

## Proposed Bylaws Amendments to Be Voted on at the April 25 General Meeting

Following are the proposed amendments to the Stuyvesant HS Parents' Association Bylaws that were presented at the March 21 General Meeting. These will be discussed and voted upon at the April 25 General Meeting. Please consult the PA web site at [www.stuy-pa.org](http://www.stuy-pa.org) for any new information and for any updates to the translations.

### BYLAWS AMENDMENTS (Proposed by Sumiko Takeda Nakazato and Lauren Coleman-Lochner)

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1** – To correct an inconsistency in the number of SLT delegates and At-Large-Members. The inconsistency arose when the membership previously approved bylaws amendments changing the number of SLT Delegates and At-Large-Members. Although the changes were incorporated into Section 1.1 of Article IV, they were not made to other sections due to an oversight.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections. . . .

#### Section 9. May General Elections

9.1 Nomination Committee . . .

9.1.8 The Nominating Committee will canvass the Membership in writing for recommendation of candidates for the following positions . . .

School Leadership Team Delegates:

Senior Parent Delegates - ~~Two (2)~~ One (1)  
Junior Parent Delegates - ~~Three (3)~~ Two (2)  
Sophomore Parent Delegates - Two (2) . . .

#### Section 10. Fall Elections

10.1 Elections will be held at the October General Meeting to fill the following positions: . . .

School Leadership Team Delegates:

Freshmen Parent Delegates - ~~Two (2)~~ One (1)

Article V - Executive Board . . .

#### Section 3. Membership

3.1 Beginning on July 1, the Executive Board will consist of seven newly elected Officers of the PA (eight if there are co-presidents) and the ~~seven~~ five newly elected Delegates to the School Leadership Team.

3.2 Upon conclusion of the October General Meeting, the ~~seven~~ ten newly elected Members-At-Large and the ~~two~~ one newly elected Freshmen Parent Delegates to the School Leadership Team will join the Executive Board.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 2** – To clarify the appointment and status of subcommittees.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections . . .

#### Section 8. Chairing of Committees

Any Member of the General Membership, including Members of the Executive Board, may chair any committee or subcommittee of the PA. . . .

Article VII - Committees . . .

Section 1. Standing Committees . . .

1.3 The fourteen Standing Committees are: . . .

Membership Outreach. This committee is responsible for increasing the level of parent participation in the PA. This committee is responsible for sign-up forms and sign-in sheets at General Meetings. Its responsibilities also include the PA Directory and the Parent Buddy Program. ~~Subcommittees may be formed to attend to these functions. . . .~~

Section 2. Special Committees and Subcommittees

2.1 The President may establish a Special Committee for the purpose of . . .

2.2 With the consent of the President, the chair of any standing or special committee may form subcommittees to assist the committee perform its work.

2.3 Formation of a subcommittee shall consist of (i) appointment of a chair or co-chair of the subcommittee; (ii) if desired, the appointment of subcommittee members; and (iii) written or verbal communication of the goal, task or purpose of the subcommittee to the subcommittee chair.

2.4~~2~~ Chairs of Special Committees or Subcommittees do not become members of the Executive Board.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 3 –** To clarify application of disciplinary action procedures to elected and non-elected Executive Board Members and Special Committee and Subcommittee Chairs.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections . . .

Section 13. Disciplinary Action

13.1 Any elected ~~official~~ Executive Board Member who fails to attend three regularly scheduled Executive Board Meetings without good cause, may be removed from office by recommendation of the Executive Board. If such elected official disputes their removal ~~they~~ he or she may request that the matter be referred to the General Membership. A vote of two-thirds of the Membership present is required to remove the official from office. Notice to the membership of the Meeting must cite that a vote will be taken by the Membership in a disciplinary action against an Executive Board Member.

13.2 The President may remove (i) a Committee Chair with the approval of the Executive Board; (ii) a Subcommittee Chair after consultation with the Chair of the Committee to which the Subcommittee reports; or (iii) a Special Committee Chair at any time.

