

## BYLAWS

### Vacaville Teachers Association/CTA/NEA

#### I. NAME AND LOCATION

The name of this Association shall be the Vacaville Teachers Association/CTA/NEA in Solano County.

#### II. PURPOSES

The primary purposes of this Association shall be:

- A. To represent its members in their relations with their employer, and to seek to be the exclusive representative of appropriate units of school employees in all matters relating to employment conditions and employer-employee relations including, but not limited to, wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment;
- B. To form a representative body capable of developing group opinion on professional matters to speak with authority for members;
- C. To provide an opportunity for continuous study and action on problems of the profession;
- D. To provide a means of representation for its ethnic-minority members;
- E. To promote professional attitudes and ethical conduct among members;
- F. To encourage cooperation and communication between the profession and the community; and
- G. To foster good fellowship among members.

#### III. AFFILIATION WITH THE CTA/NEA

- A. The Vacaville Teachers Association shall be a chartered chapter of the California Teachers Association (CTA).
- B. The Vacaville Teachers Association shall be an affiliated local association of the National Education Association (NEA).

#### IV. MEMBERSHIP

- A. Categories of Membership. There shall be one category of membership in the Association: Active. Active membership shall be open to any person who is engaged in or who is on limited leave of absence from professional educational work, is an employee of Vacaville Unified School District, and whose primary assignment is such as not to hold supervisory responsibility over other certificated employees to such an extent as not to be represented in the negotiations process by the bargaining unit.
- B. Membership may be granted upon initiation of payroll deduction or upon payment of annual VTA/CTA/NEA dues appropriate to the class of membership.
- C. The right to vote and to hold elective office or appointive position within the Association shall be limited to Active members.

- D. Active members shall be eligible to vote in all elections, hold elective office or appointive position, receive special services, obtain assistance in the protection of professional and civil rights, and receive reports and publications of the Association.
- E. An individual who is serving as a negotiator for a public school employer shall not be eligible for membership in the Association.
- F. Active members shall adhere to The Code of Ethics of the Education Profession.
- G. The rights to and privileges of membership shall not be abridged in any way because of age, sex, race, color, ethnic group, marital status, national origin or sexual orientation.
- H. No member of the Association may be disciplined without a due process hearing, which shall include the established appellate procedure.
- I. The membership year shall be that period of time from July 1 of any given calendar year through June 30 of the following calendar year, inclusive.
- J. Unless otherwise expressly provided by law, persons who tender agency fees shall have no rights or privileges within this Association.

#### V. DUES, FEES, AND ASSESSMENTS

- A. The basic annual dues level for Active members, and representation fee for non-members represented in the bargaining unit, shall be sufficient to cover the operating expenses of the Association, the dues of CTA, and the dues of NEA.
- B. The Association's portion of the basic annual dues, and the representation fee for non-members, shall be established by action of the Representative Council at the last regular meeting of the school year. VTA dues shall be at least the minimum amount required for participation in CTA's Crisis Arbitration Fund.
- C. The Association shall apportion any negotiated representation fee or organizational security fee on the same percentage basis as the full VTA/CTA/NEA dues.
- D. Membership in a given class or category shall be continuous after initial enrollment until delinquent or until a change in professional status shall make the member ineligible for that class or category. If by October 31 of any calendar year a member has not either paid the established annual membership dues for the current membership year, or made satisfactory arrangements for payment, then that person's membership shall be considered delinquent and the name dropped from the rolls.
- E. The Vacaville Teachers Association shall be authorized to set up a Political Action Committee (PAC) fund/account to be used for political advocacy. This fund, called the Vacaville Teachers Association Political Action Committee or VTA PAC shall be funded by earmarking a portion of existing monthly dues and other monies through donations from members. The appointed Treasurer shall notify all members by September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year that an amount of \$1 per month (\$10 per year) will be transferred out of each member's current monthly dues and deposited into the PAC account. All dues-paying members shall be notified annually that they may, by October 31<sup>st</sup>, notify the Association if they do not wish any of their dues to be contributed to the PAC. Should any member indicate in writing that they do not wish any portion of their dues to be contributed to the PAC, the equivalent amount (\$1 per month/\$10 per year) shall remain in the general fund of the Association. Nothing in the bylaws shall prohibit VTA from transferring an amount equal to the total annual contribution from members into the PAC starting on November 1<sup>st</sup> of that fiscal year. PAC

money shall be used for, but will not be limited to, educating the general voting public of VTA's positions regarding school board candidates or incumbents, parcel tax or local bond measures. If the PAC fund has at least \$20,000, the VTA Representative Council may opt, by a two-thirds vote, to place a one-year moratorium on transferring the general fund money to the PAC.

F. The Vacaville Teachers Association shall be authorized to set up a VTA Scholarship Fund/account to be used for scholarships for graduating seniors of Vacaville Unified School District. This fund, called the Vacaville Teachers Association Julie Davis Scholarship, shall be funded solely through donations from VTA members and/or fundraising efforts from members and other sources. No dues monies shall be used for this fund/account.

