

THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE
STUDENT COUNCIL
SHARYLAND PIONEER HIGH SCHOOL

FIRST RATIFIED NOVEMBER, 2014

By the Student Council of 2014-2015

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Sharyland Pioneer High School, in order to promote a spirit of democracy, to bring about a better cooperation between students and faculty, and promote the general welfare of our school, do establish this constitution for Sharyland Pioneer High School Student Council.

ARTICLE I-PURPOSES

To foster the civic virtues of self-control, courtesy, and obedience to lawful authority.

To develop the potential leadership of students.

To help maintain a democratic way of living in school.

To promote and increase the general welfare of the student body, the school, and the community.

ARTICLE II-MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members

A. Officers

B. Committee Chairpersons

C. Sponsors

D. Members-at-Large

E. Class Members

F. Club Representatives

ARTICLE III-ACQUISITION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Officers

A. The officers of the Student Council shall be:

- (1) President
- (2) Vice President
- (3) Secretary
- (4) Treasurer
- (5) Historian
- (6) Representatives (two)

B. The election of officers shall be as follows:

- (1) The president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, historian, and representative shall be elected by the entire student body during the 6th six weeks of the previous school year or at another time designated by the sponsor and principal. Voting shall be by secret ballot with the winner receiving the majority of the votes.
- (2) Freshmen who wish to hold a class office shall be elected by the entire freshmen class during the 1st six weeks of the current school year or at another time designated by the sponsor and principal. Voting shall be by secret ballot with the winner receiving the majority of the votes.

Section 2. Representatives

A. Club Representatives

- (1) One representative may be elected by their sport or organization to represent them at general meetings.

B. Members-at-Large

- (1) Any student completing a series of tasks designated by the Student Council before a certain deadline will qualify as a Member-at-Large, with up to five members per school year. The tasks and deadline are at the sponsor's discretion.
- (2) Any foreign exchange shall be accepted as member-at-large as a rule of courtesy.

Section 3. TASC Committee Chairman

- A. Any member interested in being selected to the Executive Board shall express such interest in a certain committee and be appointed as necessary by the sponsor.
- B. The selected chairpersons shall be announced at the next meeting of the Student Council.
- C. The standing committees of the Texas Association of Student Councils shall be as follows:
 - (1) Community Service
 - (2) Drugs, Alcohol, Safety, Health Awareness (DASH)
 - (3) Pride and Patriotism (P&P)
 - (4) Energy and Environment (E&E)

ARTICLE IV-QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Officers

A. The president shall be elected during the 6th six weeks during the prior year. The candidate must be an active Student Council member and must be a senior. The candidate must have no less than 80 overall average for that school year thus far. No grade may be lower than 70 in any subject. The exception to this rule shall be in one AP course with the grade being no lower than 65. In the case of the office of Student Council President, the candidate must have served one year prior as an elected officer.

B. The vice-president shall be elected during the 6th six weeks. The candidate must be an active Student Council member and may be either a Junior or Senior. The candidate must have no less than an 80 overall average for that school year thus far. No grade may be lower than 70 in any subject. The exception to this rule shall be in one AP/DE course with the grade being not lower than 65. In the case of the office of Student Council Vice President, the candidate must have served one year prior as an elected officer.

C. The secretary shall be elected during the 6th six weeks. The candidate must be an active Student Council member and may be either a Junior or Senior. The candidate must have no less than an 80 overall average for that school year thus far. No grade may be lower than 70 in any subject. The exception to this rule shall be in one AP/DE course with the grade being not lower than 65.

D. The treasurer shall be elected during the 6th six weeks. The candidate may be a member of any class. The candidate must have no less than an 80 overall average for that school year thus far. No grade may be lower than 70 in any subject. The

exception to this rule shall be in one AP/DE course with the grade being not lower than 65.

E. In the event that the candidates who have filed for particular office do not meet the 80 overall average, the sponsor and the principal, through mutual consent, may lower the grade requirements to 75. However, the lowering of the average requirements to 74 shall only apply to those who have already turned in their petitions in the affected office.

F. In case of an officer having a GPA under the average of 75, the officer shall be informed that he will be placed on a six week probationary period in which he must meet the 80 average. Failure to meet this requirement will result in removal.

Section 2. Representatives

A. Representatives

(1) All representatives must maintain a 70 overall average for all six weeks.

B. Members-At-Large

(1) A member-at-large must maintain a 70 overall average for all six weeks.

