

UTLA Proposal: 2-18-25
District Counter 5-19-25
UTLA Counter 6-17-25
District Counter 8-20-25
UTLA Counter 10-27-25

ARTICLE XXVII

SHARED DECISION MAKING

1.0 General: This Article addresses a critical issue in local school governance: "shared decision making"--which refers to how certain local policy decisions are made at the school site, taking into consideration the respective interests, roles and responsibilities of the site administrator, the faculty, the parents/community, students, and other employees.

2.0 Shared Decision Making--Local School Leadership Councils

2.1 Composition: Local school leadership councils shall be established to perform the functions described in Section 2.0. The number of members of each local council shall be determined in accordance with the table set forth below. 50% of the Council shall be comprised of the UTLA Chapter Chair and certificated employees elected by the certificated bargaining unit employees at the site; the other 50% shall be comprised of the principal, elected parent/community representatives, an elected non-certificated employee representative and, at the secondary level, a student representative. On the councils the number of parent/community representatives shall be as follows:

<u>Council Size</u>	<u>Number of Positions</u>
16	5
14	5
12	4
8	2
6	1

Such representatives should be elected specifically to serve on the Council. Within these parent/community positions there is a special guarantee for parents, pursuant to Section 2.9e below. Only parents and community members and non-certificated District employees (including TA's) shall be eligible for election to the positions allocated to parents and community. Certificated District employees are not eligible for election to such positions. In secondary schools, the student leadership class shall either select the student representative to the Council, or may establish the process by which the student representative is determined. All elections of Council members shall be jointly supervised by the principal and UTLA Chapter Chair, and the applicable procedures are set forth in Sections 2.8 and 2.9 below. In the event of any change in the size of a council the basic 50-50 ratio shall be maintained. The number of members of local school leadership councils (including the principal and UTLA Chapter Chair who shall serve as co-chairs of the Council) shall be as follows:

- a. Regular Elementary schools (K-6)
 - over 1000 students 14
 - 1000 students to 500 12
 - Less than 500 students 8
- b. Regular Junior high/middle schools 16
- c. Regular Senior high schools 16

d. Small Schools--are defined as follows, and shall have the size of school leadership council indicated, unless the principal and Chapter Chair jointly determine that a larger or smaller council is appropriate:

<u>Size of School</u>	<u>Size of Council</u>
6 or fewer teachers	6 (3 teacher reps)
7-15 teachers	8 (4 teacher reps)
16-25 teachers	12 (6 teacher reps)

When the Council is limited to 6 positions, the principal, UTLA Chapter Chair and parent/community representative shall determine whether the sixth seat is to go to a student representative or to a representative of the classified employees.

e. Children Centers--When there are more than 3 teachers at a center, the rules for small schools shall apply. See d above. In determining the size of the center's Council, all teachers working at the center will be counted regardless of the number of hours worked. When there are 3 or less teachers at a center the size of the council will be determined by the site administrator and the Chapter Chair (council co- chairs), subject to the 50-50 ratio; in the event the co-chairs cannot reach agreement on the size or composition of the Council, the dispute shall be submitted to the co-chairs of the Central Council for resolution.

f. Special Education Schools--are to have their own site councils following regular K-12 pattern, but combined secondary-elementary programs are to use the secondary system.

g. Magnet Schools and Centers--are to follow the above regular K-12 pattern if they do not share the site with another school. When located on the same site as another school, magnet programs are to have available the three options listed below; the option to be chosen is to be determined each year by the principal in charge of the magnet and the magnet's UTLA Chapter Chair, after consultation with the faculty and parents of the affected magnet program.

Option 1: The magnet school will have a separate and independent Local School Leadership Council. In such cases the rules of size and composition shall be as provided in paragraphs a. through d. above. There shall be coordination of common issues and concerns between this Council and the Council serving the other school(s) on the site, and joint meetings conducted with respect to subjects which require a common approach. This Option 1 shall apply unless the principal and Chapter Chair agree that Option 2 or 3 is preferable.