1. A small committee of VTA members (2-3) at each high school (Buckingham, Country High/Kimme Academy, Vacaville High, and Will C. Wood High) shall be established as the Site Scholarship Committee(s). Committee Chairs shall inform the VTA Treasurer of the names of those members on their committees.
2. Graduating seniors may apply through the school's application process. The application shall include basic information about the student, academic progress, community involvement, financial need and an essay by the student explaining how and why they want to be involved in public education.
3. The Site Scholarship Committee(s) shall choose winners based on the above criteria. The money shall be awarded in these amounts:
  - a. Buckingham: one (1) \$1500 scholarship
  - b. Country High/Kimme Academy: one (1) \$1500 scholarship
  - c. Vacaville High: two (2) \$1500 scholarships each
  - d. Will C. Wood High: two (2) \$1500 scholarships each
4. If there are no applications at a site, the money will be distributed evenly to the other scholarship winners for that year.
5. Site Committees may choose to split scholarships in half (for example, Buckingham may choose two (2) winners of \$750 each).
6. If the VTA Scholarship Fund does not have \$9000 to give in scholarship money in any given year, then the scholarship amounts will be reduced to reflect the amount the account has in it. If the fund has more than \$9000, than the scholarship amounts shall increase at each site.
7. The Site Scholarship Committee(s) shall report to the Treasurer the following:
  - a. Name and Address of each winner
  - b. Names of the Site Committee members
  - c. Date and Time of the school Awards Ceremony
8. The Treasurer shall send notice of the award to each winner AFTER the school awards ceremony. This notice shall also include the requirements of the student to collect the scholarship.

9. Each winner shall provide the Treasurer with the following information:
  - a. Proof of current enrollment (half time to full time status) to the winner's college
  - b. Instructions as to how the college wants checks made out for deposit into the winner's student account
  - c. Mailing address of the college
  - d. The winner's student number or permanent number

10. Checks shall only be sent to the winners' student accounts at the college(s) they are enrolled.

11. All scholarships must be claimed by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the next calendar year. Scholarships that are not claimed by March 1<sup>st</sup> shall not be disbursed and will be included in the scholarship award amounts the following year.

## VI. POLICY-MAKING BODY

- A. The policy-making body of the Association shall be a Representative Council. The Representative Council, comprised of Active members of the Association, derives its powers from and shall be responsible to the Active membership.
- B. The Representative Council shall be composed of the following Active members:
  1. Executive Board, ex-officio;
  2. Faculty Representatives elected on the basis of one-person one-vote;
  3. The following additional representatives:
    - a. Any members of the Association who hold CTA/NEA offices or committee appointments, ex-officio non-voting.
- C. The Representative Council shall:
  1. Establish Association policies and objectives
  2. Adopt the annual budget of the Association on or before the first meeting of the school year;
  3. Approve the establishment or discontinuance of committees recommended by the Executive Board; and
  4. Establish the dues of the Association.
- D. The Representative Council shall meet at least once during each month, except June and July. The August and December Representative meetings shall be optional. The number, place, and time of the meetings shall be decided by the Executive Board.
- E. The Representative Council meeting of the Vacaville Teachers Association are open to the members of the Vacaville Teachers Association. Invited guests may attend the meeting with approval of the president and/or his/her designated representative. Invited guests may only speak with prior approval and/or majority approval of the Representative Council.
- F. Special meetings of the Representative Council may be called by the President, the Executive Board, or by the petition of twenty percent (20%) of the Active membership.
- G. Special meetings of the Representative Council shall be called for a specific purpose and no business other than that for which the meeting is called may be transacted.

- H. Notices and agendas for all meetings of the Representative Council shall be made available to all members of the Representative Council at least two (2) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- I. For emergency meetings of the Representative Council during crisis situations, the Executive Board shall adopt procedures to notify representatives of meeting dates, places, and times.
- J. A quorum for all meetings of the Representative Council shall consist of a majority of all voting members of the Representative Council.
- K. Members of the Representative Council shall serve a term of one (1) year.

## VII. FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES

- A. Faculty representatives shall be elected by and from the Active membership for each faculty group. Such election shall be by open nominations and by secret ballot.
- B. Each faculty shall be entitled to at least one representative and shall have one representative for each twenty (20) active members on the faculty, or major fraction thereof. For the purposes of representation and faculty representative numbers, an Active member that works at two (2) or more sites shall be represented by the site at which the member spends the majority of his/her time.
- C. Active members who are not represented through an individual school faculty group shall be counted as a special faculty group entitled to the same representation on the Representative Council as individual school faculty groups.
- D. Vacancies: Vacancies in the office of Representative for whatever cause shall be filled by properly elected replacements.
- E. Faculty Representatives shall:
  - 1. Conduct constant and ongoing liaison between the Representative Council and the Active members of the faculty unit
  - 2. Serve as the official channel through which written communications and publications can be easily and quickly transmitted between the Association and the members
  - 3. Represent the views and input of the Active membership of the faculty in votes taken in the Representative Council, conducting frequent and regular polls of such membership for this purpose
  - 4. Actively engage site members with support from the VTA membership engagement committee
  - 5. Perform such additional duties as prescribed by the Executive Board
  - 6. A Faculty Representative may not conduct an election in which he/she is a candidate
- F. Faculty Groups may elect Alternate Representatives
  - 1. An Alternate shall attend Representative Council meetings if an elected Representative cannot attend a meeting.
  - 2. Alternate Representatives shall have full voting rights at Representative Council meetings only when attending in place of elected Representatives.