Section 3. TASC Committee Chairman

A. Committee Chair

(1) A committee chairman must maintain a 70 overall average for all six weeks.

ARTICLE V-POWERS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Officers

A. The powers and duties of officers are stated in the TASC Handbook.

B. The powers and duties of the President shall be:

(1) To preside over all general meetings of the Council.

- (2) To represent the student body on all occasions,
unless some other special representative is
designated by the administration or the sponsor.
- (3) To appoint special committee chairman and to replace them
with the approval of the sponsors if they fail to fulfill their
responsibilities.
- (4) To vote only in case of a tie at the general meetings.
- (5) To explain the duties and powers to each committee chairman.
- (6) To be chairman of the executive board.

C. The powers and duties of the Vice-President shall be:

- (1) To preside over the general meetings in case of temporary
absence of the President.
- (2) To attend all executive board meetings.
- (3) To be ex-officio member of all committees.

D. The powers and duties of the Secretary shall be:

- (1) To keep the minutes of all Student Council meetings.
- (2) To keep the minutes of all Executive Board Meetings.
- (3) To keep the Student Council records up to date.

E. The powers and duties of the Treasurer shall be:

- (1) To keep an accurate record of all money held, acquired, and
disbursed by the Student Council.
- (2) To report to the Student Council and to make a statement of all
monies spent and available.

Section 2. TASC Committee Chairman

- A. Shall be required to keep committee reports up to date
- B. Shall make an oral report to the council on the activities of their committees each meeting.
- C. Shall attend all executive board meetings.
- D. Shall see that the committees fulfill the duties for which they were set up.

Section 3. Representatives

- A. Representatives shall be required to make a report to their after each meeting.

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of the Student Council officers and all committee chairmen.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall be presided over by the President of the Student Council.

Section 3. The Executive Board's main duties shall be:

- A. To introduce and discuss new business for upcoming council meetings.
- B. To prepare an agenda for the general student council meetings.
- C. To obtain reports.

Section 4. The Executive Board shall make recommendations at the general student council meetings.

ARTICLE VII – SPONSORS

Section 1. The principal shall appoint one or two sponsors from the faculty.

Section 2. At least one sponsor shall be present at each Council meeting and Executive Board meeting.

Section 3. The sponsors shall report to the faculty the activities of the council.

Section 4. The sponsors shall advise the president of the Council of faculty decisions and questions.

Section 5. The sponsors must approve the removal of any committee chairman, homeroom representatives, or office from Council.

Section 6. The sponsors must approve all projects initiated by the Council.

ARTICLE VIII-ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Section 1. The Student Council will conduct all general elections on campus.

Section 2. The Student Council will be in charge of conducting the following:

- A. Student Council elections
- B. Class elections
- C. Class favorites elections
- D. Homecoming Queen and King elections
- E. Belle and Beau elections
- F. Prom Queen and King elections
- G. General elections as needed

ARTICLE IX-ELECTIONS AND PROCEDURES

Section 1. The following procedures are to be followed by all candidates running for Student Council office or Class.

- A. All candidates must obtain and fill out a nomination petition.
- B. A person shall be deemed nominated for office once he obtains ten signatures
respective class two signatures from the faculty and one signature from an administrator.

Student Council candidates are required to obtain twenty signatures from members of his respective class.

C. The petition must be filed with the Student Council sponsor at least three school days before the election.

D. Candidates for the office may file for up to one Student Council office and one class office.

E. Homecoming Queen

a. Will be nominated by their senior class peers

b. The top four nominated girls will be named the Royal Court

c. Students with more than three absences and/or more than one discipline referral will not be allowed to participate

d. The royal court, pending principal approval, will be eligible for Homecoming Queen elections.

e. The entire student body will be allowed to vote for Queen.

Section 2. Voting for Student Council officers and Class officers shall be as follows:

A. All Students shall vote by secret ballot in their advisory classrooms or at a location designated by the sponsor.

B. The homeroom teacher shall tally the votes and record them on tally sheets provided. The teacher then must return the tally sheet and ballots to the office.

C. All tally sheets will be counted by Student Council sponsors.

D. All results are to be given to the principal or administrator in charge and announced on Election Day.

Section 3. The candidate will be required to follow campaign procedures and regulations established by the Student Council.

- A. The campaign expenditures shall not exceed the amount of fifty dollars (\$50).
- B. Any donation or free materials will be considered at the free market value and will be counted against the campaign budget.
- C. All campaign materials must be approved by a principal or the Student Council Sponsor.
- D. All candidates will be required to conduct a clean and honest campaign.
- E. All candidates are responsible for taking down all their campaign material by the end of the day of the election.

