

Proposal to change Canyon Ridge ASB from organized to unorganized

We would like to request that our ASB structure be allowed to change from organized to unorganized. The following is information from the FCMAT manual as well as an email response from the FCMAT help desk that supports this request:

- In reference to providing support for moving to an unorganized structure, you will see that the ASB manual states “adult education, continuation, special education, regional occupational programs (ROPs) and K-8 schools are also considered to have unorganized ASBs.” Continuation schools that operate an ASB typically do so as an unorganized ASB because the students constantly change. We think this makes it difficult to organize students, identify their interests and set out to raise funds to support those interests.
- Because continuation school ASBs are most commonly operated as unorganized there is no requirement for a student council, meetings or minutes. The decision making is the responsibility of the principal or site administrator, or another school employee, who is able to make all of the decisions related to the ASB operations and funds; therefore making it easier to adapt with the changing student population.
- While it is allowable for an unorganized ASB to operate as if it is an organized ASB, it is not appropriate for an organized ASB to operate as if it is unorganized. If it is decided to run the unorganized ASB as organized, it is up to the district whether that means that all rules pertaining to organized ASBs will apply, or only some (for example, the principal/site administrator could still make all decisions without students voting, but there could be a student council with minutes taken at all meetings).

Our biggest challenge, as noted above, is maintaining our student officers due to the constantly changing student body. Several times throughout this year we have gone with unfilled officer positions, which have made conducting meetings and taking minutes difficult. The fact that elections must be held to fill these positions creates even more challenges to running an organized ASB.

We would still be willing to have a student council and conduct meetings with minutes, but we would like to have the ability to appoint officers and have executive decision making over issues that arise. Another challenge unique to Canyon Ridge is that our ASB operates two days per week during lunch with approximately 10 students. With attendance issues, unfilled positions and limited time to conduct business it would be extremely helpful to have the extra decision making ability.