Option 2: Elect a magnet Council pursuant to Option 1 and have it function as a separate council for issues which are unique to the magnet program, such as the local magnet budget. However, that Council would select one elected teacher representative and one elected parent/community representative to become additional permanent members of the host school's Leadership Council, with the intention that issues common to the magnet program and the host school would be determined by the augmented Leadership Council. If a school has more than one magnet and decides to exercise this option, the total size of the school council would be increased by two additional members representing each separate magnet. The magnet representatives to the host school's Leadership Council would also be supported by an alternate delegate from the magnet's Leadership Council.

Option 3: A third option is to have a single-wide council representing both the regular school program and any magnet centers that opt to be a part of the school-wide council. In this case, the size and make-up of the council would be pursuant to paragraphs a through d above, and there would be no separate magnet council and no augmentation of the size of the regular council. Magnet teachers, parents/community, students and classified personnel would be eligible to participate along with the constituents of the host school. If a school decides to select the third option but did not elect their Council on a school-wide basis, a new election would be conducted.

If a situation involves a common site and also happens to involve the same Chapter Chair serving both programs, the Chapter Chair may serve on both or may designate an alternate to serve on one.

h. [Itinerant employees--initially may vote proportionately at assigned schools (see Section 2.2 below); future status will be determined in ongoing discussions between District and UTLA.]

i. Adult Education-- (Includes Occupational Centers, Skill Centers, and Business/Industry Center)--a Leadership Council shall be formed for each administrative unit which shall encompass all locations, branches and offices which report to that school's or center's principal. Council size shall depend upon the school's size as follows:

-fewer than 500 students

-from 500-1000	12
-from 1001-1500	14
-more than 1500	16

For purposes of community voting the election area shall be the high school attendance zone within which the Adult Education school is situated. Occupational Centers, Skill Centers, and Business/Industry Center shall, for purposes of community voter eligibility, be deemed District-wide. In the Adult Education programs, adult students shall be eligible to vote for the community council seats, and a student candidate shall be guaranteed at least one of the community seats on each Council (see Section 2.9e for the mechanics of this guarantee). Because most Adult Education students are adults and parents, the special guarantee for parents (as compared to community--see 2.9 e) is not applicable. However, parents of students concurrently enrolled in the regular K-12 and adult programs, shall also be eligible to vote and serve as community representatives on the Adult Education Council. For purposes of voting by teachers, each teacher employed within the adult school/center shall have one vote, without regard to number of hours assigned. Similarly, students and parents/community shall have one vote each, without regard to number of instructional hours. Adult Education elections of faculty representatives shall be conducted at the annual organizational meeting which is conducted before the Fall term.

2.2 Itinerant Personnel in Health and Human Services and Special Education Local District Advisory Committee Each Region Superintendent or designee shall establish a meeting schedule with representatives of itinerant personnel selected by UTLA in Health and Human Services and Special Education in each local district in order to participate in and make recommendations regarding local district issues and concerns. Meetings should be held a minimum of once every two months.

2.3 Alternates: There shall be two "alternate" Council members elected designated for the categories of teacher, parent/community representative, student, and classified. Administrators and Chapter Chairs shall designate one alternate. In year-round schools, additional alternates may be selected so that there can be a full complement of representatives for each category for any one time. Alternates shall be permitted to attend and participate in any council deliberations, and may vote if their regular representative(s) are absent.

2.4 Functions And Responsibilities: The local school leadership councils shall consider all points of view and shall solicit the advice and counsel of parent organizations, other employee groups and all other interested parties. The local councils shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a. Participation in shared decision making training. ~~It is recommended that they participate in training prior to beginning their decision-making.~~ LAUSD and UTLA will jointly develop a training for use by LSLC co-chairs to review with their council members on an annual basis no later than September 30th.

b. Determination of the following matters:

(1) Staff development program, including approval of any ~~school-based professional development programs.~~ All site-based professional development, including all banked time PD referenced in Article IX - B Section 2.0, and all professional development scheduled after school. The only professional development that cannot be determined by LSLC is that which is mandated by the state or federal government, topics specifically approved by the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District in accordance with the Board Resolution for Community Schools or required by the Shaw Settlement.

