

**2010  
PROPOSED  
BYLAW  
CHANGES**

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this organization is the Parent Teacher Student Association of Connecticut, Inc. It is commonly known as Connecticut PTSA and it will be referred to in these Bylaws, as the CONNECTICUT PTSA.

*Rationale: As we feel that student involvement is as important as parents and teachers in helping our children succeed in school, we have added student representation to our board of directors. Our bylaws should reflect that change and give the students the respect they deserve by being included in our name.*

**Section 1** The officers of the CONNECTICUT PTSA shall be a president, president-elect or 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, membership support vice president, government relations vice president, Inclusivity/Outreach vice president and a secretary/treasurer.

**Section 2** The qualifications for holding office in CONNECTICUT PTSA shall be:

c. No person shall be eligible to serve in the office of president or president-elect who has not served at least one (1) year on the CONNECTICUT PTSA Executive Committee. If there is not a candidate that fits these qualifications than a 1<sup>st</sup> vice president shall be elected. If a 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president is elected than a president must be elected in the next election.

*Rationale: One of the items in the approved Strategic Plan was to streamline the Board of Directors.*

*Section 1 addresses that recommendation. The rationale for each of these positions can be further found in organizational chart.*

*A president-elect is being recommended so that there will be consistency of leadership over a period of four years which will make for a stronger organization and will help to maintain ongoing projects.*

**Section 1** A nominating committee consisting of five (5) members, the nominating chair, the immediate past state president (who shall not be the chair), three (3) members at large and two (2) alternates.

- a. The members at large and the alternates shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the current fiscal year following the election and shall have a term of two years.
- b. The committee members must attend the three (3) Congress of Council Presidents' meetings ( per year) so that they may find appropriate candidates for officers of this organization.
- c. No members of this committee may be nominated for any elected position.
- d. Only persons consenting to serve may be nominated for membership on the nominating committee.
- e. The president and the president-elect/1<sup>st</sup> vice president shall be ineligible to serve on this committee.
- f. The vote for members of the nominating committee shall be by ballot if more than the required number of nominations is made.
- g. The Nominating Chair shall be selected by the members of the nominating committee.
- h. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to nominate one candidate for each office and for the two (2) at large members position, to be filled at the next election. The committee shall submit a slate of candidates to the Board of Directors at least 60 prior to the convention. A copy of the slate shall be sent to each local PTA/PTSA/SEPTA president at least thirty days prior to the state convention and be placed on the CT PTA website.

*Rationale: Changes to the nominating committee structure were made in 2005 and did not work as intended.*

*Section 1a – Explains how the members at large will be selected*

*Section 1b – The committee felt it was important that the members of this committee knew they had to attend the Congress of Council Presidents meetings to know who was qualified to be an officer and where the future leadership is.*

*Section 1c – To keep the neutrality of this committee*

*Section 1e -Since we will now have a president-elect who is basically going to be the next president, that person also should not sit on the nomination committee.*

*Section 1g – Explains how the chair is chosen*

*Section 1h – Explains the duties of the nominating committee*

## **Article XI. Region Directors** *(new article)*

**Section 1** Regional directors or co-directors shall be appointed by the president and ratified by the Board of Directors at the first meeting following the election of officers. The term shall be for two (2) years.

**Section 2** One director from each region shall have a vote on the Board of Directors. In the case of co-directors, they will have only one vote per region on the board of directors. Both co-directors are encouraged to attend all Board of Directors meetings. The responsibilities of directors are outlined in Policies and Procedures.

*Rationale: Section 1 -The first section better describes current practices.*

*Section 2 - The second section addresses the new board structure as outlined in Article XI (which will be changed to Article XII).*

## **Article XI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS** *(will be article XII)*

**DRAFT**

**Section 1** The affairs of Connecticut PTSA will be managed by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2** The members of the Board of Directors are:

- a. All elected officers.
- b. The Immediate Past President of the CONNECTICUT PTSA.
- c. Two (2) Council Presidents or their designated alternate, as selected by the Congress of Council Presidents.
- d. Five Region Directors (if there are co-directors they will have only one vote per region on the board of directors)
- e. Nominating committee chair.
- f. Two at large members, who are elected by the general membership at the general election.
- g. Such Presidential appointments that, by their special assignment, may contribute to the work of the Board of Directors, such appointment shall be ratified by the Board of Directors.
- h. Two (2) student representatives and 2 alternates.
- i. Such other persons as may be elected by a two-thirds vote (2/3) of the Board of Directors.

**Section 3** Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least six (6) times a year. The time and place of these meetings shall to be determined by the Executive Committee.

