

ARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

Rationale for Proposed Revised Bylaws

Purpose:

Article XVIII of the current bylaws of the Arlington County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (CCPTA) provides that the "bylaws of this council shall be submitted to the state office every five (5) years for approval by Virginia PTA Bylaws committee on behalf of the Virginia PTA Board of Managers." The current CCPTA bylaws are dated July 2012. Therefore, it is time for them to be reviewed and the proposed revised bylaws to be submitted to the Virginia PTA state office for approval.

Procedure:

According to the procedure outlined by the Virginia PTA, the proposed revised bylaws and this rationale must be submitted to the Executive Board for their input at least thirty-one (31) days prior to the general membership meeting. Then the proposed bylaws and the rationale must be published for at least thirty (30) days so that the CCPTA general membership may review and comment.

At the conclusion of this thirty (30) day period, the proposed bylaws with rationale must be presented to and voted on by the voting body at a regular general membership meeting. A quorum must be present for adoption. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting is required to pass the bylaws revision.

The proposed bylaws must be sent to the Virginia PTA state office no later than two (2) weeks after voting body adoption. The Virginia PTA state bylaws committee will review the proposed bylaws. Upon approval, the Virginia PTA state seal will be affixed to the bylaws.

Format:

The Virginia PTA Bylaws Committee issued a revised bylaws template in July 2017. It has instructed local Councils to use this template when they revise their bylaws. There are many sections in the Virginia bylaws PTA template that must be included in their entirety, exactly as worded. Therefore, the CCPTA proposed revised bylaws are based on the Virginia PTA bylaws template, with language only added where indicated or permitted in the template.

Significant changes between the current CCPTA bylaws and the proposed revised bylaws include the following (articles listed refer to proposed revised bylaws):

(1) Article 2, Section 1.f. - Added: To the list of purposes of the CCPTA: "To advocate for fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding."

(2) Article 3.b. - Changed: The following basic policy of the CCPTA: "shall seek to participate in the decision-making process establishing school policy" (current bylaws) was changed to this principle of the CCPTA: "shall seek to participate in the decision-making process by influencing school policy and advocating for children's issues."

(3) Article 3 - Deleted from current bylaws:

"No part of the net earnings of the association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, trustees, officers or other private persons except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distribution in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III hereof."

"Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the association shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by an association exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (ii) by an association, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code."

"The association or members in their official capacities shall not, directly or indirectly, participate or intervene (in any way, including publishing or distributing of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office, or devote more than an insubstantial part of its activities to attempting to influence legislations by propaganda or otherwise."

"The association may cooperate with other associations and agencies concerned with child welfare, but a PTA representative shall make no commitments that bind the group he/she represents."

(4) Article 4 - Changed: Two separate articles in the current bylaws (Article II: Articles of Organization, and Article IV: Relationship with national PTA and Virginia PTA) were combined into one article in the proposed revised bylaws (Article 4: Relationship with National PTA, Virginia PTA and Constituent Associations)

(5) Article 4, Section 3.b. - Added: A secretary as a required officer

(6) Article 4, Section 3.e. - Changed: A council in good standing shall: "Submit[s] a copy of the fiscal year-end audit report and minutes of the meeting at which it was adopted shall be sent to the state office within thirty (30) days following the adoption of the audit report by the general membership" (current bylaws) was changed to "Submit a copy of the fiscal year-end audit report to the Virginia PTA state office within fifteen (15) days following the adoption of the audit report by the general membership."

(7) Article 4, Section 10 - Changed: "The members of the nominating committee for officers of a constituent association shall be elected by the membership, Board of Directors/Managers, Executive Board, or Executive Committee" (current bylaws language) was changed to "The members of the nominating committee for officers of a council PTA shall be elected by the voting body."

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(8) Article 4, Section 16.a.1. - Changed: In the event that the executive board adopts a written resolution recommending that the council be dissolved and directing that the question of such dissolution be submitted to a vote: "All funds shall be frozen until the question of dissolution is decided" was changed to "Only those funds approved by the voting body in the current budget year may be spent."

