**Gracewood Elementary School Council Bylaws**

**School Year 2025–2026**

**Article I – Name**

The name of this organization shall be the **Gracewood Elementary School Council**.

**Article II – Purpose**

The purpose of the School Council is to:

1. Bring parents, school staff, and community members together to improve academic achievement and overall school success.
2. Provide advice, recommendations, and assistance to the principal and school leadership on school improvement.
3. Foster better communication and partnerships between the school and its stakeholders.
4. Encourage involvement of the school community in support of Gracewood Elementary’s mission and vision.

**Article III – Authority**

This council operates under the guidelines established by the Georgia A+ Education Reform Act of 2000 and any applicable Richmond County School System policies.

**Article IV – Membership**

1. **Composition**:
	* Principal (automatic member)
	* Minimum of 2 certified teachers elected by faculty
	* Minimum of 3 parent/guardian members elected by parents (must have a child enrolled at Gracewood)
	* At least 2 business/community partners selected by the council
2. **Eligibility**:
	* Members must commit to regular attendance and active participation.
3. **Term of Office**:
	* Members serve a **two-year term**.
	* Terms are staggered to maintain continuity.
	* Members may serve consecutive terms if re-elected.
4. **Vacancies**:
	* Vacancies are filled by election (for parent/teacher positions) or appointment (for business/community partners) within 30 days.

**Article V – Elections**

1. **Teacher Elections**: Conducted by faculty vote in August.
2. **Parent Elections**: Conducted by ballot during Open House or the first PTA meeting.
3. **Business/Community Members**: Selected by majority council vote.

**Article VI – Officers**

1. Officers are elected annually at the first council meeting of the school year.
2. Officers include:
	* **Chairperson** – Presides over meetings and prepares agendas.
	* **Vice Chairperson** – Assists Chairperson and presides in absence.
	* **Secretary** – Keeps minutes, attendance, and correspondence.

**Article VII – Meetings**

1. **Frequency**: Minimum of 2 regular meetings per year (once per quarter).
2. **Special Meetings**: May be called by the Chairperson, Principal, or majority vote of the council.
3. **Notice**: Meeting dates and agendas posted at least 7 days in advance on the school website and at the school entrance.
4. **Quorum**: A majority of members must be present to conduct business.
5. **Decision-Making**: By majority vote of members present.

**Article VIII – Responsibilities**

1. Review and provide input on:
	* School improvement plan
	* Academic performance data
	* Budget priorities
	* Parent and community engagement strategies
2. Maintain open communication between the school and community.
3. Encourage volunteerism and support school events.

**Article IX – Amendments**

Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment was given at least one meeting in advance.

**Article X – Adoption**

These bylaws shall become effective upon majority approval by the Gracewood Elementary School Council and shall remain in force for the **2025–2026 school year**, unless amended according to Article IX.

**Adopted this 13 day of August, 2025**
**Chairperson:** Dana Craft
**Principal:** Renee Perry