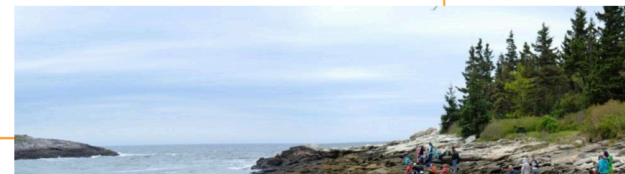


BSD Presents...Effective Partnering in your Child's Education

**Important Information
and Recommendations
for Families**

Brunswick Believes

A Strategic Framework
For Our Schools 2016-2021



Click photo for Strategic Framework!

You are an Important Part of Your Child's Educational Team!



Parent/Family involvement is a key component for school success!

Foundational Beliefs and Understandings for Effective Parent-School Partnerships:

- All families, educators, and school staff members want the very best for all children in their care
- All children deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential
- Families are the FIRST and continuing educators of their children
- Families and schools value quality teaching and respect teachers' professional expertise
- Effective partnerships are based on mutual responsibility, respect, and trust

Our Schools, Programs, and Services:

- Coffin Elementary School
- Harriet Beecher Stowe Elementary School
- Brunswick Junior High School
- Brunswick High School
- REAL School , Union Street School
- Student Services (includes Special Education and Talent Development)
- Transportation
- Facilities and Grounds
- Athletics and Co-Curricular Programs

Opportunities for Parent Involvement:

- Open House: This is a great opportunity to tour the school and classrooms, briefly meet the teachers and administrators, and get a general sense of your child's daily experience at school.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences: These are scheduled meetings that follow specific formats at each school and grade level.
- Individual Meetings: These may be requested by the teacher or by parents/guardians to address specific issues, hopes, and concerns, and to develop collaborative solutions.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement:

- Advocacy/Fundraising/Committee Involvement: Several parent/community organizations support our schools and offer opportunities for parents to become involved, these include Booster Clubs, PTO groups (Community for Coffin, Stowe Community Group, BJHS Parent Group...), Arts are Elementary, Brunswick Education Foundation, TEAN (The Emergency Action Network), and ongoing opportunities for focus group and survey participation to weigh in with your ideas for our strategic framework, new school/new programs, innovative pathways, etc.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement:



- Volunteering at School: BSD offers a variety of opportunities for family members to participate in our **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**. These include 1-time participation in special events or regularly scheduled volunteer positions...



Barriers???



We recognize that every family situation is different, and that there may be logistical, personal, cultural, or other roadblocks that make family involvement in our schools more challenging.

Here are some contacts that might help ...

Español

汉语

Việt

Русский

ةيبرعلا

Français

हिंदी



Speakers of Other Languages

& Other Cultural or Communication Considerations:

TESOL COORDINATOR: [Emily Darby](#)



**Unsettled housing situation; lacking transportation to/
from school events; other needs:**

McKinney Vento Liaison: [Pender Makin](#)

Communicating with Schools/Teachers

- Our [district website](#) includes the annual school calendar, links to departments, schools, and services, links to the school board page and district policies, and important messages, information, and announcements from the office of the superintendent.
- We also post important information and updates on our district [Facebook Page](#)
- Each school website includes school-specific calendars and important school-specific information.

Communication with Schools/Teachers

- **Emergency communications are provided through an online system that allows us to call, text, and email parents/guardians with important announcements and information. Please make sure that your phone contacts are updated and correct in our schools' system so that you will receive emergency phone calls (including notice of school closures due to weather conditions).**
- **We also post emergency information on our webpages, Facebook page, and on the local TV news stations (each of these stations offers an optional text alert as well).**

Communicating about YOUR Child

How much communication?
How often?
When and How?

As a basic guideline ...

Think about communication with your child's teacher in the same way you might think about communication with your child's pediatrician or other professionals/experts who are significant partners in your child's development!