3. A Faculty Group may elect at most one-half (1/2) of the total number of Representatives or the great fraction thereof. For example, a Faculty Group with 4 reps may elect up to 2 Alternates. A Faculty Group with 5 reps may elect up to 3 Alternates.

## VIII. OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice- President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer.
- B. These officers shall be and remain currently paid-up local, state, and national (Active) members as a condition for nomination to and service in their respective positions during their terms of office.
- C. These officers shall be elected by and from the Active membership of the Association. Such election shall be by open nominations and secret ballot.
- D. Officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years, commencing on June fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of any calendar year. (no term limits)
- E. A vacancy shall be deemed to exist in the case of death, resignation, or inability to serve in any of the offices of the Association. If there is a vacancy occurring in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the office, unless the Representative Council decides by a majority vote to hold a special election to fill the unexpired term of the President. In the event a vacancy occurs in the other offices, a special election shall be held to elect successors to fill the unexpired terms.
- F. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association and its policy leader.  
The President shall:
  1. Preside at all meetings of the Association, the Representative Council and Executive Board;
  2. Prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Association, the Representative Council and the Executive Board;
  3. Be the official spokesperson for the Association;
  4. Be familiar with the governance documents of the Association, CTA, and NEA;
  5. Appoint all chairpersons and members of committees, and of the bargaining team, with the approval of the Executive Board;
  6. Call meetings of the Association, Representative Council and the Executive Board;
  7. Suggest policies, plans and activities for the Association and be held responsible for the progress and work of the Association;
  8. Attend meetings of the Service Center Council of which the Association is a part; and
  9. Attend other CTA/NEA meetings as directed by the Representative Council.
- G. The Vice-President shall:
  1. Serve as assistant to the President in all duties of the President;
  2. Assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President;

3. Be responsible for the formation and distribution of the Association's calendar of activities; and
4. Serve as coordinator of committee activities at the direction of the President.
5. Perform other duties as directed by the President

H. The Recording Secretary shall:

1. Keep a careful and accurate record of the proceedings of each meeting, regular or special, of the Association, Representative Council, and the Executive Board;
2. Be responsible for the distribution of minutes, notice of meetings, and agendas for all meetings to members of the Representative Council and Executive Board; and to the membership when appropriate;
3. Keep an accurate roster of the membership of the Association and of all committees; and
4. Perform other duties as directed by the President

I. The Corresponding Secretary shall:

1. Carry on the correspondence pertaining to the affairs of the association as directed by the President
2. Collect mail from the VTA PO Box and distribute in a timely manner
3. Keep an accurate record of attendance at each executive board and representative council meeting. These records should be shared with the recording secretary to be included in the official minutes
4. Keep an accurate roster of the membership and assist the membership chair as needed
5. Perform other duties as directed by the President

J. The Treasurer shall:

1. Receive all funds belonging to the Association and be responsible for their safekeeping and accounting;
2. Pay out such funds upon orders of the President;
3. Prepare a written financial report for each regular meeting of the Representative Council and Executive Board;
4. Be responsible for an annual audit of the books of the Association and distributing a summary of this audit to the membership; and
6. Submit membership and financial reports to CTA, NEA, and other agencies as required by law.
7. Develop the budget of the association with the President for presentation and approval at the April executive board meeting. An approved budget from executive board, shall be sent for approval to the representative council at the May representative council meeting.
8. Revise the budget as directed (if necessary) by representative council
9. Perform other duties as directed by the President.

## IX. EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. The Executive Board shall be composed of the Officers, the state council representatives (as long as the state council representative is an Active member of VTA), the past president, seven (7) at-large elementary directors, including all of Sierra Vista, one (1) secondary director to represent Jepson, and one (1) secondary director for Vaca Pena, two (2) secondary directors to represent Will C. Wood High School, Ed Services, Nurses, and SPED (at the ESC), one (1) secondary director to represent Buckingham High School, Kimme ISP, Kimme WRAP and Adult Ed, and two (2) secondary directors to represent Vacaville High School and Community Day School. Chairs of the committees may attend Executive Board meetings for the purpose of reporting committee activities. Chairs of committees (i.e., grievance chair, bargaining chair, etc.) are not voting members of Executive Board, unless they simultaneously hold a position with voting rights.
- B. All members of the Executive Board shall be and remain currently paid-up local, state, and national (Active) members as a condition for nomination to and service in this position.
- C. The elementary and secondary directors of the Executive Board shall be elected with open nominations and by secret ballot and only be elected by their appropriate grade/site level constituency.
- D. The directors of the Executive Board shall be elected for a term of two (2) years (no term limits), commencing on June fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) of any calendar year
- E. A vacancy shall be deemed to exist in the case of death, resignation, or inability to serve in any of the offices of the Association. If there is a vacancy occurring in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the office. In the event a vacancy occurs in the other offices, a special election shall be held within two (2) Executive Board meetings to elect successors to fill the unexpired terms.
- F. The Executive Board shall meet before each regular meeting of the Representative Council and at such other times as the President may deem necessary, or upon written petition of a majority of the members of the Executive Board.
- G. Meetings of the Executive Board of the Vacaville Teachers Association are for the elected members of the Executive Board, the most recent past president of the Vacaville Teachers Association and non-voting committee chairs (as needed). Invited guests may attend the meeting with approval of the president and/or his/her designated representative. Invited guests may only speak with prior approval and/or majority approval of the Executive Board.
- H. The duties of the Executive Board shall be to:
  1. Coordinate the activities of the Association;
  2. Act for the Representative Council when school is not in session;
  3. Direct the bargaining activities and grievance processing of the Association, subject to policies set by the Representative Council;
  4. Approve by majority vote all appointments and by two-thirds (2/3) vote removal of bargaining team members;
  5. Recommend a budget for the Association to the Representative Council;
  6. Approve Committee appointments;

