



NSRF Governance Accountability Council

Accountability Council Purpose and Roles

The NSRF Accountability Council serves to support the work of NSRF and promote the realization of its mission *to foster educational and social equity by empowering all people involved with schools to work collaboratively in reflective democratic communities that create and support powerful learning experiences for everyone.*

Specifically the Accountability Council:

- Serves as a Critical Friends Group to the NSRF Director(s).
- Hires and replaces NSRF Director(s), which includes the dismissal of Director(s), when necessary.
- Reviews periodically NSRF governance and management structure to insure that it best meets the needs of the organization.
- Makes decisions by consensus, when requested.
- Conducts an annual review of the Director's (s') work on the basis of an agreed upon set of goals.
- Holds itself accountable for actions taken as a result of its deliberations and decisions.
- Reports on its activities to the NSRF membership, at least annually.

Accountability Council Members

- Possess passion, commitment, knowledge, and experience of NSRF work and its mission.
- Demonstrate skills, knowledge, and experience leading NSRF work in a variety of local and national venues.
- Demonstrate the ability to create, sustain, and expand relationships across differences of race, class, gender, geographical location, sexual orientation, age, and professional roles.
- Commit to hold the Director(s), National Center staff, and one another accountable for the care and promotion of NSRF as a national organization.
- Commit to participate in face-to-face and electronic conversations and meetings.
- Represent a diversity of perspectives and life experiences including, but not limited to, geographic location, professional role, age, experience, race and ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation.

Accountability Council Selection and Service

There will be a total of 10 appointed members and three permanent members on the Accountability Council. The Director of NSRF*, the head of the NSRF National Center (office), and the Executive Director of Harmony Education Center will serve as permanent members of the Council. The permanent members will be full participants in the deliberations and decisions of the Council. The Director(s) of NSRF will not participate in deliberations and decisions related to her or his dismissal. In addition to the appointed and permanent members, the Founding Co-Director Emeritus will serve as a member of the Accountability Council until such time as she, in consultation with the Director(s) of NSRF and Chair of Accountability Council, elects not to do so.

* **Director - If there is more than one Director of NSRF, then all directors will serve as permanent members of the Accountability Council.**

Appointed members will be selected by the NSRF Director(s) with guidance from a nominating committee made up of 3-4 volunteer current Accountability Council members, the Chair of the Accountability Council, and the head of the NSRF National Center. This group will seek nominations, including self-nominations, from the current Accountability Council, Centers of Activity, National Facilitators group, and other NSRF members. From this slate of candidates the Director(s), in consultation with the Nominating Committee, will select members.

Accountability Council Terms of Service

The new Accountability Council will serve through the Winter Meeting 2009. Following the 2009 Winter Meeting, and every year thereafter between the Winter Meeting and the Facilitators' Meeting, 3 appointed members of the Accountability Council will be replaced using the guidelines and processes outlined above.

Accountability Council Compensation and Operation

- Receives no compensation for participation in Accountability Council meetings and events
- Meets, face-to-face, at least annually. Group could meet more often as necessary to carry out its responsibilities. NSRF pays expenses associated with participation in face-to-face meetings.
- Maintains a public record of its deliberations and decisions.
- Is led by the Chair of the Accountability Council.

Accountability Council Chair

The NSRF Director will appoint a Chair from among Council members for a term of 3 years. The Chair serves as an advisor to the Director and works with the Director to set the agenda and facilitate the Council meetings. The Chair of the Council leads all personnel discussions and decisions related to the hiring, replacement, dismissal, and annual review of the Director(s) of NSRF.

Transition

Prior to the spring 2007 National Facilitators' Meeting, new and former members of the Accountability Council will meet together to insure a smooth transition. The new Council will meet for the first time in the fall/winter of 2007.