

EX OFFICIO STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD

The Board of Education believes that it is important to include students' voices in its deliberations. Pursuant to law, the Board will designate at least one ex officio student member of the Board for the purpose of providing regular and direct communication between the Board and the student body.

Good faith actions, mutual respect, and cooperative effort of all parties are essential to a positive and meaningful partnership and bringing about meaningful changes. To that end, the Board believes that an ex officio student member will:

- provide students with an opportunity to express their voices, take ownership of their education, and impact Board decisions;
- provide for the Board and students a vehicle through which they may exchange information and learn from one another;
- provide an opportunity for students to gain experience with governance and leadership;
- broaden the base of information available to those ultimately responsible for educational decision making; and
- develop an environment that encourages inclusion, understanding, trust, and respect.

Position of Ex Officio Student Member of the Board

As required by law, the Board will have at least one ex officio student member. The ex officio student member will be entitled to sit with Board members at all public meetings and hearings and may participate in other Board activities and responsibilities at the discretion of the Board. The ex officio student member will not be required to participate in mandatory training for elected or appointed Board members and may be excused to leave meetings early, upon the approval of the Board President.

The ex officio student member will not:

- be allowed to vote;
- be allowed to attend executive sessions or other meetings/hearings not open to the public;
- be entitled to receive compensation of any form for participating at Board meeting;
- have the authority to call a special and/or emergency meeting of the Board;
- be considered a "member" of the Board for the purpose of establishing a quorum for conducting business; or
- be allowed to see or discuss documents or information regarding individual District personnel, collective bargaining negotiations, individual student records, or any other confidential matters.

The ex officio student member will serve for a term of one (1) year, commencing on July 1 and ending on the succeeding June 30. Attendance at Board meetings is optional for the ex officio student member during July and August.

Specifically, the ex officio student member of the Board is expected to:

- bring a student perspective to the Board's discussions;
- bring student concerns to the Board's attention;
- represent the student body on the Board;
- report back to the student body on the Board's actions; and
- solicit input from students on matters impacting the District, at the direction of the Board.

Qualifications and Selection of the Ex Officio Student Member of the Board

All qualified students interested in serving as the ex officio student member of the Board are encouraged to apply in the manner established by the administration. The District will advertise the position of ex officio student member of the Board to high school students, as well as the method of applying for the position, well in advance of the deadline for doing so.

To qualify, the student must have attended high school in the District for at least one year prior to selection and be a member of the Unified Yonkers Student Leadership Council (UYSLC). Additionally, the student must be a junior or senior during the year in which they would serve on the Board.

Following the submission of applications, nominees for the ex officio student member will be selected by the UYSLC. The nominees will be provided to the Instructional Affairs Committee of the Board which will then review the nominees and provide the Mayor of the City of Yonkers with its recommendations. The Mayor will then appoint one ex officio student member to the Board as well as an alternate ex officio student member. In order to encourage fair representation among the District's high schools, the Instructional Affairs Committee will take into consideration students' school of attendance when making its recommendations to the Mayor.

The selection process will take place at the end of the school year preceding the next term.

Additional Provisions

The ex officio student member represents the student body, and acts as an example for the students of the District. Such students are expected to abide by all applicable Board policies including the Code of Conduct. Violations may result in removal from the position as determined by the Board. The ex officio student member may resign in writing to the District Clerk. The Board may also declare the seat vacant if the ex officio student member fails to attend three consecutive Board meetings without sufficient excuse.

If there is a vacancy due to resignation or removal, the alternate will serve for the remainder of the term. If there is no alternate, the Board will decide if there is enough time to select another student as ex officio student member in accordance with this policy, and, if there is not, will leave the position vacant until the next term begins.

The Superintendent or designee is responsible for arranging for an orientation and training program for the ex officio student member. The Superintendent will establish procedures

for the ex officio student member with the Board of Education if necessary to implement this policy.

Ref: Education Law §§1709; 2109; 2552; 2553(1-a), (11); 2554

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