to four consecutive years; except the Superintendent and Principal.

III. Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the School Community Council will be:

1. to promote goals outlined in part I
2. to annually monitor and evaluate the progress in achieving its mission and annually submit a report to the Board
3. to seek consensus necessary to achieve the goals
4. to facilitate the collaborative process
5. to foster communication
6. to charge each of its members with creating a clear channel of communication with constituencies
7. to invite all constituencies to work on proposals
8. to propose the focus of school wide issues to be studied
9. to ensure that all proposals being presented to the School Board will be as complete as possible including potential financial impact and an evaluative process.
10. to assist in understanding the council's responsibilities, the attached matrix will serve as a guide which may be modified in the future.
11. To arrange professional training in the collaborative process as needed.

IV. Function and Process.

A. Each group as outlined will choose representatives during April. The representatives will serve a term of one school year; from May 1, to April 30. The SCC will recommend a rotation of terms.

B. Each spring, the School Community Council will organize and propose priority issues to the Board for study for school change and innovation for the following school year. This will be done with the input of all. The Board will consider all proposals. If the Board, after consultation with the council, believes a proposal is inappropriate, the Board may reject it with explanation.

1. All members of SCC will then volunteer to work on at least one of the priority issues.

2. Sub-committees will be formed for each priority issue under the direction of the SCC with study, research, investigation, and fact-finding to follow:

3. All proposals should include comprehensive implementation plans as well as projected financial impact and an evaluative process.

4. It will be the responsibility of the sub-committee chair to develop a communications link with all constituencies.

5. Regular reports will be made at the SCC meetings by subcommittee chairs.

6. SCC will make a monthly report to the School Board at a joint work session. Schedule to be announced.

C. Any Idea Section

Any individual or group may bring an idea or proposal to the SCC for consideration. If the SCC decides to explore the issue it will be included with those goals and objectives suggested to the Board. If the SCC decides not to recommend the topic, alternate routes may be suggested. An alternative process may be developed in the second year.

D. The SCC will hold joint discussions with the School Board to update the Board on the progress of the sub-committees or to present proposals.

1. The School Board and the SCC will discuss the proposal.

2. Following Board approval, implementation will occur.

3. Failing agreement, proposals may be referred back to the SCC.

V. Communication

A. The Chairpersons of the SCC and the School Board will jointly disseminate bi-monthly updates and scheduled agendas at as many of the following informational outlets as possible:

1. SCC Bulletin Boards at all sending schools and at PRHS
2. Local Newspaper
3. Bobcat Beat
4. School Morning Announcements
5. Staff Mailboxes
6. SAU #48 Posting
7. Student Council Meetings
8. Faculty Meetings
9. WPNH
10. Area Post Offices

B. A secretary will be necessary to keep a record of all meetings and post information at the designated information outlets. The Board will provide \$500.00 for this purpose.

VI. Legal Boundaries

It is agreed that the collaborative decision making process will recognize the legal responsibilities and certain dimensions of organizational roles. It is understood that this process will not change the following:

1. Federal and State Law
2. NH State Department of Education's Rules and Regulations
3. School Board policies, goals, responsibilities
4. Collective Bargaining Agreements
5. Legal Responsibilities of the Superintendent and Principal

VII. Looking Ahead

The parties recognize that the implementation of collaborative decision making may lead into difficult areas and unforeseen problems. Each party takes this task in good faith and with a readiness, through self-examination, to improve together.

VIII. Evaluation

It is understood that the SCC is a first step toward the goal of placing proposed solutions closer to the people affected. The evaluation process will recognize that success will be measured by an improved learning environment for students and greater student success.

IX. Sun Set Clause

This council will expire April 30, 1997 unless sooner renewed by the Board.