



Excellence. For each and every student.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Working Meeting - September 22, 2025 - 5:00 PM
Creekside
16000 41st Ave N.
Plymouth, MN 55446

AGENDA

1. **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**
 - A. **School Board Reports**
 1. Exploring the Concept of Having a Student Representative on the School Board (30 minutes) 2
2. **ADJOURN**

In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on the next business day at the same time and same place, unless a quorum of the board is not available.



Hopkins Student School Board Representative Program

September 22, 2025

VISION2031

Traits of a Hopkins Scholar:

Has their own **Voice**

is **Empathetic**

is **Confident**

is a **Critical
Thinker**

is **Well-
Traveled**

is **Global**

is **Holistic**



Overview

- Hopkins has had student school board reps for 26 years
- Original model had 2-3 SBRs
- Revamped model (2021) has 9-10 SBRs - 2 from each grade at HHS, 1 (soon 2) from VEDU



Student Board Representative Roles



**Student and
Community
Engagement**



**Reports at School
Board Meetings**



**Meet with Principals
and District Leaders**



**Serve on Committees
of the Board**

Impact of Student Board Representatives

- Developing our gender inclusion and cell phone policies
- Successfully advocating to the MN legislature re: issues impacting our schools
- Developing a more equitable district calendar
- Transitioning to a holistic school safety model
- Increasing student collaboration in decision-making at Hopkins High School and VEDU



Questions?



Student Voice & School Boards



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Director of Board Development

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⌚ A little bit of history...

✓ 1993 Law – Student Representatives Required

In 1993, the Minnesota Legislature passed a law **mandating** that school districts include a **student representative** on their school boards. This was part of a broader effort to increase student voice in educational governance. The law was enacted during the **78th Legislative Session**, which ran from January 5 to May 17, 1993.

✗ 1996 Repeal – Mandate Removed

Three years later, in **1996**, the Legislature **repealed** the student representative requirement. This repeal removed the statewide mandate, but did **not prohibit** districts from continuing the practice voluntarily. Many districts chose to retain student representatives even after the repeal

Recent history...

2000 – Representative Mindy Greiling’s Bill

- Background:** After the 1993 law mandating student representatives on school boards was repealed in 1996, Representative Mindy Greiling sought to **revive** the concept.
- Bill Intent:** Her 2000 proposal aimed to **restore** the student representative provision, but with a **permissive** approach—meaning districts could choose to include student members, rather than being required to do so.
- Outcome:** The bill did not pass into law, but it helped maintain awareness and support for student involvement. Many districts continued the practice voluntarily.

2025 – Senate File 197 (SF 197)

Author: Senator Erin K. Maye Quade

Bill Summary: SF 197 proposes a **statewide mandate** for student representation on school boards starting in the **2025–2026 school year**.

- Provisions:** There were several key provisions. Very specific and prescriptive.
- Outcome:** The bill did not pass into law.



Where we are today...



Local choice

- **Providing resources:** MSBA is committed to helping school boards gather information.
- **Sharing models:** Each district seems to gather and add student voice to their meetings and decision making in their own way.
- **Student board representative workshops:** MSBA has held four workshops over the last three years for interested students, board members, and staff to gather together and share their models of hearing student voices.
- **Listening:** In these workshops the persistent message from students is, “you need to hear our voice.” The persistent message from board members is, “we need to hear your voice.”



Where we are today...



Local choice

- **Student representative:** See resource sheet for key considerations and suggested guidelines for success.
- **Youth advisory council:** Students providing a cross representation of middle school through high school meeting with the school board.
- **Student reports:** Student council report.
- **Student groups:** Rotating school board members meet with student leaders at the school once a month/quarterly.
- **Others:** Rotating student representatives, presentations, etc.

Minnesota has 134 school districts (out of 331 traditional public schools) with a student school board representative.





Robert E. Meeks Student Scholarships

- **In memoriam:** In 2009, MSBA set aside \$6,000 to pay for two scholarships for student school board representatives each year. The scholarships are in memory of MSBA's long time staff member and Executive Director, Bob Meeks.





Thank You & Questions



Adding a Student School Board Representative

Background

In 1993, the Minnesota State Legislature enacted legislation requiring school districts to appoint a student representative to their respective school boards. This mandate was repealed in 1996, although many districts chose to retain student representation.

