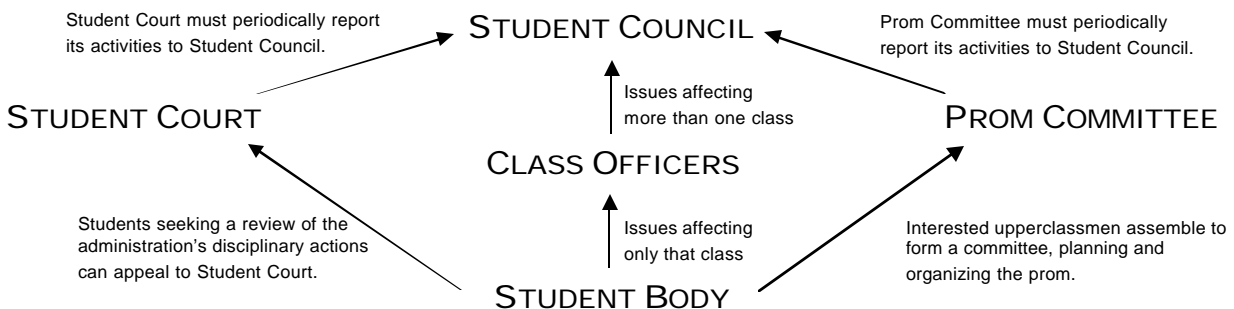


# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BODY OF PULASKI JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

We the students of Pulaski Junior-Senior High School do hereby establish this document as the constitution for the Student Council / Student Government of Pulaski Junior-Senior High School.

- I. The Student Council is the recognized representative governing body of all Pulaski Junior-Senior School students, as empowered by the student body, and recognized by the faculty and Board of Education.
- II. Structure
  - A. The governing body of Student Government will be a Student Council comprised of: 3 Seniors; 2 Juniors; 2 Sophomores; 2 Freshmen; 2 Eighth-Graders; 2 Seventh-Graders
  - B. Each member of the Student Council will have one vote to cast on all issues. Each vote will be weighted equally. Any issue may be brought before the council for review. An issue may be presented to the council by any recognized member of the Student Body.
  - C. Seniors will have one more member on the Student Council to establish a senior privilege and to maintain a council comprised of 13 members, thereby eliminating the possibility of a voting deadlock.
  - D. If numerous council positions remain open following elections, any interested members of the Student Body may run the council, pending the approval of the building principal.
- III. Criteria
  - A. Attendance: Candidates / Council Members must not miss or have missed any more than 15 days of school on a given year. Any member who misses more must produce a valid and legal excuse as described by New York State Law.
  - B. Academics: A cumulative average of 75% must be maintained to be eligible for candidacy and to remain on the council, once elected.
  - C. Qualifications: Candidates must have sufficient knowledge of the position they are running for, and know how to effectively function in that position. This knowledge is demonstrated by the presentation of a speech to the candidate's class. Regulations pertaining to speeches and campaigns will be discussed later in this document.
- IV. Elections
  - A. A candidate may only be elected to his or her grade's seat on the Student Council (i.e. a Junior may not be elected to either of the two Sophomore seats, etc.)
  - B. Elections will take place on one day of in-school voting. Applications for perspective candidates will be available in the Guidance Office starting on the first Monday in May. Such applications must be completed by the candidates and returned to the Guidance Office by the end of the week. Campaigning can then begin on the following Monday. All candidates will be required to deliver a speech on that Thursday. Finally, voting will commence during homeroom on Friday, and the results will be revealed sometime during the next week.
  - C. The two candidates (or three in the case of Seniors) that receive the most votes will be elected to their class's seats on the Student Council. Each student has only one vote that they may cast.
  - D. In the event that a class has no candidate(s) to offer, representative(s) will be selected by the school principal.
  - E. In the event of a tie between winning candidates, the candidates that are tied will be voted upon again.
  - F. Elections will be run by the sitting Student Council and carried out faithfully each year. Vote tallying is the responsibility of the Student Council advisor, and at no time should any Student Government member participate.
  - G. All candidates must abide by the "Campaign Guidelines and Regulations" that are presented as an addendum to this document.
- V. Student Government Organizational Flow Chart



