



CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW BRITAIN

Board Policy Statement

6145.50 - Student Representation to the Board of Education

Approved on May 4, 2015

It has been the policy of the New Britain Public Schools to encourage participation of secondary school students as non-voting representatives to the Board of Education. The Board of Education believes it is important and recognizes the value of having student representatives to the Board for input into decisions that affect all students.

The purpose of this participation is to help the Board of Education gain greater insight into student activities, programs, and needs; to encourage student involvement in school district governance activities; to provide greater awareness and understanding of mutual issues among community, school staff and students; to provide for the active involvement of students in their education; to foster inquiry whereby students may freely express their views and listen to and evaluate the opinions of others; and to demonstrate community service to the Town of New Britain.

- A. Student representation to the Board of Education is open to all students in grades 11, 12, not to exceed four members, who have met the requirements for participation in New Britain extra-curricular activities. Four members for rotation should be elected by the peers to be on the Board.
- B. The high school administration will determine and be responsible for election procedures. These procedures will provide an opportunity for all students to attend a candidate's orientation conducted by the Superintendent/Board of Education Members and current student representatives to learn about the roles and responsibilities of student representation.
- C. Student representatives shall serve a term of one full academic year. Students who serve for less than a full year may be eligible to run again. A representative may not be elected to succeed himself/herself.
- D. Following their election, student representatives shall attend an orientation session given by the Superintendent and at least one Board of Education member. This session will be held prior to the student representatives' first Board of Education meeting.
- E. Student representatives will attend and sit on all regular meetings of the Board of Education and can be appointed to committees of the Board of Education at the discretion of the chairperson.
- F. Student representatives will receive all regular meeting agendas, minutes, and other pertinent information, excluding any materials deemed confidential.

- G. Student representatives will not participate in school Board of Education meetings from which the general public is excluded to include executive session, negotiation sessions, or personnel portions of regular meetings of the Board of Education.
- H. Student representatives will be given an opportunity to speak during the portion of the agenda devoted to student reports and at any other time. They may submit reports or studies and make requests to the Board of Education for consideration. At least one week prior to a Board of Education meeting, a student representative may ask the Superintendent of Schools to consider placing a specific item on an agenda.
- I. The Superintendent will notify the student representatives one week prior to a meeting if he/she wishes to have specific student input given to an agenda item.
- J. The student representatives will attempt to communicate to the student “congress” once a month to obtain input and keep students informed on all pertinent issues before the School Board of Education in ways approved by the high school administrator for student activities.
- K. Standards for student representation/participation to the Board of Education will be addressed at the student orientation session following student selection. Should these standards not be met, the Superintendent/Board of Education will reserve the right to remove a student representative. In such cases, or if the office is vacated for any reason, the position will be offered to the student who received the next highest number of votes.
- L. This Policy will be reviewed by the Board of Education annually before each student representative election.
- M. Student representatives will be requested to complete and submit a written summary of their term on the Board of Education.

By Board policy, two students from the high school serve as non-voting members of the School Board. This means that they sit at the table for all meetings, have a voice in commenting on issues, bring issues of concern to the School Board, and bring back information to the student body.

By participating, students are demonstrating community service, representing themselves and their classmates, learning how the governing body of the school district works, and networking with community leaders to achieve excellence in education.