School Governance Council
Overview

WEST HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OCTOBER 13, 2011
Let’s Build Consensus

• What do you think would be an appropriate curfew for a 16 year old?
• At what age should young people be allowed to date?
• What is the best way for parents to help their child succeed in school?
• What family tradition do you hope your children pass down to their children?
School-Family-Community Partnerships

“Schools, families and communities all contribute to student success, and the best results come when all three work together as equal partners.”

CSDE Position Statement on School-Family-Community Partnerships
The Research Says...

- Higher test scores
- Higher school morale
- Less suspensions/expulsions
- Higher graduation rate
- Better reputation in the community
- Higher sense of belonging for all families
Purpose of School Governance Councils

- The intent of Councils is to enable parents, school staff, students (HIGH SCHOOL ONLY) and community leaders to work together to improve student achievement in the state’s schools.

- School Governance Councils serve in an advisory capacity to assist the school administration.
Membership

- 7 parents elected by the parents at each school
- 5 teachers elected by the teachers at each school
- 2 Community members – elected by the council after the first meeting
School Governance Council
Advisory Areas:

School/student achievement
Budget objectives
Interview committees
Program and operational
changes/policy
Parent policy and compact
Parents Surveys
Some Common Themes

- Increasing student achievement
- Improving attendance
- Promoting positive student behavior
- Ensuring successful transitions from one school to the other
- Providing grade appropriate counseling for college and careers
- Advancing student health, nutrition and safety
Councils Do NOT:

- Manage the School
- Supervise staff
- Enter into contracts
- Discuss individual parent/student issues
- Determining eligibility for admission
- Determine class allocations/student assignments
Requirements

- Commitment to the school, its goals, its staff and all of its students
- 6-9 meetings per year
- Parents and teachers elected to 1 or 2 year terms
- Willing to serve as “unofficial” ambassadors of their school
The Process

- Schools set up a process for the election of teachers/parents
- Candidates are nominated/slate formed
- Ballots sent to each home
- Every household has one vote
- Parent and teacher alternates may also be chosen
Questions??

REMEMBER....

If you want to go fast
Do it alone
If you want to go far
Do it with others