

Frontier CSD Advocacy Committee Charter

Mission / Vision:

- The Frontier Central School District is committed to developing the academics and character of students in an inclusive environment that both challenges and inspires responsible citizenship (*District Mission as part of Strategic Plan approved by the Board of Education on September 22, 2020*).
- The **MISSION** of the Advocacy Committee is to be an effective, energetic, and focused Advocate for the 4,600+ students of the District.
- Our **VISION** is that every child receives the education they—need and deserve—to pursue their passions, goals, aspirations, and dreams.

Purpose:

- To serve as the District's primary contact point and coordinator for the various Advocacy, Lobbying, and Friend-Making efforts done throughout the year. This includes the efforts of Board of Education Members, Administrators, Employee Associations, PTA Units, and other stakeholders.
- Working under the guidance of the Board of Education, the Advocacy Committee is one of many working groups that supports the overall mission of the District. Its mandate is to take a leadership role in the Districts' Advocacy efforts, which in the recent past have included personal interaction with Government officials, Community Forum Events, Social Media Outreach, Email / Letter Writing campaigns, Student Trips to Albany, and other activities.
- The Advocacy Committee will actively collaborate with State, Regional & District organizations such as the Erie County Association of School Boards, Erie-Niagara School Superintendent Association, NYS Council of School Superintendents, Erie 1 BOCES, NYS School Boards Association, District/WNY/NYS PTAs, employee unions, student governments, and all other stakeholder groups.
- All District parties are encouraged to give a brief summary (whether in writing or verbally at a meeting) of any advocacy-related activities to the Advocacy Committee, for purposes of awareness and to avoid duplication of effort.

Stakeholders:

- Since its inception in 2014, the Advocacy Committee has strived to build a membership that reflects a full range of District stakeholders including parents, students, administrators, teachers, staff, and other community members. Our goal is to recruit a formal representative(s) for each stakeholder group.
 - Selection Process: For those wishing to serve as a formal stakeholder representative on the Committee, the leaders of each stakeholder group will recommend representative(s). Then, the Chair (who is a formal member of the Board of Education) will present the names of the potential representatives to the BOCES Superintendent for concurrence.

- Along with volunteers who agree to serve as an official representative, the Committee will continue to maintain an “open door” policy where everyone is invited to participate in formal meetings, and will be invited, as appropriate, to Advocacy projects and efforts.

Operating Procedures:

- Meetings: The Committee will hold an in-person meeting every 1-3 months at the FEC Building or via Google Meets. Two meetings will be held in the Fall (late September/early October for meeting 1) (late October/early November for meeting 2) and two in the Spring (January for meeting 4) (March for meeting 4). Additional meetings may be held if needed. The Chair will coordinate with the formal representatives and any other interested members to schedule all meetings.
- Newsletter: Additionally, the Chair will collaborate with the Superintendent and other members, as appropriate, on an electronic newsletter that will be circulated to all members on a more frequent basis. This will include summaries of information collected from other organizations. To start, there will not be a set timeframe as the Committee considers how frequent newsletters should be.
- Agendas & Minutes: The Chair will prepare a brief Agenda for each meeting, and Minutes will be taken & distributed after the meeting, either apart of the newsletter, or separately. In general, this is a “non-voting’ Committee, with the goal of building consensus on issues and action plans. However, where a final decision needs to be made, a vote will take place with the Chair, the Superintendent, and each formal representative having one vote each. For a decision to be made by vote, a majority of all voting members (whether present or not) must vote in support of the decision.
- Amending This Charter: This Charter may only be amended by a vote as described in the section above.

2020-2021 Goals (& beyond):

- Review NYSSBA proposed resolutions for Annual Convention. Timing: Oct. 2020.
- Encourage all eligible voters in the Frontier community, and elsewhere, to vote in the 2020 General Election. Timing: Oct. & Nov. 2020.
- Create a formal “Roles & Expectations” guide for Committee members. Timing: Fall-Winter 2020.
- Rejuvenate and increase the volunteer base of Committee, including formal representatives and others. Timing: Fall-Winter 2020.
- Design, plan, and implement in-District advocacy programs & events such as community forums, outreach campaigns (email/letter), and other activities. Timing: Ongoing.
- Continue to support the Student Trip to the State Capitol in Albany. Timing: Dependent on COVID & funding realities.
- Communicate with, support, and collaborate with other District Advocacy agents (Administration, Unions, PTA). This includes regular face-to-face and virtual communication to ensure that our goals, priorities, and strategies are aligned. Attend PTA Council Meeting by end of November. Timing: Ongoing.
- Maintain active presence & involvement with ECASB, BOCES 1, and State & Local School Superintendent and School Business Official organizations. Timing: Ongoing.
- Preserve and maintain Frontier-centric relationships with Federal, State, and Local officials-both incumbents and newly elected. Partner with FCSD Supt. on such efforts. Timing: Ongoing.