In 2000, Representative Greiling introduced a bill to reinstate the requirement, proposing permissive language that would allow—rather than mandate—districts to include student representatives. Currently, state statute does not address student board representation. Nevertheless, more than one hundred and thirty-four public school boards in Minnesota include at least one student representative.

Key Considerations

- *Compensation:* MSBA recommends that student representatives not receive compensation for their service. They are not elected by the public and do not have voting rights on board actions.
- *Expense Reimbursement:* Expense reimbursement is a local decision. If permitted, student representatives should obtain preapproval from a designated authority.
- *Voting Authority:* Student representatives should not be granted voting rights and are not eligible for officer positions on the school board.
- *Closed Meetings:* Attendance at closed sessions is not recommended by MSBA, but the final decision is made by the local school board. MSBA maintains that due to the confidentiality and potential legal ramifications, student participation in such meetings is not appropriate.
- *Board Training:* Student representatives may participate in MSBA school board training sessions with school board approval. MSBA workshop rates are discounted for students.
- *Agenda Items:* Student representatives may propose agenda items in accordance with the school board's established procedures. However, they should not have authority to mandate inclusion. School boards are encouraged to invite student input on relevant agenda topics.
- *Selection Process:* The method of selecting student representatives - whether by the school board or student body - is a local decision.
- *Number of Representatives:* The number of student representatives is determined locally. Some school districts appoint one representative per high school.
- *Orientation:* Districts should provide structured orientation for student representatives and school board members to ensure clarity of roles and expectations.
- *Length of Term:* The duration of service for student representatives is determined locally.
- *Mentorship:* MSBA recommends assigning an experienced school board member as a mentor to support the student representative.



- *Attendance Expectations:* Student representatives should be expected to attend all public school board meetings and working sessions, with consideration given to their academic and extracurricular commitments.
- *Committee Membership:* Participation in school board committees is a local decision. MSBA suggests limiting student involvement to committees focused on student specific topics.
- *Improved School Board Functioning:* Anecdotal evidence suggests that student representation enhances school board awareness of board conduct and student needs, leading to more informed decision-making.

Suggested Guidelines: Making Student Representation a Success

1. Ensure strong support from school administrators and school board members, particularly the chairperson. Create a welcoming environment to affirm the value of student participation.
2. Actively seek input from student representatives.
3. Prioritize the student's academic responsibilities. School board service should complement, not compete with, their educational experience.
4. Seat student representatives at the school board table during regular meetings to foster inclusion.
5. Student representatives serve in an advisory capacity and do not hold voting rights.
6. Representatives should serve a minimum one-year term. The process to fill a vacancy is at the discretion of the school board and should be memorialized in the school board handbook.
7. Student representatives are subject to the same legal, procedural, and policy standards as school board members.
8. The school board retains authority to address any misconduct or procedural violations by the student representative.
9. Student representatives shall not receive confidential materials/private data as defined in school board policy related to personnel, legal matters, negotiations, or individual student issues.
10. Per-diem payments are not provided. Expense reimbursements require prior approval.
11. Mentorship by experienced school board members that will actively support the student in their role is encouraged for successful student engagement.
12. The board chairperson maintains control over meeting agendas and proceedings.

Student school board representatives are eligible to apply for one of two MSBA Robert E. Meeks Student Scholarships.
Contact MSBA for more information: mnmsba.org



SAVE
THE DATE

4th Annual

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE EVENT

Wednesday, October 29th

EMPOWER
EVERY
VOICE

Amplifying Student Voice, Strengthening School Boards

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) and Farmington Public Schools are proud to host Minnesota's fourth annual Student School Board Representative Event!

This FREE gathering is designed for **student school board representatives** to connect, collaborate, and learn alongside peers from across Minnesota. While students build relationships and share their perspectives, **school board members** and **administrators** will explore strategies to strengthen their roles and maximize their impact.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to be part of an event that inspires leadership, amplifies student voice, and empowers school boards to better serve their communities.

Location:

**Farmington
Boeckman
Middle School**

800 Denmark Ave
Farmington, MN



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 - 9:15 Registration and Breakfast
- 9:30 - 11:30 Morning Program
- 11:30 - 12:15 Lunch - *Provided by MSBA*
- 12:15 - 1:20 Afternoon Program
- 1:20 - 1:30 Conclusion of Event

Register by Oct. 24

Scan the QR code with a smart phone
or mobile device or visit

<https://forms.office.com/r/abj5yNVjqk>

