Student School Board Committee

The school board believes that the views, insights, and suggestions of student representatives on the school board can be an advantage to the school board in its decision-making role. The Student School Board Committee will focus on identifying, interviewing, and recommending students to serve on the school board.

Student School Board Representative Committee Meeting Summary

November 4, 2026

1. Amplifying Student Voice Summit Summary

This year's Amplifying Student Voice Summit was more student-led than in previous years, providing opportunities for students from different schools to connect, share experiences, and learn from one another. Representatives came from programs at various stages of development, allowing everyone to exchange ideas and identify opportunities for improvement.

A key takeaway was the importance of building relationships and communication between student representatives and school board members. Students from districts with strong student voice programs often had frequent communication with board members, while others felt their participation was limited to providing reports without meaningful engagement.

These conversations highlighted some of the uncertainty surrounding student representative roles at ISD 200. Discussions with Vice-Chair Dressely and Director Zuzek helped clarify that students are encouraged to communicate and participate at the board table. The overall goal is to move beyond reporting and create more meaningful opportunities for students to engage in board activities.

2. Student Voice Strategy Implementation

The committee discussed ways to strengthen student participation and ensure student perspectives are incorporated into board discussions.

- Student representatives have developed tools to collect student feedback, including a Google Form that will be shared through Advisory Slides using a QR code.
- Students will be encouraged to raise their hands and look to the board chair to be recognized during meetings, following the same process as board members.
- The committee discussed ways to improve student participation during work sessions, including potentially staggering attendance and moving certain agenda items earlier.
- Monthly meetings will take place before work sessions with Superintendent Dr. Kristine Wehrkamp Herman, Principal Scott Doran, and Jessica Dressely to review upcoming topics, answer questions, and support students in their governance roles.

The first monthly meeting was held November 2 and went well. Student representatives are preparing a two-question survey for high school students, with results scheduled for discussion at the next meeting on December 1, 2026.

3. Student Activity Reports

Student activity reports received limited discussion at the summit. The broader conversation focused on moving beyond traditional reports as the primary form of student participation and creating more opportunities for meaningful engagement.

4. Improvements in Committee Practices

The committee identified several opportunities to strengthen student representative practices:

- Improve onboarding to explicitly address student participation and engagement.
- Update the student representative handbook to clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Help students understand how their perspectives can be incorporated earlier in district discussions.
- Create opportunities for student-driven agenda items, using an agenda placeholder to ensure topics are considered and either added to the agenda or directed to the appropriate district representative.

5. Action Steps

- **Finalize the Google Form:** Connect with counselors and add the form to Advisory Slides as soon as possible.
- **Launch The Bridge:** Develop the first episode to help students understand upcoming board topics, including budget and financial decisions, student input and outcomes, student representative roles, school board responsibilities, governance, and board-administrator collaboration.
- **Develop a student meeting graphic organizer:** Provide guidance on participating in meetings, asking questions, being recognized, addressing board members, and understanding member roles.
- **Develop a board member graphic organizer:** Provide visual guidance on encouraging and facilitating student representative participation.
- **Prepare blue folders for student representatives:** Include helpful resources, expectations, and information about board member roles and responsibilities.

Overall Direction

The committee's discussion centered on strengthening student voice by moving beyond student reports toward meaningful participation in school board governance. The summit reinforced that students want to contribute and improve their schools, but need clear expectations, supportive relationships, and consistent opportunities to participate. The committee will continue developing the tools, communication practices, and meeting structures necessary to make student voice an integral part of district governance.