13.3 ~~Officers and~~ Any elected Executive Board Members accused of misconduct or neglect of duty other than failure to attend Executive Board Meetings may be removed only after:

- a) A motion is presented by any PA Member during any General Meeting to appoint a Review committee. The motion must be approved by a simple majority of the General Membership.
- b) The majority of the Review Committee must be from the General Membership.
- c) the Review Committee must conduct its Review according to Department of Education guidelines.
- d) The Review Committee must investigate and report its findings to the general Membership within 60 days

- e) The Membership will decide by a 2/3rds vote to remove or absolve. The PA notice of the General Meeting must cite that a vote will be taken by the Membership regarding disciplinary action.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 4 –** To clarify that Freshman parents may not simultaneously run for Freshman Parent Member-At-Large and Freshmen Parent Delegate to the School Leadership Team.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections . . .

Section 3. Eligibility . . .

- 3.6 Individuals may run for only one PA elected position, with the exception that individuals may run for any of the seven officer positions AND for School Leadership Team Delegate. Freshman parents may not simultaneously run for Freshman Parent Member-At-Large and Freshman Parent Delegate to the School Leadership Team. The individual elected President will automatically occupy the SLT position reserved for the President. . . .

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 5 –** To clarify the voting status of SLT Alternate Delegates at Executive Board Meetings.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections

Section 1. Elected Positions

- 1.1 The elected positions of the PA are: . . .

School Leadership Team Delegates:

Senior Parent Delegates – One (1)  
Junior Parent Delegates – Two (2)  
Sophomore Parent Delegates – Two (2)  
Freshmen Parent Delegate – One (1)

There will be One (1) Alternate Delegate for each class selected as follows:

The candidate for each class delegate with the highest number of votes other than the winning candidate(s) (i.e., the runner-up) will serve as the Alternate Delegate for that class. The Alternate Delegates will be expected to attend all SLT meetings and shall have the same duties as the SLT Delegates. The Alternate Delegate for a class shall not have the right to vote at any SLT meeting or Executive Board meeting unless one of the SLT delegates for that class is absent from such meeting.

Article V - Executive Board

Section 3. Membership . . .

- 3.5 SLT Alternate Delegates are not members of the Executive Board and shall not have a vote at any Executive Board meeting unless one of the SLT Delegates for their class is absent from such meeting. In that case, the Alternate Delegate for that class shall be deemed to be a member of the Executive Board and shall be entitled to vote for that meeting only.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 6 –** To conform the definition of "parent" to current DOE regulations.

Article III - Membership.

Section 1. Eligibility . . .

- 1.2 ~~The word "parent" includes a mother, father, stepparent, guardian, and/or any person in a parental relation to a child, and/or persons who act in loco parentis (in place of a parent or legal guardian with whom the child resides or who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian) regarding the child's education, in accordance with Board of Education regulations.~~ is a parent (by birth or adoption, step-parent or foster parent), legally appointed guardian, or person

in a parental relation to a child or children currently attending a school, including a child who is attending a non-citywide school full time while on the register of Citywide Programs (known as District 75).

A person in parental relation refers to a person who has assumed the care of a child because the child's parents or guardians are not available, whether due to, among other things, death, imprisonment, mental illness, abandonment of a child, or living outside of the state. A person may only qualify as a person in parental relation if no other eligible person applies as parent or guardian. Any determinations about who constitutes a person in "parental relation" must be based on the individual circumstances surrounding guardianship and custodial care of the particular child. This shall include consultation between the PA Executive Board and the principal. A person who may provide temporary care (i.e., babysitting) for a child or children does not qualify as a person in parental relation under this definition. In addition, eligibility for PA membership under this category is not established by designation of an individual (notarized letter) by the child's parent or guardian. The denial of membership under this definition may be the subject of a grievance to the Department of Education under Section IV.B of DOE Regulation A-660.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 7 –** To conform the timing of the spring election to current DOE regulations.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections

Section 9. ~~May~~ Spring General Elections

9.1 The Spring General Election shall be held at a General Membership Meeting that will take place between the fourth Monday in May and the second Friday in June.

~~9.1~~ 9.2 Nominating Committee.

Note: Sections 9.1.1 through 9.1.11 shall be renumbered to 9.2.1 through 9.2.11. In addition, the phrase "May General Election" shall be replaced with the phrase "Spring General Election" throughout the bylaws.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 8 –** To remove a reference to an entity that no longer exists.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections . . .

