

-Draft Recommendations- Adding Student Membership to the HLWW School Board

A small group met to discuss details related to implementation of adding student membership to the HLWW School Board, with a plan to bring recommendations to the HLWW Board during the September work session and October board meeting. That meeting was attended by three board members (Shannah Mulvihill, Brian Marketon and Josh Borrell), Dr. Edwards and a student council advisor. The group was able to utilize guidelines and recommendations from MSBA, and was also able to find an excellent resource from the New York State School Board Association that we felt would assist with implementation: https://www.nyssba.org/clientuploads/nyssba_pdf/ex-officio-board-member-toolkit-guide-06202025.pdf

The meeting resulted in the following recommendations related to implementation of adding student membership to the HLWW School Board:

Membership

- Three members, selected as follows:
 - Member #1: Appointed by/within the student council executive team
 - Member #2: Elected by HLWW high school students
 - Member #3: Selected by HLWW school board
- Student Membership Eligibility:
 - Grade 10 or higher
 - Eligible to participate in activities/In good standing
 - Completes application (for Members #2 and #3)
- Term Length
 - One-year terms
 - Terms run June 1 to May 31 (for 2025-2026, terms would run November 1 (or when elected/selected to May 31))

Voting Authority

- Student representatives will not be given the right to vote.

Meeting Attendance and Participation

- The student representatives will be seated at the board table at all regular meetings and work sessions.
- Student representatives are expected to attend all school board meetings and work sessions (i.e., any sessions that are deemed public).
- We are mindful that student representatives may have outside commitments. It is hoped that having multiple student members will help ensure a student voice at all meetings.

Agenda items

- Student representatives can have the ability to submit an agenda item, but students do not have the authority to demand that items be included on the agenda.

Access to Sensitive Materials and Information

- The student representatives will not be furnished with sensitive materials/information pertaining to personnel matters, legal action, negotiation strategy, land acquisition, individual student discipline/family matters, or other confidential data.
- Student representatives, therefore, will be provided with meeting agendas, administrative reports, and other relevant information as needed, but will not have access to BoardBook.

Closed Meetings and Interviews

- Student representatives will not be allowed to attend closed session of the board.
- During superintendent interviews, student representatives may observe and have opportunities to provide feedback but are not directly part of the interview process.

Committee membership

- Student representatives must sit on at least one committee.
- Committees available for student representatives to join will be identified by the HLWW school board, and student members will be appointed based on interest and membership needs.

Orientation, Training and Mentorship

- Orientation will be provided to student representatives.
- Students can be involved in the board training components offered by MSBA subject to Board approval.
- Each student representative will have a board member assigned to them as a mentor.

Compensation

- Student representatives would not receive compensation for board service
- Expense reimbursement – Any request for non-regular meeting expense reimbursement would need to be pre-approved through student activities/student government

Code of conduct/expectations

- The student representative(s) will be bound by all rules and regulations within law that bind the Board.
- The board reserves the right to discipline/control/correct the student representative if his/her actions or comments are out of order or do not follow the board's rules and processes.

Proposed Implementation Timeline:

- September Work Session: Review/Discuss Recommendations for Guidelines
- October Board Meeting: Approve Guidelines
- October/November: Select student board members
- March: Discuss/implement any changes needed for 2026-2027 school year
- April: Initiate selection process for 2026-2027 school year