

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY

PRESENTATION OF PARTIAL VOTING RIGHTS FOR THE STUDENT MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Background Information:

The Committee on Student Representation, initiated by the Superintendent, first met in February of 2009. Through extensive discussion, the committee has developed a recommendation for the initiation of a partial-voting student member on the Harford County Board of Education. The Committee has reviewed and discussed legislation in other districts establishing voting student members on their school boards. In considering these existing documents and the unique character of Harford County Public Schools, the Committee developed a set of “guiding principles” establishing a voting student member.

Discussion:

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| Selection of Student Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- district-wide election by all students in grades 6-11- nominating convention convened by Harford County Regional Association of Student Council (HCRASC), narrowing eligible candidates to three finalists |
| Eligibility of Student Member | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- rising 12th grade students enrolled in a public school in Harford County- legal resident of Harford County- maintain compliance with academic standards set for participation extra-curricular activities throughout the school year |
| Voting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The student member will participate as a voting member of the Board of Education, with exception to the following items:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Operating budgetb. Capital budgetc. Acquisition and sale of propertyd. Condemnation of propertye. School boundaries and geographical attendance areasf. School closings and re-openingsg. Employee negative personnel actionh. Employee appointment and promotioni. Salary of the Superintendentj. Appeal of action of the superintendent (§4-205)k. Employment appeal (§6-202)l. Student discipline appeals |

m. Student suspension and expulsion

- The Committee recommends that the student member be included in the review and selection of the Superintendent.

Closed Session

- The student member will be included in all closed, executive, and administrative sessions of the Board of Education, with exception to items including:
 - a. appeals on special education placement
 - b. collective bargaining
 - c. hearings under §6-202
- The Board can vote to decide whether a student should be excluded from a closed, executive, or administrative session based on the guidelines above.

Reimbursement and
Scholarship

- The student member will receive reimbursement for all expenses incurred including mileage and other fees associated with the office.
- \$5,000 scholarship upon completion of a full term

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent supports having partial voting rights for the Student Member to the Board of Education.