- A. If a student does not feel that their officers are representing them well, they have the right to circumvent their officers and be recognized directly by the Student Council.
- VI. Impeachment of Student Council Members / Class Officers
- A. The Student Council has the authority to reprimand and call for the impeachment of Class Officers and / or individual Council Members.
  - B. Class Officers have the authority to call for the impeachment of a member of the Student Council.
  - C. A Council Member or Class Officer may be impeached due to:
    - 1. Neglect of Duties
    - 2. Excessive Absences
    - 3. Misuse of Power
    - 4. Any Major Violations of the School Code of Conduct
  - D. If the council decides, by a simple majority, that the charges are serious and require attention, impeachment proceedings will be initiated. If two-thirds of the council vote for removal, the matter is referred to a Faculty Council who must approve of the Student Council's decision before the person can be removed from office.
- VII. Replacement of Student Council Members / Class Officers
- A. The Council will select a successor to any vacated office. The candidate must be approved by a simple majority of the Student Council. The appointee will complete that term in office.
- VIII. Student Council Meetings
- A. The sitting council shall decide the precise dates and times for meetings. For an official meeting to be held, a simple majority of the council members as well as the advisor must be present for at least part of the proceedings. Class Officers and members of the public may also attend.
  - B. Only Student Council members may officially make a motion for a vote on an issue.
  - C. A Council Member may make a motion to enter an "Executive Session." During an "Executive Session," class officers, members of the public, and the advisor must leave as the council debates a sensitive topic.
- IX. Additional Positions
- A. The Constitution hereby vests the power in the council to create or discontinue any positions deemed necessary to fulfill the needs of the Student Council as it sees fit.
  - B. The position of Student Council President will be appointed by the council. The President is given no extraneous privileges, merely the responsibility of:
    - 1. maintaining order at meetings
    - 2. ensuring the relevance of discussion
    - 3. appointing the representative(s) to attend and / or address the Board of Education at each meeting
    - 4. writing and executing an agenda for each meeting
  - C. The position of Student Council Vice-President will be appointed by the council. The Vice-President has the responsibility of:
    - 1. carrying out the duties of President, in the President's absence
    - 2. assisting the President in maintaining order and relevant discussion
  - D. The position of Student Council Secretary will be appointed by the council. The Secretary has the responsibility of:
    - 1. distributing meeting agendas to council members
    - 2. recording council proceedings and producing accurate minutes
    - 3. organizing and filing the paperwork associated with Student Council operations
  - E. The position of Student Council Treasurer will be appointed by the council. The Treasurer has the responsibility of:
    - 1. maintaining accurate financial records on Student Council account balances
    - 2. making deposits of fundraising revenues
    - 3. making withdrawals in payment of council expenses
    - 4. reporting on the financial status of the council
  - F. The position of Prom Chairperson will be approved by the council. The Prom Chairperson is charged with planning and organizing Pulaski's Junior-Senior Prom, while periodically reporting on their progress. The following procedure will be followed for the appointment of a Prom Chairperson:
    - 1. The Junior and Senior class advisors will call a meeting of all interested upperclassmen. These students will comprise the Prom Committee.
    - 2. Any member interested in the position of chairperson must submit an application to the class advisors.
    - 3. After reviewing all submissions, the advisors will recommend a candidate to the council for approval by a majority vote.
  - G. Student Council will appoint representatives to the Shared Decision-Making Committee and any other groups seeking student representation.

