

Menahga Student School Board Representative-Expectations

Guidance adapted from recommendations by the Minnesota School Boards Association.

Your Role

As a student school board representative, your role is to share the student perspective with the school board. You help board members better understand student experiences, ideas, and concerns.

This is also a great opportunity to learn about leadership, decision-making, and how school boards work.

What You Are Expected to Do

- ✓ Attend school board meetings when possible
- ✓ Share student perspectives and ideas with the board via a written report
- ✓ Speak when appropriate about topics that affect students
- ✓ Be respectful and professional during meetings
- ✓ Follow the same meeting rules as school board members

What Your Role Includes

- ✓ You will sit at the board table during regular meetings
- ✓ You may suggest topics for the board to consider through the agenda process
- ✓ You may participate in discussions related to student issues

What Your Role Does NOT Include

- ✗ You do not vote on board decisions
- ✗ You will usually not attend closed meetings because they involve confidential topics
- ✗ You will not receive confidential information about staff, legal issues, or individual student matters

Important Reminders

- ★ Being a student comes first. Schoolwork and activities are your priority.
- ★ If you cannot attend a meeting, communicate ahead of time.
- ★ Your ideas and perspective are valued and important.

Support

You may have a **mentor or staff member** who can help you understand meetings, answer questions, and prepare for discussions.

Guidance adapted from recommendations by the Minnesota School Boards Association.

Purpose of the Student Representative

The student representative provides student voice and perspective to the school board. This role allows board members to better understand student experiences while giving the student an opportunity to learn about civic leadership and school governance.

Role & Authority

- ✓ Serves in an advisory role to the school board
- ✓ Does not have voting authority
- ✓ Sits at the board table during regular meetings
- ✓ May provide input on agenda items related to student issues

Meetings & Participation

- ✓ Expected to attend regular board meetings and public work sessions when possible
- ✓ Should communicate in advance if school or extracurricular commitments prevent attendance
- ✓ Closed sessions are generally not appropriate for student representatives due to confidential topics

Agenda Participation

- ✓ May submit agenda items for consideration through the district's established process
- ✓ The board chair retains final authority over the meeting agenda

Compensation & Expenses

- ✓ **No compensation or per diem is provided for student representatives**
- ✓ **Expense reimbursement, if allowed, must be approved in advance**

Training & Orientation

- ✓ A brief orientation will be provided for the student representative and board members
- ✓ Student representatives may participate in board training opportunities with approval

Selection & Term

- ✓ The selection process is determined locally
- ✓ The number of student representatives is determined locally
- ✓ One-year terms are recommended, though the board determines the final length

Mentorship & Support

- ✓ The board may assign an adult mentor or experienced board member to help guide the student representative

Committees

- ✓ Committee participation is a local board decision
- ✓ Students should participate only in committees related to student issues, not personnel matters

Confidentiality & Conduct

- ✓ Student representatives must follow all board rules and procedures
- ✓ They will not receive confidential materials related to personnel, legal matters, negotiations, or individual student discipline
- ✓ The board retains the authority to address behavior that does not follow board expectations

Important Reminder

Being a student comes first.

The role is designed to encourage student leadership and provide valuable perspective, while recognizing the student's academic and extracurricular commitments.