

Hypothetical Thoughts from an Advisory Committee Member

Dear Educator:

I am pleased to serve as a member of your advisory committee. I am delighted to accept your invitation--if you can assure me that I will be involved in an activity that is going to make some worthwhile and important contribution to the education of young people.

Please note that if you tell me the committee will meet only two or three times a year, let me know what we will be doing when we are together is worthwhile!

If I occasionally drop in for a visit, give me a few minutes of your time. Your courtesy will be well repaid. I would not come if I were not interested. I will appreciate receiving a special invitation to attend a school function or a board of education meeting.

Hopefully, I will become identified with you and the school. I am asking you as the professional educator to provide me, the interested layman, with counsel and leadership for my committee responsibilities.

When you ask me to attend a committee meeting, I want to know beforehand what will be on the agenda. I will want a brief background statement of the problems we discuss. Give me at least two weeks' notice of the meeting date. Do not hesitate to remind me about it by letter, phone, email, or text.

I am used to crisp, business-oriented procedures during meetings. I will want to know as soon as possible after the meeting what did, and will, happen as a result of our advice and services.

I would like to meet more than once a year with the students in the program my committee services. I want the students to know this committee exists. I want them to tell me to what extent we are succeeding.

As a matter of fact, I would like to have each graduating class elect one of its members to serve as an ex-officio member on our committee to tell us, in the first year after graduation, how relevant their training was in terms of real jobs and/or continuing education.

I would like some expression of gratitude for my volunteer services and contributions. If I donate a piece of equipment, put my nameplate on it. At the banquet at the end of the year, recognize all of us committee members.

I know I am asking a great deal of you, but I am willing to give a great deal in return. And the more you get from the committee, the better your program will be. The same is true for us, of course. All the committee members, as well as the businesses we represent, will benefit with a continuing source of qualified workers available and get a good return from our tax dollar. It is up to you to decide whether you want me to serve on your committee. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

A Potential Advisory Committee Member