Communicating about YOUR Child

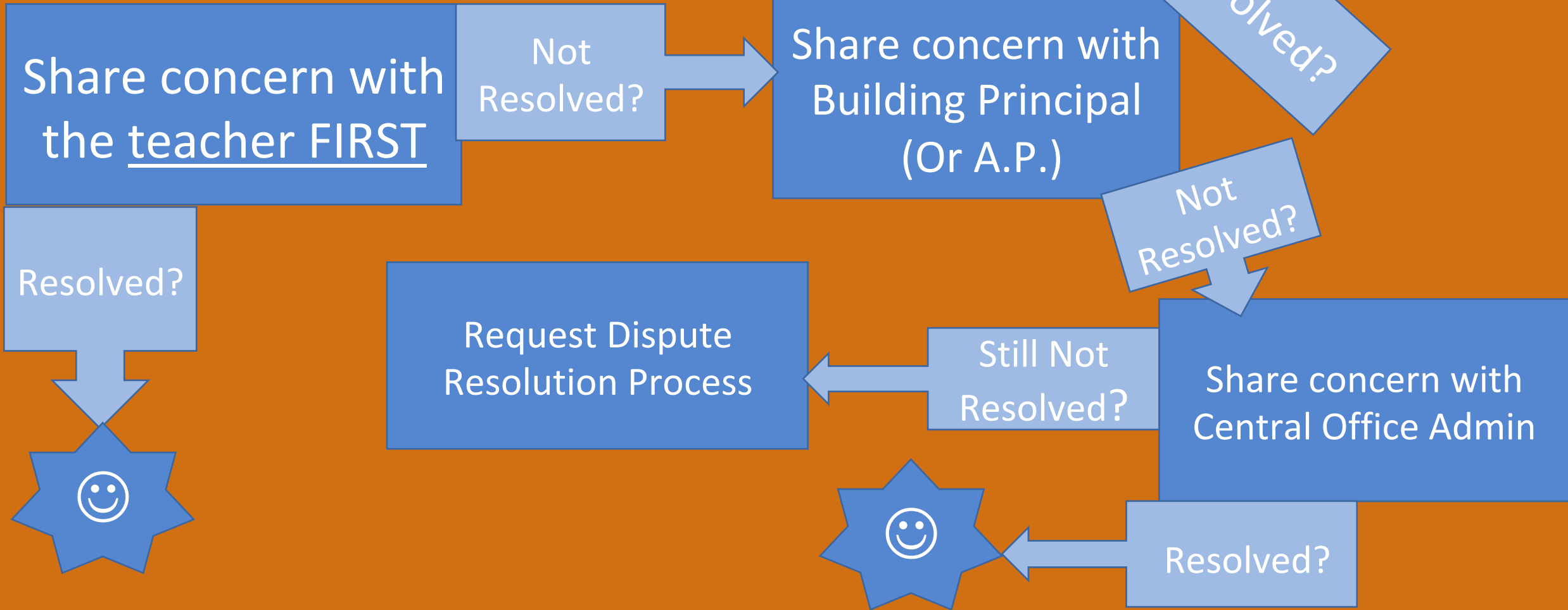
Early in the school year, teachers and schools have a responsibility to provide families with information that is important to know – including best ways to communicate about your child's educational experience and how to stay updated on what's happening at school.

Communicating about YOUR Child

When you have a concern:

- ✓ The first point of contact should be your child's **TEACHER** (*there are very few exceptions)
- ✓ If your concern remains unresolved after meeting with the teacher, the **NEXT** point of contact would be a **BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR**

When you have a concern...



Exceptions to the Communication Protocols:

- A concern about BULLYING or HARASSMENT should be shared with the Classroom Teacher (if applicable) AND with the Building Administrators. There is a bullying/harassment reporting link on all school webpages.
- Any threat or safety concern should be shared with an administrator immediately.
- Any type of harassment or sexual harassment must be reported to the building Affirmative Action Coordinator OR with our district Affirmative Action Officer, [Pender Makin](#) / 207-319-1900

Affirmative Action Coordinators:

BHS	REAL School	BJHS	HBS	COFFIN
Mary Moore	Susan Burns Chong	Tatiana Lera	Nancy Farrand	Janet Rivard

The Role of our School Board

- ✓ The **BSD School Board Members** set School District Policy, and direct the Superintendent to develop administrative procedures, processes, and protocols to enact and enforce policies.
- ✓ Families are encouraged to contact School Board Members with “Big Picture” hopes, ideas, concerns, and suggestions for policy.
- ✓ It is not helpful for families to contact school board members with complaints about specific staff members or specific concerns about your child’s educational experience, because they do not have the first-hand knowledge that teachers/school administrators have.

Thank you for Helping BSD to Create a Cross-Systemic Network of Support for your Child!

- Reinforce social/emotional skills at home
- Review and reinforce school expectations, rules, and policies *read the handbook
- Checking for forms and notices/ checking Powerschool / participate in surveys
- Subscribe to text alerts through SchoolMessenger
- Check district [webpages](#) and [Facebook](#) page
- Thank a teacher! 😊