Section 4. All candidates are required to have parental permission before filing for office.

Section 5. Any intentional infraction of the above rules and regulation shall lead to the disqualification of the candidate.

ARTICLE X-CLASS OFFICER REQUIREMENTS

Section 1. Qualification for class officers

- A. The candidate must be a member in good standing at Sharyland Pioneer High School.
- B. The candidate must be a member of the class for which he is seeking an office.
- C. The candidate must have no less than an 80 overall average for that school year thus far. No grade may be lower than 70 in any subject. The

exception to the rule shall be in one AP/DE class with the grade being no lower than 65.

D. No first semester graduating Senior may be nominated for a class office.

Section 2. The Student Council shall announce the elections for class officers during the 6th six weeks.

ARTICLE XI-ELECTIONS OF FAVORITES

Section 1. Class favorites

A. The election will be conducted by the Student Council following the customary procedures.

B. Voting and counting of the ballots shall be done in accordance to Article IX, section 2.

C. The procedure for selecting the nominees for Class favorites, Senior Class Superlatives, Homecoming Queen, Club/Organization Belle and Beau, Mr. and Mrs. PHS, and Prom Queen and King is as follows:

(1) The students will nominate their favorite boy and girl for either class favorites or Belle and Beau.

(2) The top three nominees with the most votes in the categories of class favorite and Mr. and Mrs. PHS will be placed on the official election ballot. The ballot will contain three boys and three girls.

(3) The rest of the favorites categories will be decided with the winners gaining the most votes. Homecoming Queen elections will be conducted according to Article IX, Section 1, Paragraph F

(4) All classes vote for Mr. and Mrs. PHS, but only Seniors may nominate.

(5) The Seniors nominate the Homecoming Queen candidates. The top four vote getters are placed on the official ballot. All classes vote for Homecoming Queen.

ARTICLE XII-CONDUCT

It is the purpose of the code of conduct to act as a guide for the behavior of elected class officers and council officers in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Section 1. All officers will be expected to observe all of the following guidelines:

- A. An officer, while in the performance of his/her duties, or while acting as a representative of the school shall not resort to profanity, deceit, or dishonesty.
- B. An officer shall not have in his/her possession liquor, tobacco, or controlled substances while on official school business.
- C. An officer shall not resort to truancy or encourage truancy.
- D. An officer must meet the obligations and responsibilities required of his office.
- E. An officer may not involve the school or the school's name in an activity which is prohibited by the school or the sponsor.
- F. An officer shall obey all lawful instructions and directives from faculty or administration members of the high school.

Section 2. All officers will be accorded due process in the event charges of misconduct or dereliction of duty are brought against them.

A. An officer may not be removed from his officer unless:

- (1) He/She is provided with a fair hearing.

(2) He/She is informed of the nature of the charges against him.

(3) He/She is given at least one week's notice of the hearing.

B. It will be the responsibility of the sponsor to see to it that due process is provided.

Section 3. Active class members may petition the Student Council for a hearing to determine whether there are enough grounds for the removal of an officer, if they feel this is the only recourse available to them.

Section 4. The respective sponsor shall be informed of petition as well as the principal before any action is taken.

Section 5. For the purpose of the institution this section, active members shall be defined as those persons having attended at least two thirds of all class meetings.

Section 6. Any officer who has been removed from his office may appeal to the Student Council. The Student Council will appoint a grievance committee to hear his appeal. The committee will then make their recommendations to the principal in charge of activities.

Section 7. Any officer who resigns must inform his respective sponsor as well as the Student Council.

Section 8. For the purpose of determining what type of disciplinary action will be taken against any officer who violates the code of conduct, the violation will be classified into three categories.

They are:

A. CLASS A infractions will be those which do not warrant administrative action.

(1) Failure to meet the duties and responsibilities of an elected officer.

(2) Failure to meet prescribed academic standings.

(3) Failure to obey lawful instructions from faculty or administrative members of the high school.

B. CLASS B infractions will be those which warrant official action by the administration.

(1) Consumption or dispensing of alcohol or controlled substances on campus during a school activity.

(2) Habitual truancy.

(3) The commission of a misdemeanor while on campus or a school related activity.

(4) Habitual infraction of CLASS A guidelines.

