

Matric Council Appointment/Election Policy – Bosmansdam High School

GENERAL POLICY

1. Over and above the RCL elections which take place under the guidelines from the WCED, involving students from Grade 8 through to Grade 12, the school continues the practice of appointing a Matric Council, of approximately 20 Senior students in Matric, who assist in the monitoring of mass movement in the passages, at breaks, in assemblies and assist with a host of responsibilities from which a senior student can benefit by developing their leadership abilities, and learning to handle responsibility and the trust that is placed in them. These members must obviously serve as outstanding examples to the rest of the student body.
2. The appointment of such a Matric Council (taking place in the third term of the previous year) , includes (but is not limited to) an election process whereby the votes of the Grade 11's of that year, the Grade 12's, the outgoing Matric Council, as well as the staff are taken into consideration (in other words, an inclusion of all parties who are likely to know best the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of the eligible candidates).
3. This election is preceded by a standard nomination process, (requiring a proposer, a seconder and the confirmed availability of the said candidate).
4. Candidates must have shown reasonable success academically (ie at least having passed the Grade 11 June AND September Exams, and the second and third terms as a whole.
5. In addition, demerits obtained, detentions, Tribunal or Governing Body Hearings, as well as absenteeism, are all factors which are brought into consideration by the Senior Management Team of the school and the Grade 11 Grade Heads, when considering the final appointment of candidates.
6. In conclusion, a wholistic approach needs to be adopted by the SMT and Grade 11 Grade heads in the final appointment of these Matric Council members, taking into account many relevant factors, including (but not limited to) the votes of the electorate.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

1. The school is informed, during a School Assembly, of the nomination procedures and of the attributes of a good leader, in addition to the criteria to be met for a candidate to be eligible for appointment, including such a candidate having a relatively successful academic record (ie passing the June and September exams and terms), and a noticeable involvement in school extra-mural activities.
2. Nomination forms (with criteria for eligibility printed clearly on the back) are completed by a proposer, a seconder, and also by the nominated candidate, who accepts such nomination and also confirms their eligibility for membership to the Matric Council (including having a relatively successful academic record).
3. After nominations have closed, a list of nominees is drawn up and compared with a merit list from the preceding examinations (indicating students who have failed) to **eliminate** Grade 11 candidates who are not eligible due to a poor academic record.
4. Interviews are then held with each of the eligible candidates to determine attitude, extra-mural involvement and to obtain some measure of commitment to the position, should they so be appointed.
5. A new list of nominees is then drawn up, including only those eligible for appointment. (ie **excluding** those who have previously failed and those who are not at all involved in school activities).
6. At another Assembly these eligible nominees are then each given a minute to address the school (ie to campaign). The school is then reminded of the desired positive characteristics of an RCL member and then the students vote in their register classes.
7. The staff also vote in the staffroom.
8. All grade 11 and grade 12 votes, as well as those of the staff, are then tallied, combined and a list of candidates then emerges according to these votes.
9. This preliminary result must then be brought to an SMT meeting (with Grade 11 Grade Heads and teachers-in-charge-of RCL in attendance), for input and discussion and twenty or so top candidates are thus identified by this panel.
10. The proposed candidates are then put forward at a general staff meeting for final discussion and input by staff members.

11. The Principal, the SMT, and the grade 11 Grade Heads then finalise this list and the successful Matric Council RCL Members are then announced at Prize Giving in the Fourth Term, receiving letters of appointment and congratulations. Badges are handed over and new Matric Council members together with their parents are invited to tea in the Club House.
12. Unsuccessful candidates also receive a letter of thanks for making themselves available.
13. Newly appointed candidates then shadow existing Matric Council members as in- service training, until the outgoing members conclude their term of office.
14. Matric Council members then attend a three-day Leadership Training Seminar/camp, at the beginning of the Fourth Term, presented by the teachers in charge of the RCL.
15. At this seminar, in conclusion, the Matric Council vote for three “Head Leaders”, (irrespective of gender), the outcome remaining unknown until later.
16. The staff also then vote for the three Head Leaders.
17. In the fourth term, the SMT, Grade Heads, teachers-in-charge-of RCL, and Principal discuss the three Head Leadership positions viz Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary in light of the Matric Council vote, and then make a final decision, even voting if necessary, with the principal having the prerogative to make the final decision.
18. The Matric Council, as well as the RCL as a whole, are thus announced at the Prize-Giving in the Fourth Term, with the announcement of the Head Leaders being made shortly after the Prefect Camp.

