

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Veronica Anderson Thigpen, President
Siddarth Bhatia, Student Board Member

DATE: April 4, 2023

SUBJECT: STUDENT BOARD MEMBER ELECTION PROCESS

PURPOSE:

In preparation for PHS and MHS students to choose student board members to represent them, the board must prescribe a selection process.

BACKGROUND:

In June 2022, the School Board received a student-initiated petition to add a seat for a student board member with preferential voting privileges. Students expressed an interest in having a more “impactful” role that would allow for student voice to be heard in all matters brought before the Board. A proposal to revise Board Bylaw 9150 was formally presented as a first reading on 8/10/22 and then the Board voted to adopt the new policy on 8/24/22.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the board prescribed a process to appoint student board members from MHS and PHS who were 11th or 12th graders in good standing for a one-year term. Interested candidates were required to complete an application form, respond to five questionnaire prompts, and submit two letters of recommendations and a transcript of grades. A committee of district leaders reviewed applications, interviewed semi-finalists, and then recommended finalists to the Board. Board members interviewed the finalists and decided to appoint three student board members to share the one-year term.

Students board members for 2023-2024 and subsequent school years will be selected by the student body at MHS and PHS. A process for making these selections will be determined by the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend that MHS and PHS each select two student board members to represent the schools for a one-year term. Each member will serve for one semester; one in the fall, the other in the spring. Any student at PHS or MHS who will be in 11th or 12th grade during the following school year is eligible to run as long as they are not simultaneously running for an ASB office.

To select student board members, the following process is recommended:

1. Interested candidates complete an application that will be reviewed by a committee of current student board members and up to two regular Board members. Questions on the application will include:
 - a. Why do you want to serve on the Piedmont Board of Education?
 - b. What is one of the most difficult problems within Piedmont schools and how would you suggest addressing it?
 - c. What extracurricular activities are you currently participating in and planning to participate in during the next school year?
2. Candidates will be required to list two teachers or administrators as references.
3. Candidates must sign a statement affirming that they understand the role and responsibilities of a student board member and that they are committed to executing the office to the best of their ability.
4. A committee, formed of current student board members who will not be running again, will vet the applications and choose a slate of four candidates for PHS and four for MHS.
5. All current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be eligible to vote. Candidate statements will be included on a ballot. The two candidates from each school with the most votes will serve on the Board.
6. The Board will determine the timing of each student member's board service.

Questions for Board discussion:

- *What are procedures to implement when no students apply to represent a school?*

ATTACHMENT PRESENTED AT PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

[BB9150 - Student Board Member](#)

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.