



STUDENT REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE

Report and Recommendations, 11/9/09

Committee

Partial Voting Rights for Student Member to the
Board of Education

Committee Charge



- Advise the Superintendent and Board of Education:
 - Proposal for partial student voting rights
 - Best practices from other school districts in Maryland
 - Student leadership recommendations

Committee Membership

- Sean Abel, Principal, Bel Air Middle School
- Deanna Burke, SGA Advisor, Edgewood Middle School, HCRASC Advisor
- Kathy Carmello, Director of Governmental Relations
- Kate Kidwell, Student Member to the Board of Education
- Gregory Komondor, Assistant Principal, Joppatowne High School
- Alysson L. Krchnavy, Board of Education Member
- Josh Michael - Student Leadership Consultant & Former Student Member, Maryland State Board of Education
- Annie Oleszczuk – Former HCRASC President
- Tim O’Dell, SGA Advisor, Patterson Mill High School
- Roger Plunkett - Assistant Superintendent
- DJ Sigworth – Former Student Member to the Board of Education
- George Toepfer, Supervisor of Social Studies
- Greg Waterworth – Former SGA President, Fallston High School
- Lance Leduber, Former HCRASC Advisor

Overview of Recommendation



- Partial Voting Student Member
 - Voting limitations
 - Closed session restrictions

- Role
 - Provide an informed student viewpoint to the Board
 - Not specifically represent, but act in the best interest of Harford County students

Best Practices Across Maryland

Student Representation in Maryland



- 6 school districts and the State Board
- Over 2/3rds of students in Maryland represented by a student on their Board of Education

Student Representation in Maryland

Maryland State Board- 1987/1994

Anne Arundel County - 1974/1974

Baltimore City - 1999/2001

Baltimore County

Howard County 1987 / 2007

Montgomery County - 1978/1989

Prince George's County - 1993/1993

- (year/year denotes establishment of position and establishment of vote for student)

Selection Process for Student Member



Elected Boards

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

Appointed Boards

State Board

Anne Arundel County

Baltimore City

Baltimore County

Howard County

Voting Privileges



- ❑ **Full Vote**

- ❑ Anne Arundel County

- ❑ **Partial Vote**

- ❑ State

- ❑ Baltimore City

- ❑ Baltimore County

- ❑ Montgomery County

- ❑ Prince George's County

- ❑ Howard County

Current Efforts Across Maryland



- State Board of Education
- Howard County
- Montgomery County
- Carroll County
- Calvert County

Proposal Overview

Proposal: Justification



- Civic Engagement among students in Harford County in engaging in public governance
- Student Contribution to the Board in better representing the student perspective
- Youth Empowerment in taking positive action to better serve the community

Proposal: Justification (cont.)



- A vote is the final form of debate
- Formal presence on the Board will strengthen and legitimize the student perspective

Proposal: Selection



- District-wide election by all students grades 6-11
- Nominating convention by HCRASC narrowing eligible candidates to three finalists

Proposal: Eligibility



- Rising 12th Grade student enrolled in a public school in Harford County
- Legal resident
- Maintain compliance with extra-curricular activity academic standards

Proposal: Voting Limitations

- Operating and Capital Budgets
- Acquisition and Condemnation of Property
- School boundaries
- School closings and re-openings
- Employee personnel action, promotion, and appointment
- Salary of Superintendent
- Employment Appeals
- Collective bargaining
- Student Discipline Appeals
- Student Suspension and Expulsion
- ***Committee recommends that the student member be fully engaged in the review and selection of the Superintendent*

Proposal: Closed Session Limitations



- Admitted in all closed, executive, and administrative meetings with exception to the following matters:
 - Appeals on special education placement
 - Collective bargaining
 - Personnel hearings under § 6-202

- The Board can vote to decide whether the student should be excluded based on the provided criteria.

Proposal: Reimbursement and Scholarship



- Reimbursement for all expenses incurred, including mileage, conference fees, etc.
- \$5,000 scholarship upon completion of a full term

Next Steps

Board Action



- Consider supporting the proposal

2010 State Legislative Session



- Proposal forwarded to State Delegation
- Consider cross-filed legislation
- Local and committee hearings

Questions?