Getting Middle School ASB Kids Involved with Parliamentary Procedure

By:

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Introduction—Why Parliamentary Procedure?

• The proper and formal way to conduct public meetings, as ASB meetings are (CA Open Meeting Law)
• ASB organizations spend money designated for students’ benefit-checks and balances
• Keeps the Advisor out of trouble if every expenditure and payment is documented
• Teaches ASB students valuable meeting skills for the future
  • ASB kids at RVMS have taught ADULTS how to do the procedure for School Site Council, PTSA, etc. It’s fun to see 😊
How I Teach “Parli-Pro”

• Students are introduced to it at the Summer Retreat (see my other presentation)
  • One of the sessions is dedicated to teaching the basics:
    • Motion, Second, Call for Vote
    • I save Tabling, Open Discussion, Call the Question, etc. for later
  • Returning ASB students (8th graders) tend to take the lead and show the newbies how to do it
  • Our first meeting is used for approving our Constitution and Bylaws
  • I prepare a “Cheat Sheet” for the new ASB President to use to run the meetings
How I Teach “Parli-Pro”, Cont.

• In the first few meetings, I help the President along if they need it
  • I bring up Opening Discussion, Tabling, and Calling the Question as we start school

• Usually by October, the President can lead the meetings all by themselves
  • Having this skill makes them feel very empowered
  • I (as a non-voting member) only step in and say something during Public Comment, or if they Open Discussion and “call” on me
  • Some advisors literally step out of the room... I haven’t gotten that brave yet 🤪
Minutes Templates- A tremendous help

• Rio Vista is a 1:1 Computing School, and we use Google Apps for Ed.
  • I have created a Minutes Template on Google Docs
  • The ASB Secretary knows how to make a copy and create a new Minutes doc for the current meeting
  • I send the Secretary any items that need to be included- they paste them in
    • Our deadline for taking any fundraising Clubs’ Minutes is 4:00pm Friday, and we have our meetings each Monday
• Afterwards, Minutes and documents are printed and signed
How to Make it Fun

• They have the “POWAHHH!!”
  • I remind students that they should critically, but respectfully, examine Clubs’ submissions and their own expenditures.
    • Leads them to Open Discussion a lot, and practice the procedures
  • Story: “The great Athletics Club Banquet scandal of 2021”

• As part of Leadership development, we’ll watch clips of the U.S. Congress conducting business, so they can see Parli-Pro in action

• They’ll develop their own inside jokes and camaraderie
  • Stories: “April always opens discussions” and “Keanu motions for all Band stuff”