

Bylaws of the Board

Student Representatives on the Board of Education

Preamble:

In the past several years, there has been a great increase in the need for smooth interaction and communication between students and the governing body of the school system and the Board of Education. Whereas in the past students have had the need to approach the Board only intermittently, if needed at all, today matters of interest and importance to students arises almost monthly.

Being cognizant of this student interest in the affairs of the school Board, and also of the Board's interest in knowing the opinions of those under its charge, it is vitally necessary that the lines of communication between the two groups be made even more open and effective than they are at present.

One of the main problems that has constantly occurred in Board-Student relations arises from the fact that students are able to comment on issues before the Board only after the fact or in audiences. When many important programs and policies affecting students are decided upon at Board meetings, there is no student voice in the actual debate, and consequently, the composition of those same programs and policies loses the benefits of a mutual and spontaneous interchange of ideas.

The establishment of Permanent Student Representative to the Board of Education we feel will eliminate the above and other related problems. The student representatives will first and most important of all be able to provide the Board with constant and timely student insights and or criticisms of Board affairs before they become policies that may have to be officially challenged by the student government. The student representative, by virtue of his/her position and powers will be of great value to the student government in their efforts to prevent and mediate volatile situations. The Permanent Student Representation on the Board of Education will give students as the clients within the educational corporation, a more effective voice in and at the decision making level of the school system.

Guidelines:

It is resolved that there should be two student representatives on the Board of Education. Every attempt shall be made to solicit on Junior and one Senior.

The representatives shall be called the Student Representatives to the Board of Education.

Election Procedure

The Student Representatives will be elected by his/her student body.

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Student Representatives on the Board of Education (continued)

Privileges and Responsibilities:

1. The student members shall be able to attend and sit on all regular meetings of the Board of Education.
2. During said meetings, the student members shall be able to speak on any issue on the agenda or motion before the Board unless deemed inappropriate by the Board.
3. The student members may recommend resolutions and motions for the Board's consideration.
4. Copies of all regular meeting agendas, minutes and other pertinent publications, shall be given and forwarded to the student members when made available to the Board members.
5. The student members shall be eligible to sit on appropriate committees of the Board of Education.
6. The student members shall be expected to attend all of the previously defined meetings and shall be accountable to the student body via the Student Council.
7. The student members shall, via the Student Council, be required to communicate with the student body upon all pertinent issues before the Board.

Prohibitions on the Student Representatives:

1. The student members shall not be able to cast an official vote on any motion or resolution.
2. The student members shall not be allowed to attend executive sessions and negotiation sessions.
3. Only those privileges and powers enumerated previously shall be regarded specifically as such; any and all other powers and privileges that might be deemed appropriate for the Student Representatives shall be decided upon by the Chairman and/or members of the Board of Education.