Section 4. Duties of Officers

4.1 President. . . .

4.1.9 The President may ask any elected officer of the Executive Board to attend meetings or school functions as his/her representative. The President or his/her designee shall represent the PA on ~~the Manhattan Federation of High Schools Parent Associations~~ the Council of Specialized High Schools, and other similar associations.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 9 –** To conform the bylaws to the DOE requirements regarding location of meetings.

Article VI - Meetings . . .

Section 7. Place of Meetings

All meetings must be held at Stuyvesant High School, except in extenuating circumstances. Under no circumstances are PA meetings to be held in private residences.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 10 –** To clarify attendance by the public at PA Meetings.

Article VI - Meetings

Section 1. General Membership Meetings . . .

- 1.6 ~~All other persons may attend as observers, and~~ Individuals who are not members of the PA may attend as observers, but may speak and otherwise participate only at the discretion of the chair.

Section 2. Special Membership Meetings . . .

- 2.3 . . . The meeting may take place no earlier than seven days after notice has been made to the Membership. Individuals who are not members of the PA may attend only at the discretion of the chair.

Section 3. Executive Board Meetings . . .

- 3.1 . . . All Regular Meetings of the Executive Board are open to the General Membership. Individuals who are not members of the PA may attend only at the discretion of the chair. . . .

Section 4. Special Meetings of the Executive Board . . .

- 4.3 . . . The meeting may take place no earlier than 24 hours after notice has been given. Individuals who are not members of the PA may attend only at the discretion of the chair.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 11** – To conform the qualifications for running for Treasurer to current DOE regulations prohibiting qualifications for office other than PA membership.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections. . . .

Section 4. Duties of Officers . . .

4.6 Treasurer . . .

- 4.6.8 While any parent is qualified to run for, and be elected, Treasurer, it is recommended that candidates for Treasurer have prior experience such as ~~in order to be elected Treasurer, a candidate must have~~ served as Assistant Treasurer or be qualified, by education or experience, to perform accounting and financial reporting duties.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 12** – To eliminate reference to specific Special Committees.

Article VII - Committees . . .

Section 2. Special Committees

- 2.1 ~~. . . [Currently, there are three special committees:~~

~~Academic Integrity,  
Public Affairs Committee  
Teams and Extracurriculars]~~

## **BYLAWS AMENDMENTS (Proposed by Betsy Combier and Mary Lok)**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 1** – To amend the policies of the PA.

Article II - Purpose and Policies . . .

Section 2. Policies

All activities of the PA are non-sectarian and non-partisan in nature. The name of the PA or its officers in their official capacities will only be used in a manner consistent with the guidelines and regulations established by the New York City Department of Education for officially sanctioned parents' organizations. ~~Officers of the PA may not engage in activities which may jeopardize its tax status. The PA is qualified under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a not-for-profit organization.~~ Pursuant to the Chancellor's Regulations A-660 and

"Open Government" Laws of New York State, all meetings of the Stuyvesant PA meetings are Open Meetings and therefore open to anyone who wants to attend, including members of the Press.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 2 –** To include among the PA Elected Positions the following positions: Editor of the PA Bulletin, the Communications Chair and Listserv officer.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections

Section 1. Elected Positions

1.1 The Elected positions of the PA are:

Officers: . . .

Editor of the PA Bulletin  
Communications Chair  
Listsrv Officer

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 3 –** To change the method of appointment of Committee Chairs.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections . . .

Section 4. Duties of Officers

4.1 President

4.1.4 ~~The President will appoint all Committee Chairs after discussion with the Executive Board and with approval of the General Membership.~~ At the first PA meeting in the Fall, names of volunteers for all committees will be gathered together from those present as well as those who have expressed interest, and an email will be sent out to all PA members. At the second PA meeting the volunteers of each committee will choose a chair, whose name the PA President will submit for approval to the parents in attendance at this meeting. All subcommittee chairs will be appointed after the Committee Chairs have been decided upon by the volunteers who have signed up to work on each committee by the Committee Chairs.

4.1.4(a) The President is barred from making any appointments or changes to any Committee without proper announcement to the General PA at a general PA meeting as well as in flyers and by email at least 10 days before any general PA meeting at which these changes are to be presented to the General membership.

4.1.4(b) The President is barred from appointments such as Communications Chair, Editor of the PA Bulletin, and listsrv parent.

