

(X) Required**(X) Local****(X) Notice****EX-OFFICIO STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD**

The Board of Education believes that it is important to include students' voices in its deliberations. The Board will designate two ex-officio student members 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 the District. The Board believes that an ex-officio student member will:

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

Position of Ex-Officio Student Member of the Board

The Board will have two ex-officio student members. Ex-officio student members will be entitled to sit with Board members at all public meetings and hearings, participate in other Board activities and responsibilities at the discretion of the Board, and may participate in training opportunities at the discretion of the Board, but will not be required to participate in mandatory training for elected or appointed Board members. The two ex-officio student members shall decide which member will join the Board of Education at the scheduled BOE Meeting.

Ex-officio student members will NOT: be permitted to vote; be allowed to attend executive sessions or any other meetings or hearings not open to the public; or be entitled to receive compensation of any form for participating at Board meeting. Neither will they 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.

Ex-officio student members will serve for a term of one (1) year, commencing on July 1 and ending on the succeeding June 30.

Significantly, ex-officio student members of the Board are expected to:

1. Bring a student perspective to the Board's discussions;
2. Bring student concerns to the Board's attention;
3. Represent the student body on the Board;
4. Report back to the student body on the Board's actions; and
5. 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

Ex-officio student members must have attended high school in the District for at least one (1) year prior to selection. The selection process will take place at the end of the school year preceding the next term.

Ex-officio student Board members will be selected by a majority vote of the Board of Education. An alternate ex-officio student Board member will be selected by a majority vote of the Board of Education.

All qualified students interested in serving as ex-officio student members of the Board are encouraged to apply in the manner established in this policy. 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. Interested students should email the following information and documentation to the District Clerk by the established deadline:

1. Enrolled at Hewlett High School for the entire 10th grade and be a current 11th grader
2. 90% plus weighted GPA
3. Be registered to vote
4. Two letters of recommendation from faculty
5. Two letters of recommendation from G.W. Hewlett High School peers
6. Involved in either extra-curricular, co-curricular or interscholastic athletics
7. A detailed essay or video explaining why you want to be a student Board member, your understanding of the role, and how your skills and experience can contribute to the Board.

Additional Provisions

The ex-officio student members represent the student body, and act as an example and role model for the students of the district. Such students are expected to abide by all applicable Board policies including the Student Code of Conduct. Violations may result in removal from the position as determined by the Board. Ex-officio student members 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, excluding the months of July and August.

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

The Superintendent or their designee is responsible for arranging 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 §§1702(3); 1709; 1804(12); 2109; 2502(10); 2553(1-a), (11)

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