7. Adopt the Standing Rules for the Association;
8. Adopt a grievance procedure;
9. Direct the grievance activities of the Association; and
10. Exercise all the business and organizational powers and duties for the Association as prescribed by law and these bylaws, subject to any restrictions that may be imposed by the Representative Council.

I. The duties of the Directors shall be to:

1. Serve as a member of the Executive Board and Representative Council
2. Communicate information and coordinate activities with the representatives of the schools for which they serve
3. Assist the representatives with membership forms, cards and rosters at the schools for which they serve
4. Assist the representative with elections at the schools which they serve (provided they are not on the ballot themselves)
5. Perform other duties as directed by the President

J. A quorum for all meetings of the Executive Board shall consist of a majority of all the elected members of that body.

X. MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Meetings of the Association may be called by the President, the Executive Board, or by written petition of twenty percent (20%) of the Active membership.
- B. Notices of the Association meetings including date, place, time, and purpose of the meeting shall be made available to all members of the Association at least two days before the meeting except during crisis situations.
- C. For emergency meetings during crisis situations, the Executive Board shall adopt procedures to notify the Association membership of meeting dates, places and times.
- D. A quorum for meetings of the Association shall be a majority of the Active membership.
- E. General Membership meetings of the Vacaville Teachers Association are open to members of the Vacaville Teachers Association. Invited guests may attend the meeting with approval of the president and/or his/her designated representative. Invited guest may only speak with prior approval of the president and/or his/her designated representative.

XI. BARGAINING TEAM

- A. The duties of the Bargaining Team are to represent and to bargain for all bargaining unit members.
- B. The Bargaining Team shall be composed of at least two (2) representatives from each of the following grade level classifications: K-6 and 7-12. The number of Bargaining Team members will be determined by the President with concurrence from the Executive Board. There shall be a minimum of four (4) Bargaining Team members.
- C. The President shall appoint all members, alternates, and the chairperson of the Bargaining Team with the concurrence of the Executive Board..

- D. Vacancies created by resignation or inability to serve shall be filled by the Executive Board from the list of alternates.
- E. The Executive Board, by two-thirds (2/3) vote, may remove a member of the Bargaining Team..
- F. The Bargaining Team shall be under the direction of the Executive Board, and shall report its activities to the Executive Board, as the Board requires..
- G. The Bargaining Team is empowered to reach tentative agreements with the district subject to ratification by the Active membership..
- H. Responsibility and authority for directing the bargaining process on behalf of the Association are vested in the Executive Board subject to policies established by the Representative Council..
- I. Employees in the bargaining unit shall be surveyed by the Bargaining Team to determine contents of the proposed contract demands, and the Executive Board shall approve the contract proposal for the bargaining unit.
- J. The Executive Board shall provide for the dissemination of information regarding bargaining and the activities of the Bargaining Team to the general membership..
- K. Agreements reached between the Bargaining Team and the school board or its representatives shall be considered tentative and not binding upon the Association until such agreements have been ratified by the Active membership in the appropriate unit(s) unless such ratification shall have been specifically waived or otherwise delegated by that active membership.

## XII. GRIEVANCE PROCESSING

- A. The Executive Board shall adopt, with the approval of the Representative Council, the procedures for grievance processing.
- B. These procedures shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - 1. Provide for representation to assist all members of the bargaining unit(s) in processing grievances;
  - 2. Training for handling grievances; and
  - 3. Evaluation of the Association's grievance policies and procedures.

## XIII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

The chapter president must provide Active members an opportunity to vote in all elections. Chapter presidents do not have the option of deciding that such elections shall not be held except for NEA-RA Local Delegate elections where, following a period of open nominations, voting may be waived if the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled and the affiliate has adopted a governing provision or election policy allowing such a practice.

- A. There shall be an appointed Elections Committee.
- B. Elections shall be conducted with:
  - 1. Open nomination procedure;
  - 2. Secret ballot;
  - 3. All Active members vote;

4. Record of voters receiving or casting ballots;
  5. Majority vote, unless otherwise specified.
- C. State Council Representative elections shall be conducted in accordance with CTA guidelines after the chapter or service center council has been notified to do so by the CTA Elections Committee.
- D. NEA State Delegate elections shall be conducted in accordance with CTA guidelines.
- E. NEA Local Delegate elections shall be conducted in accordance with NEA/CTA guidelines. VTA Local Delegates to the NEA shall be elected to three (3) year terms, starting with June 20, 2014.
1. If the number of delegate slots is decreased during a three (3) year term, then the Local Delegate(s) with the lowest vote total(s) shall become a Successor Delegate(s) for the remainder of the term.
  2. If the number of delegate slots is increased during a three (3) year term or a Local Delegate resigns his/her slot, then Successor Delegate(s), in order of most votes earned, become Local Delegate(s) to fill in the open slot(s).
    - i. If there are no Successor Delegates, an election (or vote by acclamation if the number of candidates does not exceed the number of new slots) shall be held to fill the open slots to complete the three (3) year term.
- F. The duties of the Elections Committee shall be to:
1. Ensure that all chapter/CTA/NEA election codes and timelines are followed;
  2. Establish election timelines;
  3. Develop and carry out timelines and procedures;
  4. Prepare ballots for election of officers and such other elections as may be necessary;
  5. Count the ballots and certify the results;
  6. Handle initial challenges.

