

## WHAT IS SITE COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Site Councils were created by the Oregon state legislature as part of the Oregon Education Act focusing on school improvement and reform. Bend-La Pine Schools refines the definition of Site Council saying, "school site committees create an avenue for input from staff, parents, and community members at large with firsthand knowledge of local school issues."

It may be easier to relate what Site Council is not. We are not primarily concerned with the physical site (the school building and its surroundings) or specifics of classroom instruction. Some of the topics discussed by Highland's Site Council include:

- Annual school climate survey (see additional information below)
- Storyline magnet focus & professional development opportunities
- School improvement planning and monitoring
- Review and discussion of student achievement data (Smarter Balanced, DIBELS, etc.)
- Approval of allocations for school improvement funds
- General curriculum issues, including regular reports from staff instructional coaches
- TAG program discussion and issues
- School boundary review
- Magnet school enrollment
- Discussion of various programs (both educational and behavioral) at Highland School

Highland's Site Council membership includes parents, teachers, support staff, and the school principal. We meet once a month for about an hour. Site Council elections are held each fall and each member serves a three-year term, renewable.

Site Council takes a "big picture" and strategic planning look at many aspects of Highland that make our school unique, then we work to enhance and protect them.

***We need and welcome parent participation on the Highland Site Council!*** If you are interested in learning more about Site Council, please contact Mr. Kissell in the Highland office.

**Highland School Climate Survey** -- One of Highland Site Council's five-year school improvement goals is to conduct an annual school climate survey. The survey is designed to solicit feedback from Highland families about key aspects of the learning environment at our school. Site Council uses the survey results to help assess progress towards school improvement goals and to identify future topics for discussion and focus. We report survey results to Highland families each year.