4.2 First Vice-President

4.2.1 The First Vice-President will assist the President in conducting the business of the PA. The First Vice-President will assume the duties of the President in the temporary absence of the President, or both Co-Presidents, but will be barred from making any appointments or changes to any Committee without proper announcement to the General PA at a general PA meeting as well as in flyers and by email at least 10 days before any general PA meeting at which these changes are to be made.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 4 –** To make the number of At-Large-Members from each class proportional to the number of students in each class.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections . . .

Section 10. Fall Elections

10.1 Elections will be held at the October General Meeting to fill the following positions:

Members-At-Large:

~~Senior Parent Member At Large -One (1)  
Junior Parent Member At Large- One (1)  
Sophomore Parent Member At Large-Three (3)  
Freshmen Parent Member At Large -Five (5)~~

The number of At-Large-Members from each class will be proportional to the number of students in each class. If 25% of the PA are senior students, 25% of the members at large should represent senior parents.

- 10.4 Notice of the September nominations, the October election, and a description of positions to be filled will be included in the notice of the September General Meeting. Every effort must be made to accommodate all diverse populations and interests within the general parent association including acceptance of meetings held outside of Stuyvesant in other locations such as Brooklyn and Queens. No General PA meeting and no official business can occur outside of Stuyvesant High School, but Committees as well as subcommittees may meet at any time and in any location as designated by the Committee Chair and/or its' members to gather information or ideas for presentation at a General PA meeting. Notice of such meetings will be provided to the General PA 10 days in advance.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT NO. 5 –** To modify the procedures for removal of PA officers.

Article IV - Elected Positions and Elections . . .

- 13.1 ~~Any elected official who fails to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled Executive Board meetings without good cause, may be removed from office by recommendation of the Executive Board. If such elected official disputes their removal they may request that the matter be referred to the General membership. A vote of two-thirds of the Membership present is required to remove the official from office. Notice to the Membership of the Meeting must cite that a vote will be taken by the Membership in a disciplinary action against an Executive Board Member.~~ Any elected official who fails to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled Executive Board meetings without good cause, may be removed from office by recommendation of the Executive Board. If such elected official disputes his/her removal he/she may request that the matter be referred to the General membership. A majority vote of the Membership present is required to remove the official from office. Notice to the Membership of the Meeting must cite that a vote will be taken by the Membership in a disciplinary action against an Executive Board Member.

Any action or impropriety by the President or any member of the Executive Board or School Leadership Team that impinges upon the constitutional rights of any parent who is on any committee or is a parent in good standing will be brought to the next General PA meeting, not a "special" meeting, and debated among the General PA, and then a vote for removal will be taken.

- 13.2 ~~The President may remove a Committee Chair with the approval of the Executive Board.~~ The President may present, at a General PA meeting, reasons for the possible removal of a Committee Chair, and a vote of two-thirds of the parents at this General PA meeting must vote for removal.
- 13.3 ~~Officers and Executive Board Members accused of misconduct or neglect of duty may be removed only after:~~ All Review Committees are unconstitutional and place parents in an impossible situation of being "investigated" by other parents. Officers and Executive Board members may be removed for:
- a) ~~A motion is presented by any PA Member during any General Meeting to appoint a Review committee. The motion must be approved by a simple majority of the General Membership.~~ deliberate neglect of duty, exemplified by missing three consecutive meetings without excuse;
  - b) ~~The majority of the Review Committee must be from the General Membership.~~ actions that slander, libel, or in any way impinge upon the constitutional rights given to each parent in the US Constitution;
  - c) ~~the Review Committee must conduct its Review according to Board of Department of Education guidelines.~~ deliberate and/or malicious actions taken to harm a parent or student at the school or outside of the school;
  - d) ~~The Review Committee must investigate and report its findings to the general Membership within~~

~~60 days~~ violating any rules or regulations of the Chancellor's Regulations:

- e) ~~The Membership will decide by a 2/3rds vote to remove or absolve. The PA notice of the General Meeting must cite that a vote will be taken by the Membership regarding disciplinary action.~~
- 13.4 ~~The President may, if necessary, appoint another Member to fulfill the duties of the elected official during the period of the Review Committee process.~~ Officers and elected members of the PA may be removed at a General PA meeting by a majority vote, after a discussion of the actions covered by 13.3.