



Student Board Member Proposal

Mt. Diablo Unified School District





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Proposition

The Addition of a Student to the MDUSD Board of Education

Purpose:

- To provide students with a voice on the Board of Education
- Student would receive preferential Voting Rights. Vote does not affect the numerical outcome of a BOE vote
- Student would have the ability to make motions



Rationale

- 1 Students want to be agents of change
- 2 Students have first-hand experience that decision makers need

- 3 This would help strengthen contact & communication between the Board of Education and Students
- 4 With so many students in MDUSD, this would help strengthen implementation of student ideas



Project objective

A student board member would give MDUSD students a liaison to represent them in front of a governing body and provide actionable pathways towards the direct voicing and solving of student concerns.



Equity and Access to Information

Students

- PA announcement for all the high schools during application season
- information on school website

Educators

- Supt. could email all 11th grade teachers
- Information emailed to all school principals
- Teachers asked to make class announcement

Parents

- Weekly email blast sent out to all parents containing information
- Info on PFC websites



Appointment Process

- Preliminary application process with supplementary short answer questions, at least one teacher recommendation, transcripts, and list of extracurriculars
- An ad-hoc committee made up of members on the district board could review these applications and narrow down the pool to an interview conducted by said ad-hoc committee, assuming the incoming pool is not too large



Rights of the Student Member

- Preferential vote: expression of preference cast before the official vote that is recorded in the minutes but does not affect the outcome of the numerical vote
- The board can make its own bylaws as to whether the student can make or second motions or add items to the consent calendar, etc
- The student board member gets all documents and materials in open session matters in a timely manner, not including closed sessions

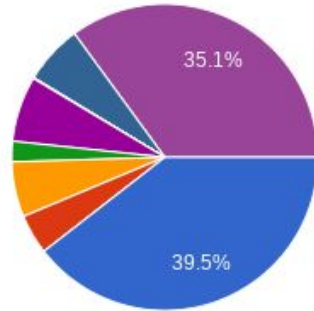


AB 261 (d)

- (1) There may be submitted to the governing board of a school district maintaining one or more high schools a pupil petition requesting the governing board to appoint one or more pupil members to the governing board pursuant to this section.
- (2) The petition shall contain the signatures of either (A) not less than 500 pupils regularly enrolled in high schools of the school district, or (B) not less than 10 percent of the number of pupils regularly enrolled in high schools of the school district, whichever is less. Each fiscal year, and within 60 days of receipt of a petition for pupil representation, or at its next regularly scheduled meeting if no meeting is held within those 60 days, the governing board of a school district shall order the inclusion within the membership of the governing board, in addition to the number of members otherwise prescribed, at least one pupil member. The governing board of a school district may order the inclusion of more than one pupil member.

I am a...

927 responses



- Student at Northgate High School
- Student at College Park High School
- Student at Ygnacio Valley High School
- Student at Mt. Diablo High School
- Student at Concord High School
- Student at Olympic High School
- Student at Gateway High School
- Student at Prospect High School

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I AM IN FAVOR OF HAVING 1 STUDENT BOARD MEMBER ON THE MDUSD BOARD

927 responses



● YES



Sample Questions

- 1. Identify and discuss what you consider to be one of the most challenging problems currently impacting kindergarten through 12th grade education. Indicate the steps you feel should be taken to address this challenge. (Please limit your response to 300 words.)
- 2. Why do you want to serve on the Mt. Diablo Unified Board of Education? (Please limit your response to 150 words.)



Guidelines

- The sitting student board member would have preferential voting rights as recorded in the minutes
- Cannot vote in carrying out a motion, per California law
- Board members should take this vote into consideration when casting their votes
- All resources and material available to board members must be available to the student representative in a timely manner, so that they have time to prepare.
- MDUSD can make its own bylaws, such as giving the student member the right to make and second motions or object to something on the consent calendar.



Acalanes UHSD Example

Duties of the student Governing Board member include the following:

- To attend all scheduled Board meetings, except closed sessions
- To provide continuing input for Board deliberations
- To strengthen communications between the Board and district students
- To represent all students and facilitate the discussion of all sides of issues. This duty does not preclude the student Board member from stating his/her individual opinion



Acalanes UHSD Example

Commitment:

The term of student Board member shall be July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The student Board member shall attend all regular Board meetings, except closed session Meetings are typically on Wednesday evenings. The student Board member would need to arrive by 6:30 pm and meetings typically end between 9:00 and 10:00 pm.



Acalanes UHSD Example

Role:

The student Board member shall be seated with regular Board members and be recognized at meetings as a full member. They may participate in question presenters and discuss issues and shall receive all materials presented to Board members except those related to closed sessions and personnel matters.

The student Board member may cast preferential votes and make motions on most matters that may be acted upon by the Board.



Acalanes UHSD Example

Qualifications:

- A student must hold and maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale
- A student must maintain minimum progress toward meeting high school graduation requirements
- A student must have and maintain satisfactory citizenship (behavior)



Acalanes UHSD Example

Selection Process:

-Step 1: Candidates will apply for the position by completing the online application

-Step 2: Each comprehensive school will select one applicant from the submitted applications to be the school site's finalist for the position. As part of the school finalist selection process, applicants will participate in an interview with representatives of their school administration and elected student body

Step 3: School site finalists will be interviewed by a District panel consisting of student representatives and Board members



Los Angeles USD Example

Selection Process:

1. Current LAUSD students who will be 12th graders next school year are eligible to submit an application packet to be considered for the position of student board member.
2. Applications will go through a screening committee comprised of District staff and students.
3. The screening committee will select candidates to be on the voting slate.
4. Student body presidents and one additional elected student leader from each LAUSD high school will be able to cast a vote. In the event that the elected student board member is not able to perform their duties, the alternate will serve as the student board member.



Testimonials From Current Student Board Members

“Student representation is integral to the efficacy of policies, programs, and school districts. Unlike adult members of a Board, the student representative spends 6 hours a day in school, interacting with the exact population that a district aims to support. Students understand students- their motivations, their stresses, their perspectives.

Through my role as an SBM on the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education, I single-handedly moved the needle in transcript reform, I brought the issue of mental health/suicide protocol to the attention of the Board, and organized a forum series to collect student input on District-wide practices -- none of which would have happened without the SBM position. Student issues, urgent concerns, valuable perspectives go unnoticed when student voice is not given a seat at the dais. Student education and wellness are at stake.”

-Olivia Ang-Olson, Sacramento City Unified School District 2019-20 Student Board Member



Testimonials From Current Student Board Members

“Student representation is absolutely vital to any decision-making process. We provide a unique perspective that may not always be seen. Being a Top 6 Candidate for the State Student Board Member position to the State Board of Education and the 2019-2020 Student Board Member for the Sweetwater Union High School District, I’ve had the unique opportunity to voice students who were underrepresented in their communities. I was able to bring these perspectives to my local board and help students gain access to the resources they needed and deserved. I’m proud to be a representation of students in my community and help them and myself grow in our education.”

-Ethan Collier, Sweetwater Unified High School District 2019-20 Student Board Member



Testimonials From Current Student Board Members

“I feel that student representation is incredibly essential education as it not only empowers the students to foster change where they see fit, but it also adds the voice of the individuals directly affected by the decisions being made. From my time on the school board, I have been able to increase transparency between the Board and students, which in turn creates a more collaborative and healthy district environment.”

-Audrey Mallah, Albany Unified School District 2019-20 Student Board Member



Thank you.