(2) Student behavior, support and accountability (previously referred to as discipline) discipline guidelines and code of student conduct

(3) Schedule of school activities and events, and special schedules (e.g., final exam schedules and schedules designed to accommodate additional preparation time for elementary teachers). For purposes of this paragraph, "schedule" shall include, but not be limited to, a determination by the Council of what activities shall take place. The Council shall not have authority over the scheduling of school activities and events mandated by the Board of Education.

(4) Guidelines for use of school equipment, including the copy machine

(5) School-based implementation of initiatives or programs mandated by the local, state, or federal government, including but not limited to Breakfast in the Classroom and periodic assessments.

(6) Whether the school should have a safe passage program. If such a determination is made, then the safe passage program will be centrally funded.

(7) The following local budgetary matters:

a. Instructional Material Account, Object Code 4310 of Program Code 3027 (previously carried under Account 4170); (Object Code 4310 accounts used within Program Code other than 3027 are not included; also, in the event that a Principal transfer funds into account 4310/3027 from a Program Code or Object code outside of the scope of the previous account 4170 per such transferred funds are not included)

b. Lottery Funds, account 5381

c. School-Determined Needs, account 3986

d. State Textbook and Related Material, accounts 4111, 4152 and 4267

- e. Year-Round School Incentive Discretionary Funds
 - (f) Student Integration Program Discretionary Funds
 - (g) Instructional Material - - Special Education Schools Account 2544 (for Special Education School Councils only)
- ~~(6)~~ (8) Daily schedule or bell schedule, including recommendations for variations and experimental situations. While variations and experimental situations will continue to require approval of a majority of the staff, per Article IX.9.0, LSLC shall initiate and put forth the recommended schedule for the vote.

In making determinations in the matters listed above, the local school leadership council operates within the same set of powers and constraints as previously applied to the principal. However, future additional District restrictions upon local discretion in the above areas may be imposed only by action of the Board of Education. In addition, all determinations shall be consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and collective bargaining agreements. Councils in Alternative Schools shall have the scope of their decision-making determined by the Board policy applicable to their special programs rather than being limited to the above five subject matters.

The focus of local council activity shall be upon establishment of local policy and planning direction rather than day-to-day administration or execution of policy and plans. The local council shall not be obliged to act in the designated areas, and may delegate its authority to existing school committees if it believes they are functioning satisfactorily.

c. These local school leadership councils are expected (but not required--see above) to supplant the previous local school planning committees dealing with lottery funds, student discipline, staff development or any other matters listed in b. above; however, the new council shall not supplant other existing councils and committees which operate in subject matters beyond those listed in b. above (e.g. School Advisory Councils) or which have an independent statutory basis (e.g., Chapter I Councils, Bilingual Advisory Councils, or S.I.P. Councils).

d. The site administrator shall maintain an up-to-date file containing all District memoranda, directives and bulletins governing Local School Leadership Council activities and make it available to the Chapter Chair upon request.

2.5 Decisions: The attainment of consensus whenever possible shall be a primary goal. Both parties recognize that decisions made by consensus are the most effective in promoting cooperation and commitment to the policies which are established by the local Council. Only if consensus cannot be reached shall decisions on the matters set forth in Section 2.4b be made by majority vote. In order to be resolved by vote at the

meeting in the event consensus fails, the meeting agenda (see Section 2.6 below) must have identified the proposed action with sufficient particularity that the Council members could have, prior to the meeting, meaningfully consulted with all interested parties with respect to the specific action under consideration, as provided in Section 2.4 above. The vote required shall be a majority of those committee members present at the meeting.

With respect to procedures governing voting matters, Robert's Rules of Order shall be applicable to issues not addressed herein. The site administrator shall ensure that all policy decisions of the Local School Leadership Council are reduced to writing and communicated to all staff and school community.

