Youth Voice

Young Organizers United (Y.O.U.) believes youth voice is important and student representatives are needed on the Manchester Board of School Committee. In order for real change to occur it is necessary to have youth that are in the school advocating for their peers. No one knows what goes on in the schools better than the youth themselves.

Manchester- Charter Section 4.02 School Committee
The School Committee shall be comprised of fourteen (14) members, one each from the twelve wards of the city and two from the city at-large. The school committee shall sit and act together as one body. The mayor shall be an ex-officio member with all the powers and privileges of the other committee members and shall be chairman of the committee.

Title XV Education Chapter 194 School Districts High Schools
Section 194:23-f
194:23-f High School Students as School Board Member- The provisions of this section shall apply only to high schools located in a school district in which the school board has voted to have nonvoting student member pursuant to RSA 189:1-c.

I. In addition to the school board members authorized in RSA 671:4, a high school shall select, in accordance with directives of paragraph II and the provisions of RSA 189:1-c one or more students from among its members to be nonvoting members of the school board for the district in which the high school is located. A student member shall have all the rights of a regular school board member regrading school board business except the right vote.
Can the Board Vote Merely
Vote to Add students to the
School Committee?
For a number of reasons, we
believe that the Board of
School Committee could simply
take a vote if it wanted to allow
student members. The
legislation that allows for
student representation is
enabling legislation. Ultimately,
the Board of School Committee
makes this decision.

History of Student
Representation on the Board
of School Committee
A group of Central High School
students organized a statewide
movement to permit local
school districts to allow high
school student representation
on school boards. Both houses
of the legislature passed the
bill, and Gov. John Sununu
signed it into law in 1983.
Although many districts quickly
invited students to sit as non-
voting members of various
school boards, the Manchester
Board of School Committee has
never seriously considered the
possibility.

Rights of Student Representatives
Student representatives must be high
school students. They are entitled to
exercise all the powers of any member
of school board with the exception of
the right to vote, the right to participate
in non-public sessions, and the right to
have access to the records of non-public
sessions.

Selection of student Representatives
The statute is silent regarding the method
of choosing student representatives to
the board. Research indicates that a
number of options have been employed.
These elections are often held in
conjunction with elections for student
council officers and class officers. Some
student representatives are elected by
members of the student council or by
the executive board of the student
council. The Nashua School Board has
two student representatives. One
student represents Nashua North, and
the other represents Nashua South.
Thus, the precedent that would allow up
to four students to serve in Manchester
has been set.