

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS

**North Penn High School
1340 Valley Forge Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
215-280-9299 215-855-0632 (Fax)**

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION JUNIOR STUDENT MEMBER POSITION

On May 22, 2008 the Pennsylvania State Board of Education (SBE) amended their bylaws to add one non-voting senior student member and one non-voting junior student member. Thus, since September 2009 two students have served on the State Board of Education. For the past year those students have been senior, Shannon Sullivan of North Allegheny High School and Erin Agnew of Springfield Township High School. These State Board of Education (SBE) positions have provided public school students with an unprecedented opportunity in Pennsylvania to interact with the twenty-two adult board members and have helped shape long-term education policy for the 1.8 million K-12 students in our state and the 680,000 students impacted by our state system of higher education. The Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) was first charged with the responsibility of recommending two students to hold these positions for the 2008-2009 school year. Now in February 2012, the selection of a new Junior Member for the 2012-2013 school year begins.

Attached to this document are:

1. An overview of the State Board of Education and its councils.
2. A job description for the student two State Board members.
3. Application which includes:
 - A. Student, Parent/Guardian, Administrative approval.
 - B. Guidelines for submitting a student resume.
 - C. Two essay questions
 - D. Guidelines for three letters of recommendation

It is important for the student applicant, their parents/guardians, and the high school administration to review the qualifications for and responsibilities of the student members. The schedule of the six State Board of Education meetings (held on Wednesdays and Thursdays) is attached. The commitment to attend each and every one of these six meetings is extremely important. In addition, the student must commit to State Board "homework" between meetings which will include the reading of SBE reports and frequent communication with other students in the state on SBE issues. In addition, since PASC will be responsible for the selection of the student members and is designated as the primary body to support the student board members with resources for communications with their student constituents, PASC will expect the student SBE members to provide reports to the PASC Executive Board. They will also need to attend at least two designated meetings of the PASC organization to provide feedback and to interact. (November 1-3, 2012 and January 12-13, 2013)

The State Board of Education will pay for travel to SBE meetings and will provide hotel accommodations for the meetings which are held in Harrisburg or at other designed locations within the state. For the 2012-2013 school year, the Senior Member will be Erin Agnew and the Junior Member will come from the Class of 2014. Based on a mid-term evaluation, the Junior Member may be appointed to serve as the SBE member for the 2013-2014 school year. A process for naming the next Junior Member will be implemented in the spring of 2013.

Any public high school in Pennsylvania may nominate one or more students for the SBE Junior Member position. Springfield Township High School may not nominate a student for the 2012-2013 school year since Erin Agnew is one of their students. The Senior SBE Member and the Junior SBE Member do not have to attend a PASC member school.

Application Timeline

- March 14 Postmark or FAX deadline for all application information and letters of recommendation.
- March 20-24 Review of all applications by an adult and student screening committee of the PASC Executive Board.
- March 26 Contact with the finalists for the Junior Member position regarding the interview process.
- April 28 Interviews in Harrisburg with the finalists for the Junior Member position
PASC makes recommendations to the State Board of Education
- May 1 Notification of student selected as State Board of Education Junior Member
- May 9-10 First meeting of the State Board of Education for new student member

Please direct any questions regarding these positions and the application process to 215-280-9299 or PASCInfo@aol.com.

Best wishes to each student seeking to serve Pennsylvania students who will be actively involved in this process of civic engagement.

Jim Finnemeyer
PASC Executive Director

Kristina Riggans
PASC President

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The **Pennsylvania State Board of Education**, was created by the General Assembly in 1963 and reestablished in 1988, has 22 members, ten of whom serve as the Board's Council of Basic Education and ten of whom serve on the Board's Council of Higher Education. Seventeen members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for overlapping terms of six years. Four members of the Board are members of the General Assembly who serve as long as they hold majority and minority chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees. The Chairperson of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission is a non-voting, ex officio Board member. The Chairpersons of the Board and Councils are designated by the Governor and serve at his pleasure. The 22 members of the board also serve as the State Board for Vocational Education.

The Councils and Board meet at least six times a year. Additional council or board meetings are held at the call of its chairpersons or at the request of a majority of members. The chairperson of the board and any of the members are entitled to attend the meetings of the councils. Board committees are appointed by the chairperson of the board to formulate policy proposals in those areas which fall within the purview of the Board. Council committees are appointed by the chairperson of each respective council to formulate policy proposals in those areas which fall within the purview of either council.

The **Pennsylvania State Board of Education** has the power and duty to review and adopt regulations that govern educational policies and principles and establish standards governing the educational programs of the Commonwealth, upon recommendation of its councils. The Board also has the authority and duty to approve or disapprove an application for the creation of a new school district, or change in the boundaries of an existing school district; establish committees of professional and technical advisors to assist the councils in performing research studies undertaken by them; manage and have custody of the State School Fund; apply for, receive and administer Federal grants, appropriations, allocations and programs within its purview; adopt policies with regard to institutions of higher education; and, adopt master plans for basic and higher education. The Board also sits as the State Board for Vocational Education and in this capacity sets policy and promulgates regulations regarding vocational and technical education in Pennsylvania.