(9) Article 4, Section 16.b., c., e., and h. - Added: In the event that the executive board adopts a written resolution recommending that the council be dissolved and directing that the question of such dissolution be submitted to a vote:

- Written notice stating the purpose of such meeting to consider dissolving the council shall be given to each local unit at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting. Such meeting shall be held only during the academic school year.
- A dissolution quorum must be met for the voting body of the council to consider the resolution to dissolve. The dissolution quorum includes the required quorum for general membership meetings per council bylaws plus a majority of the executive board members.
- Voting shall be by ballot.
- Upon adoption to dissolve, the council's charter will be withdrawn by Virginia PTA in accordance with state bylaws.

(10) Article 5, Sections 6 and 7 - Changed: "Only delegates from local units in good standing with Virginia PTA and National PTA may participate in the business of the council" (current bylaws) was changed to "Only the voting body of this council may participate in the business of the council."

(11) Article 5 - Deleted: "This council PTA shall conduct an annual enrollment of members but may admit local PTA/PTSA's to membership at any time."

(12) Article 6, Section 3.a. - Added: "Each member of the nominating committee must be a member of a local PTA/PTSA in good standing within the council."

(13) Article 6, Section 5: Changed: "Officers shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors take office" (current bylaws) was changed to " Officers shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected."

(14) Article 6, Section 5 - Added: "No person shall hold more than one (1) elected office at a time on this council board. No council officer shall serve more than . . . four (4) years in the same office."

(15) Article 6, Section 6.b. - Added: "In the event of a vacancy in the office of president, and also in the absence of a vice president, the general membership shall elect the next president."

(16) Article 7, Section 2 - Deleted: "The vice-president shall be a member ex-officio of all committees except the nominating committee."

(17) Article 9, Section 3 - Added: The following duties for the Executive Board:

- Work to strengthen the local units in its membership and assist the district in the formation of new PTA/PTSAs within the council boundaries.
- Act as liaison between the district PTA and all local units within its boundaries. The district shall organize and strengthen units by working through councils.
- Support local units in achieving and maintaining good standing status.
- Carry on effectively with the work of National PTA, Virginia PTA and Northern Virginia District PTA.
- Coordinate policies and current programs of local units with those of Virginia PTA.
- Submit votes cast by local unit members in their respective council for the Proposed Legislation Program of the Virginia PTA to the District's tabulation.
- Provide for conference and cooperation among the member units on matters of mutual concern within the council boundaries.

(18) Article 9, Section 6 - Changed: "Regular meetings of the executive board shall be held, the time to be fixed by the board at its first meeting of the year" (current bylaws) was changed to "The executive board shall hold at least four (4) meetings during the year. The time and place of meetings shall be set at the first meeting of the executive board after their election."

(19) Article 9, Sections 7 - 9 - Added: The following requirements to the article on the Executive Board:

- The council shall promote the use of Virginia PTA and National PTA publications.
- The council shall be a unit in good standing as prescribed in these bylaws.
- The council shall not legislate for local PTA/PTSA units; that is a council shall not impose any action on the local PTA/PTSA units. However, by a majority vote of the local PTA/PTSA units' general membership, the council may initiate action in matters of common interest within council boundaries. Councils may address legislative items or issues if the position on the legislative item or issue does not conflict with that of Virginia PTA Legislation Program. The council's name must be used and not that of Virginia PTA.

(20) Article 11, Section 5 - Added: "Voting on routine matters may be by voice vote; however, motions requiring a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote (e.g., votes on bylaws) shall be by a rising vote or show of hands by the verified voting body of this council."

(21) Article 12, Section 1 - Changed: "Regular meetings of the association shall be held at least seven (7) times during the school year, unless otherwise provided by the association or by the executive board, five (5) days' notice having been given" (current bylaws) was changed to "Regular meetings of the council shall be held at least seven (7) times during the school year, ten (10) days' notice having been given."

(22) Article 15, Section 1 - Added: "The [bylaws] revision anniversary date will be five (5) years from the Virginia PTA Bylaws Committee date of approval."