

Student School Board Representative Policy Proposal

Benefits:

- Students would be more connected to the governance of the schools. As a result, they would have a greater stake in their education and would feel added motivation.
- School Board would be more aware of the day-to-day problems facing students in Albemarle County public schools.

Precedent:

- Legally, a nonvoting student member is allowed in Virginia.
- 10-15% of school boards nationwide currently have a student member.
- Growing movement to add student representatives is centered in Maryland, which possesses the only student member with full voting rights.
- Adults associated with school boards including a student member fully support the idea.
- Western Albemarle PTO has voiced their support of a student representative.

Possible Components:

- One student member from all the Albemarle County High Schools combined, possibly with an alternate. Serves for one year.
- Member is nonvoting, although with a possible opinion vote. In an opinion vote, the student member casts a vote; however, the vote is not official and has no impact on the outcome.
- Member must serve during their senior year.
- Member cannot have been involved in any legal trouble or have been suspended in or out of school during any part of his/her high school career.
- Possible leadership class credit for student representative.
- Method of selection has not yet been determined, although the school board would have final say on any applicant.

Possible election process:

1. Each High School in Albemarle County would elect a candidate from their school who meets the above-specified requirements.
2. These candidates would complete applications; these applications would reflect the criteria that the School Board members consider important.
3. If it found the applications inadequate, the School Board could conduct interviews of the candidates.
4. School Board would elect representative from among the candidates.