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| Title | Student Representation at School Board Meetings |
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0141.1 - Student Representation at School Board Meetings

Purpose and Status of Student Representatives

To enhance communication and collaboration between the School Board of Flagler County and the District's student body, and to promote civic engagement and leadership development, the School Board supports the participation of high school students in School Board governance.

Student representatives serve in an ex-officio advisory capacity only; they are to participate in public discussions as permitted by the Chair. Student representatives are not members of the School Board, do not possess independent authority, and do not exercise the powers or duties of elected School Board members. Their role is to provide student perspective from their particular school communities; they facilitate communication and serve to fortify rapport between students and the School Board.

Student representatives shall not be considered voting members of the School Board, shall not be counted for purposes of quorum, and shall not be liable for any acts or omissions of the School Board.

1. Number of student representatives

The School Board shall include one (1) student representative from each District high school.

2. Selection process

Each District high school shall select one student representative using a process determined by the school, which may include student government selection, administrative selection, or another school-determined process approved by the school principal.

Each high school shall notify the Superintendent in writing of its selected student representative at the beginning of each school year.

3. Term and attendance

Student representatives shall serve for a one (1) school-year term beginning at the start of the academic year and concluding at the end of that school year.

Student representatives shall attend School Board meetings only during the school year in which they are appointed.

Student representatives shall serve at the pleasure of their respective high school and the School Board.

4. Role and responsibilities

Student representatives shall:

- a. Represent the interests and perspectives of students enrolled in the District;
- b. Be encouraged to sit at the School Board table during regular open meetings and participate in discussions in the same manner as the public;
- c. Receive Board agenda materials and publicly available supporting documents at the same time such materials are provided to elected School Board members, excluding materials related to closed or executive sessions;
- d. Communicate with students at their respective schools and, as appropriate, provide updates or reports to student leadership organizations.

5. Advisory participation and limitations

- a. Student representatives may be invited to participate in School Board workshops, forums, or other public functions.
- b. Student representatives shall not participate in closed or executive sessions of the School Board.
- c. Student representatives shall not receive monetary compensation for attendance at School Board meetings.

6. Academic Credit

Nothing in this policy requires the award of academic credit for service as a student representative. Schools may determine whether student representative service qualifies for academic credit, elective or leadership recognition consistent with state law, District policies and school procedures.

7. Orientation and training

The Superintendent shall provide student representatives with an orientation that includes:

- a. An explanation of the advisory nature of the student representative role;
- b. An overview of the authority, responsibilities, and limitations of the School Board, including those imposed by Florida Statutes §§ 119.011 and 286.011;
- c. Instruction regarding public meeting procedures, ethics, expectations, and student representative limitations;
- d. Guidance regarding public records retention, Sunshine Law requirements, and appropriate communication practices.

The Superintendent may also provide or approve training or other experiential opportunities designed to support leadership development and effective participation.

8. Removal or Replacement

If a student representative is unable or unwilling to fulfill the responsibilities of the role the Superintendent may request that the respective high school select a replacement to serve for the remainder of the school year.

9. Compliance with Florida Sunshine Law and Public Records Law

Student representatives are expected to comply with Florida's public meetings and public records laws to the extent applicable to their advisory role.

For purposes of public records compliance a person acting on behalf of a public agency may be subject to the requirements of Chapter 119 Florida Statutes. Materials made or received by a student representative in connection with School Board business may constitute public records and may be subject to inspection and copying unless an exemption applies pursuant to Florida law. Public records include materials made or received in connection with the transaction of official business regardless of the form or means of transmission (F.S. § 119.011).

Student representatives shall exercise care in creating, retaining, and transmitting written notes, emails, text messages or other communications relating to School Board business.

Student representatives shall not participate in or facilitate communications between two(2) or more School Board members regarding matters that may foreseeably come before the School Board outside of a properly noticed public meeting (F.S. § 286.011).