



Parent and Community Participation:

Opportunities to be part of our continuous improvement process

There are many ways for parents and community members to provide input, share ideas, and be involved with continuous improvement in the Spring Lake Park Schools. Some of these opportunities, which range from volunteering in a classroom or at a school event to serving on a school or district committee, are listed here.

Short-term: Focus groups, roundtables, forums, listening sessions

Focus Group Participant

We hold focus groups throughout the year on various topics to gather input and information from community members and parents. These are one-time opportunities that provide participants the opportunity to engage in what we like to think are lively and interesting conversations about timely, important topics. Information gathered is used by task forces or committees to help guide their improvement efforts.

Roundtable Discussion

There are many opportunities for discussion occur throughout the year, planned ahead of time or scheduled to address a current topic. Citizens can also request an opportunity to dialogue with school district personnel. Meet with the district and/or school administrators to engage in dialogue on any topics of interest to the group. Contact school principals for school level discussions or coffee with the principal. Look for opportunities at the district level advertised on the website, newsletters, or local newspapers.

Parents or community members can at any time call or e-mail any staff member.

Public Forums

Periodic public forums are held on district initiatives and school priorities of high interest. They provide an opportunity to share feedback, ask questions, and learn more about changes and improvements being planned and implemented in the district. These opportunities are announced on the website, in school and district newsletters, and local media.

Communication to the School Board and Administration

Prior to the start of each regular monthly School Board meeting, members of the school district community can speak with School Board members or administration. They will listen, ask clarifying questions, and when appropriate provide a clear plan for follow-up to comments or questions.

Ongoing Committee Opportunities

In addition to the short-term opportunities, as well as some of the committees and councils listed above, parents and community members can get involved with the following. Please contact the facilitator if you have any further questions.

Athletics Advisory Council

All parents of high school students involved in athletics or activities are invited to attend Advisory meetings that are held each month. Please contact the Activities Office for further information.

Facilitator: Matt St. Martin, mstmar@district16.org

Communications and Connections Advisory & Continuous Improvement Efforts

This committee of parents, community members, and staff meets periodically to assess current communications and outreach efforts, as well as to identify opportunities to improve school district engagement with all members of the community.

Facilitators: Colleen Pederson, cpeder@district16.org; Jim Elert, jelert@district16.org

Community Education Advisory Council

This council makes recommendations about policies, programs, and budget for the district's Community Education Department to meet needs and interests of community members of all ages.

Facilitator: Colleen Pederson, cpeder@district16.org

Curriculum Task Forces

Curriculum task forces are formed annually to review effectiveness, research best practices, study current district practices, and identify essential learning outcomes. The details of this process are explained in the *Spring Lake Park Schools Learning Community Framework*.

Facilitator: Denise Waalen, dwaale@district16.org

E-12 Assessment Committee

The E-12 Assessment Committee will meet on a periodic basis to assess the fit and relevance of our current assessment practices, identifying areas for improvement and necessary alignment with other practices in the district. Members of the E-12 Assessment Committee will develop recommendations to present to the administration.

Facilitator: Jerelyne Nemanich, jneman@district16.org

Early Childhood Advisory Council

This group meets regularly to provide input and influence regarding ECFE and School Readiness/Preschool programs.

Facilitator: Kristin Goessel-Seer, kgoess@district16.org

Food Service Advisory Committee

This committee of parents of students in the district meets quarterly, offering an opportunity to learn about state and federal guidelines and to provide input for the Food Services Department.

Facilitator: Amy Kimmel, akimme@district16.org

Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee

This advisory committee meets on a regular basis throughout the year to learn more about the gifted and talented program, provide input on areas for growth, and identify volunteer opportunities for support of the program.

Facilitator: Marianne Paulos, mpaulo@district16.org

Panther Foundation

The purpose of the Panther Foundation is to enrich educational experiences for the 5,100 students within the Spring Lake School District. Support for the Foundation comes entirely through contributions and special projects. The Foundation awards grants for innovative projects initiated by staff, parents, and students that directly benefit students.

District Liaison: Colleen Pederson, kpeder@ditrict16.org

Parent Teacher Associations/Organizations

Each school holds parents meetings on at least a monthly basis. Please contact the school principal or refer to the district calendar for further information.

Spring Lake Park School District Arts Council

This council of parents and community members meets monthly, providing an opportunity to learn about and promote community arts programs, to develop long-range strategic plans for the district's Fine Arts Center, and to explore potential outreach opportunities in the north metro community.

Facilitator: Ryan Julien, rjulie@district16.org

Special Education Advisory

This committee is comprised of parents of students in need of special education that attend school within the district. The goal of this committee is to assist with the continuous improvement planning of special education services in the district.

Facilitator: Tom Ambrasas, tambra@district16.org

Autism Parent Support Group

This committee supports parents with: defining appropriate programming options for their child, learning about autism, and assisting them with access to community resources to support their child.

Facilitator: Jaclyn Hall, 155hall@district16.org

Down's Syndrome Group

This group is formed to help parents of newly identified children with Down's Syndrome learn about this syndrome and access community resources which will assist them with raising their child.

Facilitator: Jennifer Graber

Community Transition Committee

This community group gives the 18-21 year old transition program feedback to improve the curriculum for students in need of additional programming in real life skills.

Facilitator: Tom Ambrasas, tambra@district16.org

Systems Improvement Advisory Council (SIAC)

This council conveys community beliefs and opinions as they relate to continuous improvement efforts or teaching, learning, and accountability issues in the school district. Members serve as a sounding board for the community and gain knowledge about curriculum, professional development efforts, instructional programs, and assessments of and for learning being implemented in our classrooms. The committee is composed of parents, students, teachers, administrators, and community members.

Facilitator: Denise Waalen, dwaale@district16.org