

Rapid City Area Schools Student School Board

**Elevating Student Voice Through Shared
Leadership**



Introductions

- London Gibson, Lee Decker, Aurelia Urban, and Bella Nelson - Student School Board Members
- Jamie Clapham and Angela Rafferty- RCAS Board Members
- Dr. Jami Jo Thompson - Superintendent
- Kristin Kiner - Youth Engagement Coordinator
- Sean Binder – CHS Dean



Purpose

The Student School Board serves as a conduit of communication between the RCAS Leadership Team, School Board, and Students within the district.

Students:

- **Share** their voice and advocate for solutions
- **Gain** an understanding of RCAS governance process
- **Leadership** development by moving good ideas into action
- **Inspire** innovation in education and enhance the potential of all students



NATIONAL STUDENT BOARD MEMBER ASSOCIATION

"Students are the primary recipients of the educational process and we believe that their input plays a critical role in building better school systems across the country."



History

2012

School Board Student Representatives
Superintendent Key Communicators

2016

Student Voice Forum

2020

Rapid City Youth City Council (RCYCC)
City, County, and School

2024

RCYCC members submit Student School
Board (SSB) Proposal
School Board Members attended session at
National Convention on SSBs

2025

Inaugural SSB meeting in January

Today

1. Platform consists of 17 members
2. Executive committee creates monthly agendas
3. Meeting structure similar to School Board
4. Bylaws guide the process
5. Parliamentary Procedures utilized
6. Strengthened district wide student network



Challenges/Lessons Learned

1. Student Advocacy vs. School Board Supported
2. Competitive Selection Process (Diversity is key)
3. Bylaws & Parliamentary Procedures
4. Students/Staff/Board Time Investment
5. Understanding Authentic Youth Engagement - Hart's Ladder
6. Timelines & Transitions

ROGER HART'S LADDER OF PARTICIPATION



RUNG 8 - Youth initiated shared decisions with adults: Youth-led activities, in which decision making is shared between youth and adults working as equal partners.

RUNG 7 - Youth initiated and directed: Youth-led activities with little input from adults.

RUNG 6 - Adult initiated shared decisions with youth: Adult-led activities, in which decision making is shared with youth.

RUNG 5 - Consulted and informed: Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted and informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of adult decisions.

RUNG 4 - Assigned, but informed: Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, decision-making process, and have a role.

RUNG 3 - Tokenism: Adult-led activities, in which youth may be consulted with minimal opportunities for feedback.

RUNG 2 - Decoration: Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, but have no input in how they are planned.

RUNG 1 - Manipulation: Adult-led activities, in which youth do as directed without understanding of the purpose for the activities.

Key Accomplishments

- Superintendent Candidate Interview Panel
- Instructional Council Liaisons
- Rapid City Public School Foundation Student Board Member
- District Calendar Committee
- Student School Board Policy Creation & Implementation
- Proposals (Local & State)
- Project Based Work
- Open Forum Opportunities

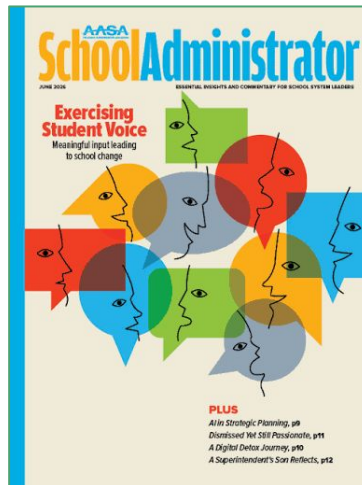


Tips/Resources

1. Orientation
2. School Board Meeting Representatives
3. School Board Liaisons and Superintendent Support
4. Bylaws
5. District Department Presentations
6. Sharing Success & Student Updates
7. Communication Styles of Young Leaders
8. Impact Pyramid



IMPACT PYRAMID



Contact Information

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