X. Judicial Responsibilities

- A. Student Government's judicial responsibilities will be executed by a Student Court comprised of: 3 Seniors; 2 Juniors; 2 Non-Participatory Sophomores
- B. Any student who has a complaint regarding a disciplinary measure enacted by the administration may present their case before the Student Court. The court will judge the validity of the complaint, and if they find that the punishment was inappropriate, they may send representatives to the principal to further discuss the issue and to advocate for the student.
- C. During election season, Student Council will establish an application process in order to screen candidates for judicial potential. A faculty council will appoint the justices, who must undergo appropriate training before they are permitted to take office.
- D. The position of Student Court Chief Justice will be appointed by the court. The Chief Justice is responsible for:
  - 1. maintaining order at meetings
  - 2. ensuring the relevance of discussion
  - 3. choosing court representatives who will appear before the administration

XI. Amendments

- A. The Student Council shall have the power to make any amendments or policies which shall be necessary and proper to execute at a future date, so long as it falls within their authority as specified within this constitution to do so.

XII. Ratification

- A. The constitution and any amendments must be ratified by a simple majority of the entire student body present on the day of voting.
- B. For the 1999-2000 school year, the high school principal will appoint an interim Student Council to be in affect until elections are held.

The preceding document was drafted by:

James P. Youngs

Zachary M. Mattison

Jason T. Phair

The preceding document was amended by:

Jeremiah R. O'Neil

Erin L. Bacon

# CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

- I. Physical Poster Restrictions
  - A. A candidate may only hang posters in the wing associated with their grade. The cafeteria is considered a shared area, and any candidate may hang posters there.
  - B. The maximum size for any poster or display is 18" x 24".
  - C. The maximum number of posters that any candidate may hang at one time is six. The maximum number of flyers that any candidate may distribute on a given day is twelve.
  - D. Flyers are subject to the same rules and regulations as posters. If a student fails to comply with guidelines, the corresponding penalty may be instituted.
- II. Content Restrictions
  - A. The content of posters and flyers must be school appropriate.
  - B. Absolutely no negative messages concerning other candidates, students, or faculty members are to be reflected in a poster or flyer.
  - C. All posters are subject to review by the faculty.
- III. Verbal Campaign Slogans
  - A. All slogans must be school appropriate.
  - B. Slogans may not contain negative messages.
- IV. Defacing of Posters
  - A. Posters are to stay unmarked, untouched, or unmoved by any student without the candidate's prior consent.
- V. Solicitations
  - A. No goods, monetary funds, services, (etc.) are to be exchanged for votes or for anything else that could hinder the election process.
  - B. No one may threaten other students with the intent to solicit votes.
- VI. Other Offenses
  - A. Campaigning will begin on the second Monday in May. Any campaign posters hung prematurely or any campaign activities undertaken beforehand would earn an appropriate punishment.
  - B. If a candidate or a student interferes with the election process in any other way, an appropriate punishment will be awarded.
- VII. Penalties
  - A. If a candidate hangs posters or distributes flyers that do not comply with guidelines, he or she will be asked to make changes.
  - B. If the candidate refuses to make changes, the offending posters will be removed and the flyers collected.
  - C. If the candidate continues to hang posters that do not comply with the guidelines, all of the candidate's posters will be removed, and no more flyers may be distributed.
  - D. Should the candidate continue to hang posters or distribute flyers, detentions may be assigned.
  - E. If a candidate uses verbal campaign slogans that do not comply with guidelines, he or she will be asked to stop using those particular slogans.
  - F. Should a candidate continue to use the offending slogans, he or she will not be permitted to make a speech (or written statement) to his or her peers.
  - G. If a candidate is apprehended by a faculty member while defacing a poster, he or she will not be permitted to hang any more posters. All other posters will be removed.
  - H. Should another student be apprehended by a faculty member while defacing a poster, he or she may be given detentions.
  - I. If a faculty member observes a candidate attempting to solicit another student, he or she will not be permitted to run for any office during that year.
  - J. If faculty member observes one student attempting to solicit another, he or she may be given detentions.