2.6 Agenda: An agenda shall be prepared by the co-chairs of the Council in a planning meeting, if requested by either, and distributed at least five working days prior to each council meeting. Agenda items and supporting documents may be submitted by any committee member, at least 24 hours prior to preparation of the agenda.

2.7 Meetings: Members of the local councils could expect to attend the equivalent of two one-hour meetings per month. Alternate meetings will be scheduled for the convenience of the parent and community representatives.

a. At the secondary level, the local school shall, insofar as practical, schedule teacher members of the local Council so as to provide a common preparation period. Alternate meetings shall be scheduled during such period. Paid class coverage, if available, will be provided on meeting days for any teacher members having teaching duties during such period. Out of classroom staff who are members of the local Council will be released from their duties to participate Council meetings.

b. At the elementary level, at least one of the monthly meetings may be scheduled during the 30-minute duty-free period.

c. Meetings of Leadership Councils in Adult Education and Children Centers shall be scheduled at a mutually convenient time, and if there is no time mutually convenient to the Council members then the meetings shall be held at alternating times to meet the convenience of the teacher and community representatives.

d. All meetings of the local councils shall be exempt from the faculty meeting limitations of Article IX, Section 4.2

2.8 Communication of Decisions: Decisions of the Local School Leadership Council and resulting policies shall be communicated to staff, parents and, in secondary schools, students, within two weeks of said decisions. Council materials, decisions and resulting policies shall be posted on the school's website within two weeks.

2.82.9 Election Procedures for Employee Representatives:

a. Secret ballot elections shall be conducted for the certificated and non-certificated employee seats, following similar procedures. (1) Faculty representatives on the council are to be elected on an "at large" basis by the regular contract certificated employees assigned to the site with itinerant employees voting on a proportional basis corresponding to the number of days per week served at the site. (2) Non-certificated representatives shall be elected on an "at large" basis, with all non-certificated employees (including TA's) regularly assigned to the site having an equal vote.

b. The nomination process shall be open to all eligible voters assigned to the site. Nominations shall be either submitted by the nominee or with the written consent of the nominee.

c. Election notices shall be posted and distributed among the employees at the site, and mailed to the homes of off-track employees.

d. Elections for each year's term of office shall be as follows: Secondary teachers' elections are to be in May before the secondary master schedule is established; elementary teacher elections are to be in late spring after assignments for the next year have been tentatively set. The non-certificated employee elections are to be no later than the first school month of the school year (~~July/August for Year-round, September/October August/September for Traditional~~). Any elections for alternates and/or replacements (including teachers) are also to occur during the first month of the school year. However, schools which wish to conduct elections on Back-to-School night may delay the elections until that date. The term of office for Council members is to be ~~September October 15 to September October 14 in traditional calendar schools, and August 1 to July 31 in year-round calendar schools~~. Subject to the approval of the existing Local School Leadership Councils, elections of secondary, elementary, non-certificated employees, and parent/community representatives for each year's term of office at single track common calendar 90/30 schools shall be conducted before September 23. Any elections for alternates and/or replacements (including teachers) are also to occur before September 23. ~~Multitrack year-round schools' elections must be held and finalized prior to July 31.~~ See Section 2.1 for special rules affecting Adult Education elections.

e. Local schools may lengthen the terms of membership (from one year to two years) on Local School Leadership Council, subject to the following procedures:

- (1) Such a decision could be made only upon affirmative recommendation of the School Leadership Council and approval of the Principal and the UTLA Chapter Chairperson.

(2) In order to achieve staggered terms, a plan may include a phase-in period whereby some positions are initially one year and others are two-years.

(3) Procedures for implementation must be reduced to writing and published prior to any new elections, and a copy retained for public information in the school office.

(4) Any elected members must be able to complete their full term of office.

(5) Schools must at all times comply with the guarantees of the minimum number of parents as per Section 2.9e, below.

