

February 8, 2011

City of Emeryville and the Emery Unified School District
City/Schools Committee Policy # 1800
Community Engagement¹

The City Council of the City of Emeryville and the Board of Trustees of the Emery Unified School District, who together comprise the City/Schools Committee, believe that input from staff, parents/guardians, students and members of the Community of Emeryville provides valuable perspectives and expertise to inform the work of the Committee.

The Committee seeks to build a collective sense of ownership of the schools and the community by encouraging open communication and facilitating community-building across diverse interests.

Accordingly, the City/Schools Committee (or their designees), following upon, and with input from the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC), shall:

- Adopt a resolution defining and establishing a process for community information, input, and engagement in the design of school sites or related facilities.
- Establish administrative councils, task forces, or advisory committees (and/or work in conjunction with existing bodies), that have broad community representation and embrace the "Core Values for the Practice of Public Participation."²
- Develop a specific plan for soliciting community input and participation including a working timeline of community meetings and presentations, in alignment with existing City and School District advisory committees and taskforces. This plan shall include, but not be limited to:
 - Workshops with District and the City's Community Services staffs;
 - Meetings hosted by the School District, City, and/or community residents;
 - Ongoing community engagement activities including web-based communications, mailings, and notices; and other elements as defined by the Resolution.
- Encourage proactive engagement of youth, families, and community members
- Develop community practices that distribute responsibility and accountability in open and transparent interactions

The community engagement activities are specifically meant to outlast the duration of the facilities project known currently as the Center of Community Life. They are intended to form relational structures and behaviors that build long-lasting and trusting relationships amongst community members.

Adopted by the City/Schools Committee on _____

¹ Opportunity for access to programs and activities is available to all. (PCL Guiding Principle)

² As defined by the International Association of Public Participation: (1) Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process; (2) Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision; (3) Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers; (4) Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision; (5) Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate; (6) Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way; (7) Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.