



## **STUDENT ADVISORS TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**

### **Purpose**

The board of directors of the Mount Vernon School District recognizes that the students are the focus for the district. It is the policy of the Mount Vernon School District that student representatives from Mount Vernon High School (MVHS) will serve as a communication link between itself and the student body. This position will be called a Student Advisor.

Incoming juniors and seniors are eligible to apply. Under most circumstances, two to three students will be selected to participate. However, the Board may choose to select more or fewer students based on the circumstances.

Student representation to the board is intended to provide a better understanding of the needs and concerns of students with the ultimate goal of improving the education program. The Student Advisor will share information and keep the Board apprised of the affairs, functions, activities, and concerns of the student body.

Additionally, this participation will provide a practical governmental experience for those students selected.

### **Responsibilities**

The Student Advisor shall serve as the student voice, both to the board from students and from the board to students. As such, the Student Advisor shall:

1. Serve as a representative of the student body, both seeking and reflecting fellow students' concerns and positions on school matters;
2. Make at least one report annually to the board and be listed on the school board meeting agenda;
3. Have their opinions heard and considered during public discussions of agenda items as well as in other meetings to which he/she has been invited by the board president or Superintendent;
4. Be provided, in advance of all public board meetings, copies of agendas and non-confidential materials;
5. Be aware of the great responsibility of his/her position in representing the total student community and not any individual group;

6. Act only when the board is in session unless authorized by the board to perform a specific assignment;
7. Meet with student government representatives and other interested student groups to discuss policies, actions and decisions that affect students;
8. Be willing and able to attend all meetings except those sessions under the Public Agency Open Meeting Law of 1974 defined as executive sessions concerning specific personnel matters, including but not limited to employee performance, student discipline hearings, negotiations and 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 directors in closed executive session;;
9. Be a non-voting participant of the board of directors;
10. Report any absences from the general meeting to the Superintendent or designee;
11. Sit at the board table along with other board members.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

1. MVHS will allow any eligible sophomore or junior student to apply to be a Student Advisor to the board of directors for the following school year. Typically the board will select at least one rising (1) junior and one (1) rising senior to serve as advisors. However, based on the circumstances, they may choose to select more or less students for these positions.
2. The student must meet the following criteria in order to qualify for the position.
  - a. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher;
  - b. Exhibit characteristics of good citizenship and leadership, with no significant discipline history within the past year;
  - c. Record of good school attendance and punctuality;
  - d. Commit to attend all assigned meetings;
  - e. Be enrolled full time at MVHS (Running Start and Skills Center students are eligible to be Student Advisors providing they are enrolled at least .5 of the day at MVHS);

- f. Be on track to graduate.

### **Selection Process**

1. Junior and sophomore students who desire to serve as a Student Advisor during the next school year shall secure an election packet as follows plus prepare a written essay:
  - a. Eligibility requirement and job description;
  - b. Petition: The petition requires 30 student signatures and two teacher/administrative signatures supporting the student's candidacy;
  - c. Commitment form;

Essay: A written essay of no more than 250 words is required describing the candidate's interest for serving as a Student Advisor to the board.

2. The preferred timeline for the application process will be:
  - a. First Friday in March: Application packets available to MVHS eligible students. The student representative candidate will submit a completed packet to the MVHS Leadership Team or the main office at MVHS.
  - b. April: The MVHS Leadership Team, in their April meeting, will review applications and submit no more than five (5) names to the board of directors (representing sophomore and junior grade levels).
  - c. April–May: The board of directors interviews potential candidates and determines the finalists to be named as Student Advisors to the board.

### **Term of Office**

1. The Student Advisors will serve a one (1) year term. Terms will begin on September 1 and end on June 30.
2. The selected Student Advisors shall try to observe board meetings in June, and then take their respective seats at the first official board meeting in September.

### **Dismissal**

The failure or inability of the Student Advisor to fulfill the responsibilities of the office, or the Student Advisor discrediting the integrity of the Mount Vernon School District or its

school board, may lead to dismissal. The board of directors reserves all rights concerning the potential dismissal of a Student Advisor.