

AP 316 – Student Voice Circle

Purpose

In alignment with the commitment to nurturing citizenship skills and engaging students in decision-making, leadership, and advocacy, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools support the establishment of a Student Voice Circle.

The purpose of the Student Voice Circle will be threefold:

1. **Enhance Leadership and Communication Skills:** Cultivate the development of leadership and communication skills, with an emphasis on recognizing and respecting the responsibilities and benefits of inclusive decision-making. Foster the development of leadership and communication skills, emphasizing the recognition and respect for the responsibilities and benefits of inclusive decision-making.
2. **Provide a Forum for Discussion:** Act as a platform for student representatives from all secondary schools to engage in discussions on pertinent issues. Emphasize the value of student perspectives and offer experiential learning in democratic decision-making. To value student perspectives and provide experiential learning in democratic decision-making.
3. **Facilitate Student Input:** Serve as a conduit for student input and feedback to the Management Team and the Board.

Procedure

1. The Superintendent or designate will lead the Student Voice Circle including organizing and facilitating meetings.
2. Whenever possible, student representatives will take the chair position, with the support and mentorship of appropriate District staff. The Student Voice Circle will be chaired by a student representative on a rotating basis as follows: Cedar, Dover Bay, Island Connect Ed, John Barsby, Ladysmith, Learning Alternatives, NDSS, Wellington.
3. The Student Voice Circle will comprise a minimum of two representatives from each secondary school, including learning alternatives distributed learning school. To ensure broad student participation, schools may choose additional representatives, rotating with no more than three students representing a school present at any specific meeting.
4. School administration will be asked to nominate representatives to the Student Voice Circle at the beginning of each year, focusing on ensuring a diversity of voices for participation. Additional membership will include appropriate district staff, the board chair, and two trustees on a rotating basis.

5. The Student Voice Circle will establish and maintain a set of criteria for school administration to consider when making appointments.
6. Meetings will be held a minimum of two times per year, typically in November and April. Additional meetings may be called as required. A summary of each meeting shall be shared with all representatives of the Student Voice Circle.
7. Student representatives will be expected to report back to their schools. The Student Voice Circle will report to the Board or to the Education Committee, as appropriate.

Amended: November 28, 2023

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