

*J. Teven
Baker*

Bylaws of the Board of Education

Student Representation/Participation to the Board of Education

Since 1995 it has been the policy of the Old Saybrook Public Schools to encourage participation of secondary school students as nonvoting student representatives to the Board of Education. The Board of Education believes it is important and recognizes the value of having student representatives to the Board for input into decisions that affect all students.

The purpose of this participation is to help the Board of Education gain greater insight into student activities, programs, and needs, to encourage student involvement in school district governance activities; to provide greater awareness and understanding of mutual issues among community, school staff and students; to provide for the active involvement of students in their education; to foster inquiry whereby students may freely express their views and listen to and evaluate the opinions of others; and to demonstrate community service to the Town of Old Saybrook.

1. Student representation to the Board of Education is open to all students in grades 11, 12, not to exceed two members, who have met the requirements for participation in Old Saybrook co-curricular activities.
2. The high school administration will determine and be responsible for election procedures. These procedures will provide an opportunity for all students in February to have attended a candidate's orientation conducted by the Superintendent/Board of Education Members and current student representatives to learn about the roles and responsibilities of student representation in a timely manner. ~~Any sophomore or junior who is interested in becoming a student representative must submit a letter of intent, have attended one Board of Education meeting, and met the academic requirements for participation in Old Saybrook co-curricular activities during the election year. Because student representative elections are held in May for the following school year, the student representatives shall be chosen by freshmen, sophomores and juniors in a school-wide election.~~
3. Student representatives shall serve a term of one academic year. A representative may not be elected to succeed himself/herself.
4. Following their selection, student representatives shall attend an orientation session given by the Superintendent and at least one Board of Education member. This session will be held prior to the student representatives' first Board of Education meeting.
5. Student representatives will attend and sit on all regular meetings of the Board of Education and can be appointed to committees of the Board of Education at the discretion of the chairperson.

Bylaws of the Board of Education

Student Representation/Participation to the Board of Education

6. Student representatives will receive all regular meeting agendas, minutes, and other pertinent information, excluding executive session minutes/correspondence.
7. Student representatives will not participate in school Board of Education meetings from which the general public is excluded to include executive sessions, negotiation sessions, or personnel portions of regular meetings of the Board of Education unless otherwise invited by the Board of Education to participate.
8. Student representatives will be given an opportunity to speak during the portion of the agenda devoted to committee reports and at any other time. They may submit reports or studies and make requests to the Board of Education for consideration. At least one week prior to a Board of Education meeting, a student representative may ask the Superintendent of Schools to consider placing a specific item on an agenda.
9. The Superintendent will notify the student representatives one week prior to a meeting if he/she wishes to have specific student input given to an agenda item.
10. The student representatives will attempt to communicate to the entire student body once a month to obtain input and keep all students informed on all pertinent issues before the School Board of Education in ways approved by the high school administrator for student activities.
11. Standards for student representation/participation to the Board of Education will be addressed at the student orientation session following student selection. Should these standards not be met, the Superintendent/Board of Education will reserve the right to remove a student representative. In such cases, the position will be offered to the student who has received the next highest vote.
12. These regulations will be reviewed annually before each student representative election.
13. Student representatives will be requested to complete and submit a written evaluation of their term on the Board of Education.

Bylaws of the Board of Education

Student Representation/Participation to the Board of Education

ELECTION PROCEDURES

By Board policy, two (2) students from the high school serve as non-voting members of the School Board. This means that they sit at the table for all meetings, have a voice in commenting on issues, bring issues of concern to the School Board, and bring back information to the student body.

By participating, students are demonstrating community service, representing themselves and their classmates, learning how the governing body of the school district works, and networking with community leaders to achieve excellence in education.

How are student representatives chosen?

The student representatives are elected by a vote of all students in Grades 9–11.

Who can run?

Any student currently in grade 10 or 11 is eligible.

What is the commitment?

Student representatives attend Board meetings from September to June. These meetings are held twice a month on Tuesday evenings, usually beginning at 7:30 p.m. Students must be willing to listen to classmates, report input to the Board, and report back to the student body, usually during homeroom.

How can I run?

1. You must attend one Board of Education meetings prior to the June election. Board of Education meetings will be held on (dates). Attending these meetings will allow you to see the Board in action and better gauge your interest and commitment.
2. You must write a letter of interest, addressed to the principal.
3. You must participate in the campaigning process. You may hang signs around the school and/or address the student body during these two weeks prior to Election Day.
4. You must be one of the top two vote getters on Election Day.

Who can I talk to for more information?

Current student representatives may be contacted for more information. In addition, the building principal can provide input. The School Board members are also willing to speak with interested students about Student Representation/Participation to the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
9-203 Number and term of members of boards of education

Bylaw adopted by the Board: April 23, 2002
Revised: November 1, 2005

OLD SAYBROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Old Saybrook, Connecticut