#### XIV. COMMITTEES

- A. Committees, except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, may be established and discontinued (as needed) by the Executive Board, subject to approval by the Representative Council.
- B. Each committee shall submit periodic reports to the Executive Board and Representative Council.

#### XV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition, shall be followed at all meetings of the Association, the Representative Council, and the Executive Board. The Representative Council shall appoint a Parliamentarian to assist the presiding officer at Representative Council meetings.

XVI. AMENDMENTS/PROCEDURES:

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the representatives at any regular or special meeting of the Representative Council. Notice in writing of a proposed Bylaws amendment shall have been submitted to the Recording Secretary and provided to members of the Representative Council at the meeting preceding the one at which it is to be voted upon.

## STANDING RULES

### NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

#### A. Elections Committee

1. There shall be an Elections Committee.
2. The Elections Committee and Chairperson shall be appointed by the president and approved by the appropriate governance body to which it is responsible at the beginning of each school year.
3. The Committee shall be composed of at least three (3) members who are not on the Executive Board, who are familiar with the unit operations, and who are not seeking election.
4. The Elections Committee is charged with ensuring that elections are conducted in a fair and impartial manner.
5. Any Association member who is either a candidate on the ballot or whose immediate family member is a candidate shall abstain from all election committee activities on that particular ballot.

#### B. Election Requirements

1. The chapter shall ensure that an open nomination procedure is in place (i.e., any member may nominate any member, including himself or herself). The only qualification for office shall be Active membership in the chapter.
2. Every Active member shall be assured of voting by secret ballot.
3. There shall be at least a fifteen (15) day period between notice of election and the actual voting.
4. There shall be an all-Active member vote. A member who is off-track or on dues paying leave shall be sent election information by mail to his/her last known residence.
5. A chapter shall provide means for all Active members to vote (including vote by mail). Each member's regular scheduled voting place is the work site where the member spends the largest percentage of his/her work time. It shall be the responsibility of the member to notify the chapter if s/he desires a ballot at a site other than the regularly scheduled voting place.
6. An Active member shall acknowledge receipt of a ballot by signature on a registration sheet at the time of issuance of the ballot or on an envelope when returning the voted ballot.
7. If a roster of Active members is prepared for a school site ahead of time, initials of the member may be accepted.

#### C. Announcement

1. The announcement of election shall include the offices, length of terms, and the election timeline.
2. The announcement shall be publicized in a manner that ensures every member has an opportunity to file a declaration of candidacy.

#### D. Timeline

1. Schools/Work sites on alternative calendars shall be considered when setting election timelines.
2. The timeline for the election shall include dates for:
  - a. .Announcement of vacancy(ies) and term(s) of office using a method that will ensure each member is aware of the opportunity to file a declaration of candidacy;.
  - b. At least fifteen (15) calendar days between the announcement date of the vacancy(ies) and the date of the election;.
  - c. Place, time and date of receipt (date received, not post-marked date) for declaration of candidacy forms;.
  - d. Final date to acknowledge candidates' declaration of candidacy.
  - e. Date for preparation of ballots;.
  - f. Date on which ballots will be distributed
  - g. . Date by which to request a ballot
  - h. Date(s) when voting will take place.
  - i. Deadline date (date received, not post-marked date), time and place for return of ballots;.
  - j. Date, time, and place where ballots will be counted, which should be immediately following the deadline for receipt of voted ballots;
  - k. Date that announcement of results will be made to leadership, candidates, members, and posted at each work site, which date shall be not later than five (5) calendar days following the counting of ballots
  - l. Dates and timelines for run-off election, if necessary; and
  - m. Deadline for filing of challenges to initial challenge and run-off if held (date received, not post-marked date).

#### E. Finances and Use of Unit Resources

1. Chapter monies received through dues, assessment or similar levy shall not be used to promote any candidate.
2. A candidate may not accept direct contributions from a chapter's treasury or indirect contributions in the form of use of a chapter's assets, facilities, staff, equipment, mailings, good will and credit.
3. A unit may not state or indicate its preference for a candidate in the unit's publications.
4. The use of links to any Association website by a candidate is prohibited.
5. Candidates cannot campaign on any chapter, Service center Council, UniServ or district-created social networking site.
6. District email addresses and/or systems shall not be used for campaigning

7. The official logo of the unit or official Association title may not be used in a way that suggests that the candidate has the support of the unit, CTA, or any of its affiliates. This prohibition includes candidate email addresses.