**Section 4** Ten (10) members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting.

*Rationale: Section 1 – To bring our bylaws in line with National's*

*Rationale: Section 2c – 2h - One of the items in the approved Strategic Plan was to streamline the Board of Directors. Section 2 addresses that recommendation. The rationale for each of these positions can be further found in organizational chart*

*Section 3 – Since there are less people on the board it will be easier to schedule more meetings. Also by having more meetings, more control rests in the hands of the board as it should.*

*Section 4 – Since there are less members on the board of directors now, the quorums should be reduced*

**ARTICLE XII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section 2.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the president, president-elect or 1<sup>st</sup> vice president, membership support vice president, government relations vice president, Inclusivity/Outreach vice president and a secretary/treasurer.

**Section 3** The Executive Committee shall meet at least four (4) times a year and at the call of the president. The president must call a meeting upon the written request of any two (2) members of the Executive Committee.

*Rationale: Because the Board of Directors will now meet 6 times a year there is no reason for the Executive Committee to meet as often. This puts more control in the hands of the Board of Directors where it belongs.*

*As there are less people on the Executive Committee less people should be needed to call a special meeting.*

## ARTICLE X – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

DRAFT

### Section 1 PRESIDENT

d. Have power to sign checks in lieu of the treasurer. The president may give written consent for the Executive Director to sign checks according to the Executive Director's contract.

### Section 2 PRESIDENT- ELECT/VICE-PRESIDENTS

Shall:

- a. act as an aide to the president
- b. perform the duties of the president in the president's absence or inability to serve

### Section 3 VICE-PRESIDENTS

Shall:

The membership support vice president, government relations vice president, Inclusivity/Outreach vice president and a secretary/treasurer shall: coordinate their designated areas of responsibility as outlined in Policies and Procedure. The functional vice presidents shall perform the duties of the president in the president's and president-elect/first vice president's absence or inability to serve in the order of precedence provided for in Article VIII, Section 1.

### Section 4 SECRETARY/TREASURER

I. Chair the finance committee and present proposed budget to the Board of Directors for approval at its last regular meeting prior to the end of the fiscal year.

*Rationale: Section 1 – to make clear that the Executive Director's duties are contractually defined.*

*Section 2 – Adding the new officers' names*

*Section 3 – changes the name of the committee to include all financial items not only the budget.*

## ARTICLE XIV – COMMISSIONS AND OTHER PRESIDENTAL APPOINTMENTS

**Section 1** The President shall appoint Commissioners, as it may deem necessary or desirable for the purpose of promoting the objects and carrying on the work of the CONNECTICUT PTSA.

**Section 3** The president shall appoint two (2) Student Representatives and two (2) alternates to sit on the Board of Directors. These students will be appointed for a 2 year term on a staggered basis.

**Section 4** The president shall appoint the vice chair of the Government Relations committee in consultation with the Government Relations Vice President. Also in consultation with Government Relations Vice President this vice chair will become in charge of Federal Relations or State Relations. This appointment shall be a two (2) year term and shall be ratified by the Board of Directors.

*Rationale: Section 1 – This statement was added to make it clear that the board has the final decision in these appointments.*

*Section 3 – To add the procedure for appointed student representatives to the board of directors.*

*Section 4 – To add the procedure for how the vice chair of government relations is chosen. The specifics will be outlined in an update of the P & P.*

**ARTICLE XV –COUNCILS**

**Section 5** The president of each council or his/her designated alternate shall be members of the CONNECTICUT PTSA Congress of Council Presidents. This council shall elect two (2) members to sit on the Board of Directors for a one (1) year term.

**Section 6** The Congress of Council Presidents shall meet three (3) times a year, at the annual convention (where they will elect their representatives to the Board of Directors), at leadership training and at a meeting in January (date to be decided by the councils)

*Rationale: Section 5 – Establishes the Congress of Council Presidents and explains the procedure for choosing two members to sit on the board of directors.*

*Section 6 – Establishes meeting dates for the Congress of Council Presidents By having a Congress of Council Presidents that only meets 3 times a year gives them more time to concentrate on the work of their district, lets them have more time at the Congress of Council Presidents meeting to network and share and to take part in more regional type training.*

## **ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP AND FEES**

**# Section 6.** The CONNECTICUT PTA annual membership fee shall be \$3.25 three dollars and twenty-five cents, per member. CONNECTICUT PTA membership fee can only be amended by a vote of the general membership at the Annual Convention or a special meeting.

Rationale: As we have not increased the amount of dues in over 10 years and as the cost of living has increased each year, we now see ourselves out of touch with the realities of our financial obligations.

We have made numerous cuts in our budget in an attempt to keep our costs low while still providing adequate service to our members; however, we now must increase income to preserve the key components of our association.