

SERVING ON *a building cabinet*

Building cabinets serve as the site-based shared decision-making teams. Their basic purpose is to develop the goals, policies and procedures for the improvement of student learning in every school.

Building cabinets meet several times each month. Members function as a team to improve student learning. Team members work collaboratively and are accountable for making the best educational decisions after considering all viewpoints of the school community. Plans, actions, steps and decisions are determined by consensus.

MEMBERSHIP ON *building cabinets*

Elementary Schools:

Building Administrators
4-6 Teachers
1-2 Support Staff Members
2-3 Parents
1 BOCES Staff Member*

Middle School:

Building Administrators
6 Teachers
2 Supervisors
1 Counselor
1-2 Support Staff Members
2-4 Parents
1-2 Students*
1 BOCES Staff Member*

High School:

Building Administrators
6 Teachers
1 Supervisor
1 Counselor
1-2 Support Staff Members
2-3 Parents
1-4 Students*
1 BOCES Staff Member*

** These roles will be filled either to address specific issues or with a full-time member as determined by the cabinet on an annual basis.*

Building PTA, staff and student government will determine how many members from their groups will be selected. Membership terms should be overlapping to assure continuity; length of term will be determined by each cabinet. The expectation is that all members are full participants; however, if at any time a membership category is not filled, the cabinet will continue its functions.

Community members as well as members of higher education, business or governmental communities and colleagues from other districts will be invited to share their expertise on specific issues as needed.

want to GET INVOLVED?

Call your schools to get involved on a building cabinet, school committee or organization or to visit a classroom:

Altamont Elementary 861-8528

Guilderland Elementary ... 869-0293

Lynnwood Elementary 355-7930

Pine Bush Elementary 357-2770

Westmere Elementary 456-3771

Farnsworth Middle 456-6010

Guilderland High 861-8591



WORKING TOGETHER *as a team*

There are many ways for Guilderland parents to work together as a team with their child's school. For example, parents may participate on the following committees:

ELEMENTARY:

Young Authors' Week Committee
Building Cabinet
Coordinating Committee
Interview Teams for Teaching Positions
Technology Committee
District Cultural Arts Committee
Learning Fair
Enrichment Committees
Wellness Week Planning
Child Study Team (as requested)

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

American Education Week planning
Building Cabinet
Enrichment activities and organizations
Field Trips
Moving-up Day
Wellness Committee
Eighth Grade Career Days
5/6 Transition
8/9 Transition

HIGH SCHOOL:

PTSA
Building Cabinet
Athletic Association
Focus Groups
Specific Purpose and Review Committees
Technology Committee
Brown Bag Lunches
Community Coffees

Parents can also join in learning more about their child's growth and educational future through:

- Guilderland website: www.guilderlandschools.org
- Parent Conferences, Open Houses
- Progress Reports/Report Cards
- Guidance Activities
- School Visitations-American Education Week
- PTA, PTSA, PTA Council
- Phone calls to teachers, counselors, social workers and building teams
- Parent Education Programs
- Volunteering, Chaperoning, Classroom Parent
- Music Parents' Association
- Athletic Boosters' Club--middle and high schools
- Task Forces (ex. Task Force on Bullying and Harassment)
- Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee

PARENT INVOLVEMENT *is needed in many ways*

Parents are their child's first teachers and follow their child's development over many years. The Guilderland School District believes that parents should be meaningfully involved in order to make a difference in their child's growth as a learner.

It has been shown that positive parent involvement leads to higher student achievement, regular attendance and improved student attitudes and behavior. Beyond that, it makes sense for parents to engage in conversations with teachers, counselors and others at their child's school. One simple way parents can send a strong message of support for their child as a learner is by encouraging completion of homework.

This brochure shows parents how to be a part of Guilderland's community of learners.

Parents are also encouraged to:

- Become involved in school organizations, activities and committees that strengthen the home-school connection.
- Serve on Building Cabinet and join in shared decision-making and school-based planning with teachers, administrators and school board members.

"Schools and their communities must launch a conversation and set of actions by which they come to know and trust each other; so they can work effectively together toward common goals." – From *Learning Centered*, a report of the New York State Curriculum and Assessment Council

Please JOIN US...

Guilderland schools invite parents to become actively involved and to make a meaningful contribution to education by sharing what they know about their own children – and by sharing in our learning *about* learning in order to help make a difference for all children.

Your input is valuable in shaping your child's education. As a parent, you have an understanding of your child which can bridge the gap between school and home to help all students succeed. To ensure that everyone has a stake in this endeavor, your involvement is welcomed at many levels, from site-based planning to Open Houses. Parent involvement makes a difference in education.

This brochure was jointly developed by parents and Guilderland staff. Updated October 2004.



It takes more than a school to educate a child. It takes the involvement and commitment of each student, teacher parent, administrator, school board member and the community as a whole to ensure that the Guilderland Central School District fulfills its mission of "empowering all students to succeed in the 21st century."

Building Teams™

WORKING
TOGETHER
TOWARD
COMMON
GOALS