STUDENT REPRESENTATION TO THE JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Jackson Public School District Board of Trustees values the voice of our students at the highest levels of decision-making in our district. To this end each high school will have a student representative to the school board. And each board member will serve as a “mentor” to the student representative from their ward.1

Each year when student government officers are elected, a student representative to the school board will also be elected by their peers in a way that is reflective of the student body. As representatives to the school board, students are meaningfully involved in the discussions, including but not limited to, presentations at the board meetings and in mentorship with board members - and resolution of issues that directly affect them, and have opportunities to introduce and challenge other issues as appropriate.2

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES3 FOR POLICY BHAA

I. PURPOSE

The student representative from each school shall be an advisor to, and meet and work constructively with the Jackson Public School District (JPSD) Board and Administration. A primary responsibility is the formation and evaluation of policy and regulations in the operation of our school system. The only meetings the student representatives need to attend in his/her representative capacity are the regular

---

1 We mostly line up 1:1 high schools to board members, but for Ward 5 (2 high schools) and Ward 1 (no high school), therefore some compromise will have to be made as to who is assigned to what high school.


3 This procedure is crafted after a model from Worthington School District in Minnesota. The Worthington sample policy (linked here http://www.isd518.net/Websites/isd518/images/Administration/Policies/220%20Student%20School%20Board%20Representatives.pdf) is the clearest example of what our policy and procedure can look like. It is simple and straightforward and can be wordsmithed to meet our needs.
monthly public school board meetings but they may attend any special meeting of the school board as appropriate. The student representatives shall be participants in official meetings of the Board of Trustees. They shall also provide a communication link with the student body, and by participation, provide a practical governmental experience for the students elected.

II. ELIGIBILITY

1. One representative from each school will be chosen during student elections to serve a one-year term beginning once election results are determined and continuing through elections of the following year.

Eligibility requirements are as follows:

2. Any student entering his or her junior or senior year at the beginning of the school year and attending a JPSD high school shall be eligible to be a student representative.
3. The representative must exhibit characteristics of good citizenship.
4. The representative must maintain at least 95% attendance in school and a minimum GPA of 2.5.
5. Current board members will give board “orientations” to their student representative at an appropriate time once elected.

III. ELECTION PROCESS

1. The high school principal will notify all students of the opening for student representative(s) to the school board and work with the high school staff to identify and encourage students to seek election. An informational meeting may be scheduled for students interested in running for the position. (An administrator(s), school board member(s) and other staff should be in attendance to discuss the position and answer questions.)

IV. GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

The Student Representatives shall:

1. Be aware of the great responsibility of their position in representing their total student – school community and not an individual group.

2. Be aware that the Board of Trustees is a policy making body rather than an administrative body.

3. Refer requests for action through proper administrative channels.

4 If done through selection, rather than election.

5 For the SY 17-18, the election will take place by Labor Day. All years after that, will be done with SGA elections.
4. Recognize that effective democratic procedure exists when all Board members support the implementation of policy that has been approved by majority action at a meeting or in executive session.

5. Be willing and able to attend all regular school board meetings, except executive sessions concerning specific personnel matters, including, but not limited to, employee performance, student discipline hearings, grievances as well as consideration of the sale or transfer of property and/or any other matter permitted to be discussed by the Board of Trustees in executive session under the Open Meetings Law.

6. Not attend special or emergency meetings unless by invitation of the Board.

7. Receive the agenda, which is sent to all Board members and the public.

8. Have a board member as a mentor and meet with him/her to go over the agenda and be briefed by their board mentor on agenda items of interest to them.

9. Sit in the front of the board room and have a place to speak on the agenda. This shall be on a rotating basis for each school (i.e. two schools per meeting) and will be limited to three to five minutes. Deliver the student report during board meetings.

SOURCE: Worthington School District, Minnesota, MN

DATE: May 16, 2017

---

See note above re after superintendents report and rotating presentations of student reps.