#### F. Candidate's Rights

1. Privileges extended to one candidate shall be extended to all candidates.
2. Each candidate shall receive a copy of the election timeline, procedures and guidelines.
3. Each candidate shall have the right to a list of the name and address of school sites and the number of Active members at each site for the purposes of campaigning.

#### G. Ballot

1. The names of the candidates shall be printed on the ballot in CTA alphabetical order. The name of each candidate shall be as printed on the declaration of candidacy. When a candidate's last name is hyphenated, the name before the hyphen shall be used for placement on the ballot. In the event that the last name of more than one candidate begins with the same letter or more than one candidate has the same last name, the CTA alphabetical order shall continue to be applied throughout the name including the first name
2. The ballot shall state the name of the office, the term, and the names of the candidates.
3. The ballot shall include space for a write-in candidate, except in run-off elections.

#### H. Distribution of Ballots and Method of Voting

1. Each member shall receive a ballot. Active members who are off-track or on a dues paying leave shall be notified by mail in order to provide them an opportunity to vote.
2. Voting shall be by one or a combination of the following methods:
  - a. At School/Work Site/Specified Voting Site  
If a Site Representative is a candidate, refer to A. Elections Committee, 5.

##### 1) On-Site Voting – Using Ballot Box

- a) Each voter must sign or initial a voter roster/sign-up sheet before receiving a ballot.
  - (1) Voter Roster – List of eligible voters
  - (2) Voter Sign-up Sheet – List of eligible voters which includes a place for a signature..
- b) The marked ballot must be returned to a designated site representative or ballot box.
- c) Site representatives must return all voter roster/sign-up sheets and ballots to the Elections Committee by the designated date and time. Ballots must be secured and uncounted. Roster/Sign-up sheets and ballots from each site must be kept together until verified by Elections Committee.
- d) Preliminary counts shall not be completed at school/work sites.
- e) Refer to Section K for the Counting of Ballots procedures.

##### 2) On-Site Voting – Using Envelopes

When voting is conducted at school or specified sites using envelopes, the procedure shall be as follows:

- a) A list of current Active members shall be prepared, which includes each member's name and school/work address.
  - b) The voter shall be provided with the following:
    - (1) A ballot;
    - (2) Instructions on
      - (i) Folding and placing of the ballot in the unsigned inner envelope;
      - (ii) Placing of the unsigned inner envelope into the outer envelope;
      - (iii) Signature and school on the outer envelope addressed to the chapter; and
      - (iv) Deadline date for receipt of the voted ballot at the chapter office.
    - (3) A small envelope (inner envelope) in which to place the voted ballot; and,
    - 4) A larger envelope (outer envelope) addressed to the chapter, on which the voter prints and signs his/her name.
  - c) At the time of counting of the ballots, the names on the outer envelope shall be checked against the official list of voters. The name on the official list shall be marked to show that the voter has returned a ballot.
  - d) The outer envelope shall then be opened and put in a separate stack for safekeeping as a record of voters.
  - e) All inner envelopes shall be placed in a separate receptacle.
  - f) The inner envelopes shall be slit and the ballots removed from the envelopes, stacked and then counted.
  - g) Refer to section K for the "Counting of Ballots" procedure.
- 3) Voting by mail
- Special care should be taken in all phases of handling of ballots to ensure the accuracy and the secrecy of voting by mail. The following procedures and guidelines have been developed for this situation:
- a) A list of current Active members shall be prepared, which includes the following: name, school/work, and home address.
  - b) A determination shall be made prior to the election whether the ballots shall be sent to the school/work site or to the home of the member.
  - c) Each voter shall be provided with:
    - 1) A ballot;
    - 2) Instructions on
      - (i) folding and placing of the ballot in the unsigned inner envelope;
      - (ii) Placing of the unsigned inner envelope into the outer envelope;
      - (iii) Signature and school on the outer envelope addressed to the chapter; and
      - (iv) Deadline date for receipt of the voted ballot at the chapter office.
    - (3) A small envelope (inner envelope) in which to place the voted ballot;
    - (4) A larger envelope (outer envelope) addressed to the chapter, on which the voter prints and signs his/her name.
  - d) At the time of counting, the names on the outer envelope shall be checked against the official list of eligible voting members.
  - e) The name on the official list should be marked to show that the voter has returned a ballot.
  - f) The outer envelopes shall then be opened and put in a separate stack for safekeeping

- g) All inner envelopes shall be placed in a separate container.
- h) All inner envelopes shall be opened and the ballots removed from the envelopes, stacked, and then counted.
- i) Refer to section K for the “Counting of Ballots” procedure.

## I. Electronic Voting

Electronic voting is only permitted through the CTA Elections and Credentials Committee and with CTA Board approval. See Requirements for Chapter Elections Procedures, Section VII.4., page 6 for requirements

## J. Vote Requirement

All vote requirements shall be established in accordance with CTA guidelines. Unless otherwise specified, all elections shall be decided by majority vote. Write-in votes are valid and must be counted.