The State Board of Education engages in a constant review and appraisal of education in the Commonwealth. The board's evaluation takes into account such matters as educational objectives, alternative organizational patterns, alternative programs of study, and the operating efficiency of the education system. The chairperson of the State Board refers all studies and investigations to one of its councils, and receives and places on the agenda the findings and recommendations of the council for appropriate action by the Board.

The Council of Basic Education has the power and duty to develop a master plan for basic education in the Commonwealth for adoption by the board; investigate programs, conduct research studies and formulate policy programs in all educational areas not within the purview of higher education; encourage and promote such agricultural, industrial, vocational and technical education programs as the needs of this Commonwealth may require; and investigate and make recommendations pertaining to the work of any schools of design, schools of industrial arts or industrial schools to which the General Assembly may make an appropriation.

The Council of Higher Education has the power and duty to develop a master plan for higher education in the Commonwealth for adoption by the Board; develop standards for the approval of colleges and universities for granting of certification and degrees; develop standards for all higher education building projects involving the use of State funds or the funds of any Commonwealth instrumentality and, investigate programs, conduct research studies and formulate policy proposals in all areas pertaining to higher education in the Commonwealth, including a system of community colleges and technical institutions as provided by law.

The **Secretary of Education** is the head of the Department of Education and chief executive officer of the State Board of Education. He is a member of the executive department of the Commonwealth and is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary of Education, or his designated representative, is entitled to attend all meetings of the board and councils, and has the right to speak on all matters before the board and the councils but not to vote.

**REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS
FOR
STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

- Attend six 2-day meetings conducted on the second or third Wednesday and Thursday of January, March, May, July, September and November
 - 2012 meeting dates:
 - May 9-10
 - July 11-12
 - September 12-13
 - November 14-15
 - 2013 meeting dates
 - January (to be set)
 - March (to be set)
 - May (to be set)
 - July (to be set)
 - September (to be set)
 - November (to be set)
- Participate, to the extent possible, in committee meetings, public roundtables, public hearings and other activities of the Board when appropriate
- Advise Board staff as to ability to attend each meeting
- Consult with Board staff regarding any questions as to your role, Board procedure or pending policy issues
- Stay informed about policy pending before the Board by reviewing materials provided and discussing issues with others
- Inform and consult with peers statewide as to policy matters currently pending Board action
- Adhere to the Board's rules and protocols for the conduct of its business
- Attain written permission from parent or legal guardian to participate on the State Board of Education and to attend its meetings
- Attain written permission from school principal to attend meetings of the State Board of Education
- Attain written approved absence from school principal when attending meetings of the State Board of Education
- Make arrangements for own method of transportation (travel expenses will be reimbursed consistent with state travel policies)
- The Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) will expect the student SBE members to provide periodic reports to the PASC Executive Board.
- The two Student SBE members will also need to attend at least two designated meetings of the PASC organization to provide feedback and to interact. (November 1-3, 2012 and January 12-13, 2013)
- PASC will provide access to their communication and survey systems for the Student SBE members.
- All travel and expenses related to attending meetings and conferences of the PASC organization will be paid by PASC.

**Student Representative to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education
Application for 2012-2013 School Year**

Contact and School Information

Name of Applicant: _____ Grade during 2011-2012 School Year: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Personal Email: _____

Cell Phone: (____) _____

Parent/Guardians' Full Name: _____

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

School Phone: (____) _____ Name of Principal: _____

Application Includes:

1. Completed Contact and School Information sheet (typed or printed neatly)
2. One-page resume including but not limited to:
 - educational accomplishments
 - leadership experiences
 - activities/school involvement
 - personal interests/hobbies
3. Two (2) completed essays (limited to 500 words each, typed)
 - Essay 1: Compare and contrast the role of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Take into account the structure, membership, purpose and responsibilities.
 - Essay 2: From your perspective as a student, elaborate on the greatest strengths of the public education system in Pennsylvania. Then, elaborate on one area you feel is in need of improvement and provide rationale for your response.
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation which attest to applicant's leadership, communication skills, and responsibility. Please submit one letter from each of the following:
 - Principal or Superintendent
 - Faculty Member
 - Community Member
5. Completed Commitment form with all necessary signatures.

Mail completed application to H. James Finnemeyer; 224 Oak Park Road; Hatfield PA 19440
postmarked by **Wednesday, March 14, 2012** or Fax to 215.855.0632 by same date.

**Student Representative to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education
Application for 2012-2013 School Year**

Commitment

Qualifications:

An applicant must

- be enrolled in Pennsylvania secondary public school and a junior (Class of 2014) during his/her term.
- be able to attend all scheduled Pennsylvania State Board of Education meetings.
- have above average grades and be responsible for all missed school work while attending Pennsylvania State Board of Education meetings.
- be able to attend the November 1-3, 2012 state conference and January 11-12, 2013 Executive Board Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils.

Student Responsibilities:

The student representative to the Pennsylvania State Board of Education will:

- represent Pennsylvania students by attending all meetings of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education.
- gather and disseminate information relevant to the Board of Education and students.

School Responsibilities:

The school district will:

- provide the necessary phone, mailing, and electronic communications resources
- ensure that the student will receive excused absences for all board obligations.
- provide an option for students to receive course credit through independent study or similar mean for their participation as student representative to the State Board of Education.

By signing below you agree to the qualifications and responsibilities listed above.

Principal's signature

date

Parent's signature

date

Applicant's signature

date

