SUBJECT: State Board of Education Advisor Nominations

STAFF NAME & OFFICE: Zoe Larmer, State Board of Education

Nominations of the Teacher, Administrator, and Student Advisors to serve July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020.

☐ New Rule ☐ Amend Existing Rule ☐ Repeal Rule

BACKGROUND

The State Board of Education Procedures & Policy Manual states in Policy Number 102 that each year, the board may elect to have board advisors. Advisors will serve a one-year term from July 1 through June 30. Advisors may serve more than a single term and be re-elected for consecutive terms. Advisors will receive all materials distributed to the board as a whole.

The procedures and policy manual calls for the nominations of four advisors: K-12 Administrator, K-12 Teacher, K-12 Student, and Early Learning Advisor. Policy # 102 also provides a process for accepting nominations:

K-12 School Administrator: Up to three nominations from the Confederation of School Administrators (COSA) will be submitted to the board. The board Executive Committee will recommend a candidate to the full board who will vote on the selection.

K-12 Teacher: Up to three nominations from the Oregon Education Association (OEA) will be submitted to the board. The board Executive Committee will recommend a candidate to the full board who will vote on the selection.

K-12 Student: The board administrator will solicit candidates, review applications, and forward up to three names to an interviewing committee named by the board chair who will recommend a candidate to the full board who will vote on the selection.

Early Learning Advisor: Nominations will be made from the Early Learning Council and early childhood communities. The executive board will review the nominations and make a recommendation to the full board.

Responsibilities of Advisors

- Attend board meetings
- Assist the board in analyzing issues, proposals, and requests before it
- Other duties as assigned by the board chair

Board advisors will be approved by a vote of the full board.
The following nominations have been made:

- **COSA**: Reappoint Gustavo Balderas Administrator Advisor, Eugene 4J School District
- **OEA**: Reappoint Alyssa Nestler, Springfield School District
- **Student Advisors**: Roshun Sunder, Westview High School & Lauren Nguyen, Century High School

**SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION**

The Board of Education selects new or reappoints Advisors on a yearly basis. The selection process begins in March of every year.

**HAS THE RULE CHANGED SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING?**

- [x] N/A; first read—hasn’t been before board
- [] No; same as last month
- [] Yes – As follows:

**POLICY ISSUE OR CONCERNS**

SBE Policy and Procedures manual provides a process for the selection of board advisors. There are specific groups that previous Boards have depended on to make board advisor nominations: COSA and OEA. This may leave out intentional involvement of historically underserved communities as they may not be involved in how COSA or OEA arrive at their board nominations.

A new nomination application was created by the Board’s administrator and a new process for selecting diverse students was created. An announcement was sent to all superintendent’s and principles to share with their students. ODE’s communication team shared via social media outlets that the Board was seeking student advisors as well. The Board administrator also sent out an email to the Board list serve with an explanation as to how to submit student advisor nominations. Student were asked to fill out a nomination application and have someone submit a letter of recommendation on their behalf. The Board administrator also created a small nomination review committee that reviewed all nominations received. After their review, the committee recommended three students for a first round of phone interviews. After the first round of phone interviews, the Board administrator made four recommendations to the Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair are now making their final recommendations to the full board.

There were concerns that the process for selecting a student advisor would not be equitable or that students from underrepresented communities would not be taken into account. During Board deliberations of how to revamp the student advisor nomination process, the Board was clear that they wanted students from various background. The process described above, has allowed the Board administrator to tease out if students would fit the culture of the Board. The committee created by the administrator serves as check on biases from the selection process. The Board administrator is confident
that the students nominated are a good fit for the Board, have a strong equity analysis, and representative of diverse student groups.

**EQUITY IMPACT ANALYSIS**

During the last three years, the Board of Education has focused on equity. In an effort to provide more opportunities to students from historically underserved populations, the Board has made an intentional effort to recruit students from both geographical and diverse backgrounds. The selection of new student advisors, provides an avenue for the Board to close the opportunity gap and provide professional development to students who otherwise would not have the ability to serve on professional state board.

**FISCAL ANALYSIS**

Advisors are eligible for reimbursement of actual expenses incurred in attending board meetings and board-related activities, including mileage, meals and hotels. For the Teacher Advisor, the Board is willing to assist the school district in the cost of finding a substitute teacher for coverage.

**EFFECT OF A “YES” OR “NO” VOTE**

A yes vote means the board approves the recommended nominations. A no vote, would trigger a board conversation about the recommended nominations and why they are rejected.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

- [x] Approve  [ ] Approve next month  [ ] No recommendation at this time

*Prompted by:*  [ ] State law changes  [ ] Federal law changes  [ ] other

**ATTACHMENTS**