1. A majority vote means more than half of the legal votes cast for each office/position on the ballot..
2. A plurality vote means the largest number of votes to be given any candidate or issue.
3. A two-thirds (2/3) vote means at least two thirds (2/3) of the legal votes cast.
4. For unit officers, the election will be by majority.
5. For State Council: The election will be by majority vote and will follow the requirements set forth in the CTA Elections Manual [See the Election Timelines, Procedures, and Guidelines in section IV-9.2 of the CTA Elections Manual.]
  - a. If a unit is a single electoral district, the election for State Council Representative will be counted and reported by the chapter Elections Committee..
  - b. If the unit is within a multiple unit electoral district, results must be sent to the Service Center Council Elections Committee, which counts and reports the results..
6. If no candidate receives a majority vote, a run-off election shall be conducted among the candidates receiving the highest number of votes. The names on the ballot will be one (1) more than the number of vacancies to be filled. There shall be no provisions for write-in candidates in run-off elections..
7. For NEA Local Delegates, the election will be by majority or plurality vote, with the determination to be made in advance of the announcement of the election by the local. Results must be sent to the CTA Governance Support Department..
8. An election for NEA Delegates may be waived and the candidate(s) declared elected if, following a period of open nominations, the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of delegate positions to be filled. An affiliate utilizing this provision must have adopted a governing provision or election policy allowing such a practice. This election practice will not generate successor delegates unless the nomination process requires candidates for both regular and successor delegate positions.
9. For NEA State Delegates, the election will be overseen by the Service Center Council. The local Elections Committee shall submit to the Service Center Council the official CTA/NEA state delegate election Teller’s Report, ballots, Tally Sheets, and signature sheets/rosters. The Service Center Council will forward the results to CTA.
10. For additional CTA/NEA election guidelines refer to the official CTA Elections Manual.

## K. Counting of Ballots

1. The Elections Committee shall verify signature sheets with ballots received and count the ballots, which should be completed immediately following the deadline for receipt of voted

ballots.

2. Each office/position on the ballot shall be treated as a separate race..
3. Blank and/or illegal ballots for each office/position shall be set aside. Examples include the following:
  - a. Member not listed on the voter roster;
  - b. Voter's intent unclear;
  - c. Votes cast for more than number allowed;
  - d. Votes cast on unofficial ballot (probably reproduced); and;
  - e. Candidate is not a member
4. Ballots set aside and not counted are:
  - a. More ballots than signatures;
  - b. Ballot(s) received after deadline
  - c. Voting envelopes without a signature; and
  - d. Ballots that are separated from Roster/Sign-up sheet.
5. The Elections Committee should categorize each illegal ballot, make a determination on whether the vote(s) in each category should be counted separately, as listed on 4 above, and make a note of the decision. The ballots should remain separate.
6. The Elections Committee will prepare the Teller's Report, recording information on the total number of votes cast, the number needed to win/pass, the number of votes received by each candidate/issue and the number of blank and illegal ballots for each office/position with an explanation of illegality, and signed by each Elections Committee member. The Teller's Report shall not contain a school-by-school or site-by-site breakdown report.
7. The Chairperson of the Elections Committee will deliver the report of the election results to the president and interested parties. The election results shall be posted at each work site as soon as possible following the election
8. The ballots and voter sign-up sheets should be retained by the unit for one year after the election..

#### L. Observers

1. Each candidate shall be allowed to have one observer, who may be the candidate, at the vote counting site and shall give the name of the observer to the Elections Committee before counting..
2. An observer shall not interfere with the counting and shall stay in the counting area until the President or designee has been notified of the results and has notified each candidate of the results. The observer must maintain the confidentiality of the election process.

#### M. Challenge Procedure

1. A challenge cannot be initiated until after the results of the elections have been posted at each work site.

2. Challenges for election of State Council Representatives, Alternates, State, and Local delegates to NEA RA follow procedures in the CTA Elections Manual.

3. The challenging party(ies) must notify the unit president and elections chair of a challenge in writing within ten (10) calendar days after the announcement of the results of the election. If the unit president is a candidate on the ballot, please see item number 5. The notification must be on the official CTA Challenge Form. (See Appendix M of the CTA Elections Manual – may be accessed on MyCTA.)

4. Upon receipt of the challenge, the Elections Committee will notify all the candidates in the election being challenged that a challenge has been filed. Within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the challenge, the unit's Elections Committee shall, in accordance with the unit's bylaws and standing rules, conduct an investigation and determine whether or not the challenge:

- a. Is a violation of the unit's election requirement(s).
- b. Is supported by the appropriate documentation.
- c. Requires more information. The information will be obtained via the most feasible method.
- d. Identified violation(s) that may have affected the outcome of the election.
- e. Within the same ten (10) calendar day period, the unit's Elections Committee shall submit a written report including issues and recommendations to the Chapter President and Executive Board.

5. Any member of the Executive Board who was a candidate in the race that is challenged, or whose immediate family member is such a candidate, shall abstain from voting on the report. If in the case where the majority of the Executive Board is unable to act on the challenge, the decision shall move to the next highest decision- making body according to the unit's governance documents.

6. The Executive Board shall act on the report no later than ten (10) calendar days following receipt of the written report of the elections committee in accordance with CTA Challenge Procedures as described in Appendix O – CTA Challenge Procedures – Local Elections of CTA Elections Manual. The Executive Board must issue its decisions in writing to the challenger(s) and the Elections Committee Chair..

7. If the Executive Board fails to act within ten (10) calendar days of the initial challenge, the individual may file an appeal as described below by writing to the CTA President.