C. CLASS C infractions will be those which violate school board policies and warrants action by the school board.

Section 9. In accordance to the nature of the violation, the disciplinary action taken will be as follows:

A. For all Class A violations, the disciplinary action will be:

(1) First violation: an official reprimand specifying the infractions and the remedies needed to correct the situation. This reprimand shall be made an official entry into the minutes of the Class or Council minutes.

(2) Second violation: the officer shall be placed on probation for two weeks. The officer must correct the situation. Failure to do so will result in suspension for

four weeks. This action taken shall also be made part of the official minutes of the respective Class or Council.

B. For all class B violations, the disciplinary action will be:

(1) First violation: the officer shall be put on probation for a period of two weeks and the action taken will be entered into the official minutes of his Class' minutes.

(2) Second violation: the officer shall be removed from his/her office and his class or council shall be informed of this action.

C. For all class C violations, the disciplinary action taken shall be:

(1) First violation: the officer shall be placed on a suspension period of four weeks. His/her class shall be informed of the action taken. His suspension will be made an entry into the minutes of his class.

(2) Second violation: the officer shall be removed from his office and his class shall be informed of this action.

ARTICLE XIII-BY-LAWS

Section 1. Members of the Student Council who are absent from three meetings consecutively without sponsor approval shall automatically be dropped from membership.

Section 2. Members of the Executive Board who are absent from three consecutive meetings without sponsor approval shall automatically be dropped from membership.

Section 3. A quorum of the Council or Executive Board shall consist of two thirds of its members present.

Section 4. In the instance of the permanent inability of any elected officer to serve before

December 1, of that school year, a general election shall be held. Should any elected officer wish to run for the vacant office, he must resign his office before filling. Any office left vacant by an officer resigning to run for another office shall also be filled at this time.

Section 5. In the instance of the permanent inability of the President or the Vice-President to serve after January 1, of that year, the executive board will nominate three candidates to fill the vacant office. The candidates will be present to the Council and its members will vote by secret ballot for the new officer.

Section 6. In the instance of the President's inability to serve or perform his duties, the sponsor shall appoint the Vice-President to perform the duties of the office of President for a period of no more than four weeks until an election is held.

Section 7. No office shall be filled in case of vacancy unless the procedures in Section 1 and Section 2 of the Article IX are followed and the Council is informed of the intent to do so.

Section 8. Campaign rules with violation penalties shall be prepared each year by the executive board no later than one month prior to the elections.

Section 9. In the event an officer or member fails to maintain the required grade point average, he shall be placed on a three week probation.

Section 10. Failure to remove the three week suspension shall require the removal of the officer in question.

Section 11. Class sponsors are required to inform their duties and responsibilities.

Section 12. All officers are required to adhere to a code of conduct set forth in Article XII.

Section 13. Participation in Student Council activities shall be reserved for its members.

Participation by non-members shall be only as a courtesy.

Section 14. Participation of Class officers in Student Council activities shall be by a rule of

courtesy unless the officer is also a member of the Student Council.

Section 14. In the absence of any Class constitution the Student Council Constitution shall serve as a guideline.

Section 15. All class meetings shall be conducted under parliamentary procedures.

Section 16. A student shall not be denied the right of membership in any organization because of sex, creed, race, religion, or handicap.

ARTICLE XIV-LETTER JACKETS

Section 1. The Student Council Seniors members shall be eligible for award jackets and other awards. The criteria shall be as follows:

- (1) Only Junior and Senior Student Council members who have been active for two or more years may receive a jacket.
- (2) All eligible members will receive their award jackets free of charge but must pay for their own patches (e.g. name on back, additional patches) if they wish to receive one. Award patches will be awarded to members of the Student Council of more than one year.
- (3) A graduating Junior may be awarded a jacket if he has been active for two years in the council.

Section 2. The Student Council reserves the right to withhold or request the return of an award jacket if:

- (1) The member voluntarily becomes inactive and gives no reason for his absence from the council.
- (2) The member is removed from office as a result of disciplinary action.
- (3) The member is removed because of his failure to maintain his grade point

average.

(4) The council will reimburse the student the price of the jacket. If the jacket is damaged or torn, a reimbursement will not be allowed.

ARTICLE XV-AMENDMENTS

The Sharyland Pioneer High School Student Council Constitution may only be amended once a year in May, after elections. This constitution may be amended by submitting in writing the proposed change to the Student Council at a meeting prior to the one in which it is to be voted on. The amendment shall not be adopted unless there is an affirmative two-thirds vote of the representatives present at this meeting.