



STUDENT ADVISORS TO THE BOARD

POLICY

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1.0 RATIONALE

- 1.1 The Halifax Regional School Board is committed to meaningful student involvement in school and school board governance.
- 1.2 We believe that:
 - 1.2.1 Students should have a voice in making decisions about their education.
 - 1.2.2 Education is enhanced when students are provided with meaningful ways to voice their opinions about the strengths and challenges of our system.
 - 1.2.3 Participation in board and school-level governance contributes to the development of important leadership and citizenship skills among our students.
 - 1.2.4 Board decision-making and communication links between the Board and its student body will be enhanced by regular opportunities to hear advice from students who are elected to represent the perspective of their peers in Board activities.

2.0 POLICY

- 2.1 Each school year two Student Advisors will be elected by their peers.
- 2.2 In accordance with provincial legislation, the Student Advisors will be non-voting members of the Board.

- 2.3 The Student Advisors to the Board will not count for quorum at the Board meeting, but will be expected to inform the Chair or Corporate Secretary if he/she is unable to attend.
- 2.4 The Student Advisors' role will be to represent the student perspective at board meetings and to strengthen communications between the Board and HRSB's students. The elected Student Advisors will act as liaisons between the Board and the Metro Association of School Council Presidents ("MASC-P").
- 2.5 The Student Advisors will:
 - 2.5.1 Be invited to participate in leadership sessions that address topics of student interest;
 - 2.5.2 Be recognized at meetings;
 - 2.5.3 Participate in asking questions and discussing issues;
 - 2.5.4 Receive all materials presented to Board Members, except those related to in-camera sessions;
 - 2.5.5 On occasion, be invited to official Board functions;
 - 2.5.6 Be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred while carrying out board related duties.

3.0 AUTHORIZATION

- 3.1 The Superintendent is authorized to develop and implement procedures in support of this policy.

4.0 POLICY REVIEW

- 4.1 This policy will be reviewed every three years.

STUDENT ADVISORS TO THE BOARD PROCEDURES

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1.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 The position of Student Advisors to the Board will be open to any student in the HRSB who is enrolled full-time in grade 11 or 12 for the year in which they will hold the positions
- 1.2 Prior to running for the position of Student Advisors, students must:
 - 1.2.1 Submit a short essay outlining their interest in serving as Student Advisor to the Board (see attached form),
 - 1.2.2 Provide a signed parental consent form to their Principal (see attached form),
 - 1.2.3 Present a letter of recommendation from a Principal or teacher, and
 - 1.2.4 Demonstrate a commitment to academics.

2.0 TERM

- 2.1 The Student Advisors will serve for a term beginning on July 1 and ending June 30.
- 2.2 A student may hold the position of Student Advisor for a maximum of two terms.

3.0 ELECTIONS

- 3.1
 - 3.1.1 Each high school in the HRSB will elect a candidate for Student Advisor to the Board as part of its **annual** Student Council election process.

- 3.1.2 Students may run for a position on Student Council and for a position of Student Advisor to the Board. Election ballots will clearly reflect whether a student is running for one or both positions.
- 3.1.3 Prior to running for the position of Student Advisor to the Board, students must meet all eligibility criteria (see Eligibility above).
- 3.1.4 To ensure that the newly elected Student Advisors have sufficient time to learn about their roles and duties, MASC-P will make all efforts to complete the election process no later than May 15 each year.

3.2 METRO ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENTS (“MASC-P”):

- 3.2.1 At the first MASC-P meeting following school elections, MASC-P members will be advised of the successful candidates for the Student Advisors to the Board positions.
- 3.2.2 The MASC-P will set a date for successful candidates to make a short presentation to outline their interest in serving as Student Advisors.
- 3.2.3 After hearing all presentations, members of MASC-P will hold a vote - to elect two students to carry out the duties of Student Advisors.
- 3.2.4 Once the voting is complete, MASC-P will advise all candidates of their decision.
- 3.2.5 After all candidates have been advised, MASC-P will communicate their decision to:
 - 3.2.5.1 Senior high school principals who will assist in communicating the results to all students, and;
 - 3.2.5.2 The Board’s Superintendent who will communicate the results to board members, staff, students at all schools, and the public.

4.0 SUPPORT

- 4.1 The Board will provide all high school principals with information packages on the Student Advisor positions no later than March 15 each year. Information will also be available on the Board’s website (www.hrsb.ns.ca).
- 4.2 The Board will make all efforts to provide newly elected Student Advisors with appropriate orientation to their role prior to September of each school year.
- 4.3 The Student Advisors will be provided with any support required for effective communication with the student body, including a web-page on HRSB’s website.
- 4.4 Students will be responsible for securing transportation to and from all meetings. However, all travel and out-of-pocket expenses (i.e., long-distance

telephone calls) incurred during the course of their term will be reimbursed once receipts have been provided.

5.0 POLICY REVIEW

5.1 This policy will be reviewed every three years.

STUDENT ADVISOR TO THE BOARD
APPLICATION FORM

Thank you for taking an interest in becoming a Student Advisor to the Halifax Regional School Board!

To run for this position you must,

1. Complete this form.
2. Have your parent or guardian sign it.
3. Ask a principal or teacher (current or past) to write a short letter to support your decision to run for the position.

Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Are you also running for a position on School Council? Yes _____ No _____
If yes, which position? _____

Please tell us a bit about why you want to become Student Advisor to the Halifax Regional School Board:

Please have your parent or guardian complete the following section,

1. I have received information about the position of Student Advisor to the Halifax Regional School Board.

Yes _____ No _____

2. By completing the following form, I am expressing support for my son/daughter's decision to run for the position of Student Advisor to the Halifax Regional School Board.

Name: _____

Date: _____