8. If the challenging party(ies) wish(es) to appeal the decision of the unit's governance body, he/she may file an appeal in writing within ten (10) calendar days from the date of the decision of the governance body to the CTA President. The appeal shall be the original challenge filed at

the unit level, and additionally shall include the local Elections Committee report and the Executive Board's decision.

9. The challenge procedure for election of State Council Representatives and Alternates, and State or Local Delegates to the NEA Representative Assembly is outlined in the CTA Elections Manual.

#### N. Initiative Procedures

1. The Active membership shall have the authority to make decisions on any matters affecting the Association or its activities through the initiative process.
2. An Active member shall file a notice of the intent to circulate a petition with the chapter president by including a copy of the petition to be circulated, and the names of at least three persons supporting the proposed measure and responsible for its circulation.
3. The chapter president shall register the receipt of the notice of the intent to circulate, and acknowledge such registration in writing with the member filing the notice.
4. The timeline for gathering signatures will commence the day that the notice of intent is registered. A maximum of fifteen (15) calendar days shall be permitted to obtain the signatures of at least sixty percent (60%) or more of the Active members of the chapter. The petition shall contain the question proposed to be placed on the ballot..
5. The circulators shall present to the chapter president the petition(s) containing original signatures.
6. The chapter president shall have thirty (30) calendar days in which to verify the membership of the signers of the petition.
7. If there are insufficient signatures, the petition circulator(s) shall be notified within three (3) calendar days that the petition failed for a lack of signatures.
8. The chapter president shall cause a ballot to be furnished to the members no less than fifteen (15) calendar days after verification of membership, provided that the period that school is officially not in session shall not be included in this count.
9. Regular election procedures (e.g., election of officers) shall be followed including voting times.
10. The proposal shall take effect immediately upon receipt of the required number of votes, unless otherwise specified.

#### O. Referendum Procedures

1. Any action or proposed action of the Representative Council or the Executive Board shall be referred to a vote of the Active membership upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Representative Council at any valid meeting.
2. The referendum action shall prescribe the exact wording of the question to be posed to the Active membership on the ballot.
3. The chapter president shall cause a ballot to be furnished to the Active members no less than fifteen (15) calendar days after action by the referring body, provided that the period that school is officially not in session shall not be included in this count.

4. Regular election procedures (e.g., election of officers) shall be followed including voting times.
5. The proposal shall take effect immediately upon receipt of the required number of votes, unless otherwise specified.

#### P. Recall Procedures

1. The Active membership shall have the authority to recall from office any person or persons having been elected thereto by the chapter's Active members.
2. An Active member(s) desiring to recall a unit officer or other elected office holder must file a copy of a petition thereto by the chapter's Active members..
3. The petition must include the following information:
  - a. Name of individual who is the subject of the recall;
  - b. Office of individual;
  - c. Date of petition
  - d. Name(s) of person(s) filing petition;
  - e. Notation that "Each signature must be in ink"; and
  - f. Space must be provided for the printed name, signature, work site and date of signing for each name on the petition.
4. Within fourteen (14) working days after receipt, the Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall determine whether the petition contains the necessary information.
  - a. If the petition does not contain the necessary information, the Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall so notify the petitioner(s). (See number two (2) above.)
  - b. If the petition contains the necessary information, the Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall inform the petitioner(s) of the rules, procedures, and timeline (beginning date and deadline for gathering of signatures), and the need for protection of due process rights of the parties.
  - c. The Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall send written notification to the unit officer whose recall is being proposed and shall notify the other officers of the unit. A copy of the petition shall be enclosed.
5. Monies from a unit's treasury or indirect contributions in the form of use of a unit's assets, facilities, staff, equipment, mailings, goodwill and credit, or in-kind services must not be used in the recall process
6. No unit may state or indicate its preference in the unit's newspaper, newsletter, or communications to its members..
7. . The timeline for gathering of signatures will commence the day that the notice of intent is registered.

8. A maximum of sixty (60) calendar days shall be permitted to obtain the signatures of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Active members of the chapter. If the person subject to the recall was not elected by the general membership, then the signature requirement is twenty-five percent (25%) of the members of the electing constituency.
9. . The signed petition(s) must be received by the Chairperson of the Elections Committee by the specified deadline date.
10. . The Elections Committee shall have ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the petition to verify signatures
11. If there are insufficient signatures, the Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall notify the petition circulator(s) by mail within five (5) calendar days of verifying the signatures that the petition failed for a lack of signatures
12. Immediately upon verification of the signatures, the Chairperson of the Elections Committee shall notify the president/designee of the fact that a recall has been initiated.
13. The chapter president, or chapter vice president if the chapter president if the person being recalled, shall cause a ballot to be furnished to Active members no less than twenty (20) calendar days after verification of signatures. The period that school is officially not in session shall not be included in this count.
14. The election must be concluded within fifteen (15) calendar days of distribution of the ballots.
15. The election must be conducted with provisions for a secret ballot and voter sign-up sheets.
16. The election shall be certified in accordance to the unit's bylaws.
17. The Chairperson of the Elections Committee will deliver the report to the president of the unit who will immediately notify all interested parties of the election results. The election results shall be posted at each work site as soon as possible following the election.