2.9 3.0 Election Procedures for Parent/Community Representatives:

a. Voter Eligibility for parent/community elections shall be based upon any one of the following criteria:

(1) Parents of a pupil attending the school, including natural or adoptive parent, legal guardian, or other person having primary responsibility for the support and welfare of the pupil;

(2) Adult residents of the school's attendance area;

(3) Adults whose primary place of employment is within the school's attendance area (this includes non-certificated employees of the District);

(4) For schools which do not have a designated attendance area (e.g., magnet programs), their election area shall be the high school attendance area within which the magnet is situated;

(5) When pupils are transported to the school from another attendance area (e.g., PWT or CAP receiving) the election area for categories 2, 3 and 4 above shall be expanded to include those from the sending school area;

(6) Certificated personnel employed by the District are not eligible to vote except when they qualify as a parent under category 1 above;

b. Nominations: Are to be submitted in writing two working days prior to the election, or may be submitted from the floor at the election meeting. Nominations shall be either submitted by the nominee or with the written consent of the nominee. Nominees are not subject to any residency or employment requirement, but in order to qualify for

the minimum guarantee for parents as provided below, they must meet the definition of parent as provided above.

*As defined in a.I above. These guarantees are minimums, not maximums. If necessary to meet this minimum number of parents, the parent nominee(s) who received the next greatest number of votes are to be declared elected. The election results and ballots are to be retained on file by the school office.

Certificated Employees of the District Nominations: Certificated employees with a child enrolled at a District school other than the school to which they are assigned, may nominate themselves to serve as a parent at their child's school with the following provisions:

- (1) The certificated employee's name on the parent ballot must clearly state that they are serving as a current employee of to the District and state the position they are serving in – e.g., “Jane Doe (currently employed as a teacher at another District location)”.
- (2) The certificated employee shall be subject to the results of the contractual parent election process outlined in this article.
- (3) The employee may only serve as a parent on one LSLC in any one school year.

c. Election Notices: Shall be sent home with students, and **shared with the school community.** ~~submitted to local newspapers serving the areas affected. The notices are to be mailed to the homes of off-track students.~~

d. Sign-in: At the election meeting there shall be a sign-in procedure, where each voter shall disclose appropriate information indicating eligibility and status (parent or community).

e. Ballot Procedure: The parent/community representatives are to be elected, during the first month of the school year (July/August for Year-round, September/October for Traditional) by secret ballot among all attending eligible voters. All ballots are to be submitted in sealed secret ballot envelopes, and enclosed within another envelope on which the voter will print his or her name and address. The ballots shall be collected and placed in the large envelope provided for this purpose. This envelope shall be sealed and the principal and Chapter Chair shall sign their names over the seal. The ballots shall then be secured in a safe place for five working days before being counted. The five day period is intended to permit any voter eligibility issues to be raised and resolved prior to the vote count. For this purpose the voter sign-in sheets shall be subject to review by any interested person. The vote count shall occur at the time announced at the election meeting, and shall occur in the presence of any interested persons who wish to attend. Prior to the vote count the sealed secret ballot envelope shall be separated from the envelope which carries the voter's name and address, and inter-mingled with the other secret ballot envelopes. Then, the ballots shall be

removed from the secret ballot envelopes and counted. The nominees who received the greatest number of votes are to be declared elected, with the two who receive the next greatest number of votes elected as alternates, except that in no event shall there be fewer parents* than the following (depending upon size of the Council):

- 3 out of the 5 parent/community positions
- 2 out of the 4 parent/community positions
- 1 out of the 2 parent/community positions
- 1 out of the 2 alternate parent/community positions

f. Disputes: The Principal and Chapter Chair shall determine any disputed eligibility issues using the above criteria, and shall also be primarily responsible for resolving any disputes relating to election procedures. If they are not able to resolve a dispute acceptable to the involved parents/community, the dispute shall be referred to the co-chairpersons of the central council for final determination. Said co-chairpersons may delegate this authority. Disputes relating to this Section 2.9 are not subject to the grievance procedures of the LAUSD/Agreement.