

Constitution

Article I. AUTHORITY AND COMPOSITION

- Section I. This organization shall be known as the Student Council or Student Government of Lakewood High School
- Section II. The Student Council shall receive its power and authority from and be subject to that of the administration of Lakewood High School, and shall work closely with the administrators and students in the students' best interests. This organization shall have the sole authority to represent the students in matters of school wide concern.
- Section III. The Student Council shall be in charge of all school wide elections.
- Section IV. The Student Council shall have the authority to carry out all proposals made by the SC and approved by the administration.
- Section V. The voting membership of the Student Council shall consist of all duly elected SC members, plus appointed members, if any.

Article II. STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Section I. The membership shall be composed of interested students who have met and passed the criteria as established in Article VIII.
- Section II. SC and/or faculty advisers may initiate removal and/or censure against any member of SC. In the event of such proceedings, the Special Disciplinary Committee (SDC) will convene to hear the case(s). The decision of the SDC is final. Appeals may be made to the administration.
- Section III. Students must maintain a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (cumulative) in order to remain in SC for the upcoming semester. Once dismissed from SC for insufficient academic performance, a student may not re-apply for election for at least one calendar year.
- Section IV. Dismissal: Students shall be dismissed, pending an SPC hearing, if they violate school, county, state, or federal policies and/or laws and suspended from school for such violations. If suspension should not occur in cases of

clear violation of such laws and/or policies, disciplinary proceedings can be initiated by the SC president, the administration, or the adviser.

Section V. All officers are to be agents of the student body and must consistently sustain as a respectable and diligent representative at all public and non-public school affairs.

Article III. THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Section I. President's Responsibilities

Subsection I. The president shall preside over all business meetings, prepare the agenda, schedule activities for the SC, assign bills (proposals) and projects to committees.

Subsection II. The president shall propose goals and directions of the SC over the length of his/her administration.

Subsection III. The SC members shall serve as committee chairs, and may be removed from that position by the president upon advisement of the other SC members, school administration, or adviser. The president is an ad hoc member of all committees and is ultimately responsible for their actions.

Subsection IV. The president, or his/her designee, shall be the representative of the school and the student body at all school, community, and civic affairs.

Section II. Vice President's Responsibilities

Subsection I. The vice president shall carry out the duties and responsibilities of the president in the event that the president is unable or unwilling to do so.

Subsection II. The vice president shall serve as an ad hoc committee member to different committees by the assignment of or in the absence of the SC president.

Subsection III. The vice president shall be the representative of the student body at all school, community, and civic functions in the absence of or at the request of the SC president.

Subsection IV. The vice president shall assist the president and the advisor in coordination the activities for all committees in the SC.

Article IV. STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- Section I. The SC shall consist of the president, the vice president, the secretary, the social media chair, all class representatives, committee heads, and any special representatives. The adviser should be present at all meetings.
- Section II. The SC shall advise the president on all matters concerning the activities of the SC.
- Section III. SC members shall attend all scheduled meetings unless a prearranged absence has been approved by the president.

Article V. PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

- Section I. The SC president has the power to appoint committee chairs as needed.
- Section II. The SC president has the power to appoint replacement and/or additional members from the student body in order to maintain and/or achieve proper and equitable representation from each grade level class and all groups.

Article VI. GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

- Section I. Major proposals that affect the function of a standing committee must first be referred to that committee for analysis and opinion. Proposals may be assigned to any committee decided upon by the SC president.
- Section II. The SC president has the veto power over all SC-approved legislation. The membership may override a presidential veto by a two-thirds vote.
- Section III. The SC shall use *Robert's Rules of Order*, Revised, as a basis for their parliamentary procedure with the following modifications:
- (A) A speaker may not be interrupted for a question or a point of clarification.
 - (B) Debate on a motion or amendment may not commence unless the author is present.
- Section IV. The SC shall, at all times, operate as closely to a true constitutional government as possible, with all the dignity and seriousness therein.

Article VII. COMMITTEES

- Section I. There shall be standing committees in SC to diversify the operations and to allow every member to take an active part in the SC.
- Section II. Each member of the SC must participate in at least one committee, but is not limited to serve on just one.

Section III. Each committee shall allow students from outside the SC to participate as full committee members, if they so desire. Each committee shall actively recruit members from the student body or as a concerted SC drive. Committees other than SC members should endeavor to hold committee meetings for these students at a time convenient to them.

Section IV. There will be the following standing committees and can be changed based on President/Advisor decision:

- (A) SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT: Responsible for promoting the improvement and maintenance of the school's facilities, resources and grounds in the best interest of the student body.
- (B) STUDENT INVOLVEMENT: Responsible for communicating with other school organizations and getting the students involved in school activities.
- (C) PUBLIC RELATIONS: Responsible for promoting the SC to students, faculty, administration, and community. They are responsible for maintaining all SC display cases, bulletin boards, directories, and other related media; writing articles about SC in the school and community newspapers, recognizing faculty and students who make contributions to the school and community. They are also in charge of providing a forum for student and faculty suggestions and complaints.
- (D) SPIRIT: Responsible for promoting school spirit and pride at and in Lakewood High School. Get students involved with school wide activities.
- (E) HOSPITALITY: Responsible for promoting school unity, greeting new students and faculty, as well as making guests to the school feel welcome.

Section V. A committee may, upon proper notice, request the SC president to schedule a class work period for the completion of a project when a work period is not on the agenda. The SC president retains the right to refuse such a request.

Section VI. Duties of Committee Chairs.

Subsection I. All committee chairs shall report to the membership on a regular basis at regular meetings on their activities. They must prepare a report evaluation each project upon its completion. They must contribute to the development of an on-going SC handbook at the end of their administration.

Subsection II. Everyday duties:

- (A) Committee chairs shall appoint an assistant and notify their committee and inform the SC president as to who that person is.
- (B) Each committee chair must attend all SC meetings, or be sure that a substitute is there.
- (C) During ongoing project work periods, the committee chair must know the whereabouts of each committee member at all times.
- (D) The committee chair must set up written goals and objectives each semester.

Article VIII. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP S.C. and Gov.

- Section I. No officer or member candidate shall be eligible for membership if they have been suspended from school within the current school year.
- Section II. Any student who shall be a senior during his or her term of office may be nominated for the position of president. If no senior is nominated, nominations will be opened for juniors.
- Section III. Any Lakewood High School student who shall be a junior or a senior during the term of office may be nominated for the position of vice president.
- Section IV. All nominees for either office must have a cumulative grade point average of no less than 3.0 at the time of nomination to qualify for candidacy.
- Section V. Nominees for president and vice president must have at least one semester-hour available in their upcoming year's class schedule to be scheduled as an independent study leadership class.
- Section VI. All nominees for either office must submit a notification of candidacy petition signed by at least 80 members of the student body, excluding seniors.
- Section VII. All nominees for class representative positions must have a notification of candidacy petition signed by at least 40 members of their class.
- Section IX. All members shall be present at least 90% of the prior school year in order to run. Number of school days divided by days present for the past year.
- Section X. Failure to attend orientation session(s) for any potential SC officer or representative will render a candidate ineligible to seek office in the current election. Failure to turn in permission forms, petitions, and other required paperwork will also render a candidate ineligible to run for office.

Section XI. All persons elected to the SC must comply with the standards of Article II, Section I, Subsections II and IV to remain in SC. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary measure which may result in dismissal from SC.

Article IX. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section I. All amendments to this constitution must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the SC and approved by the administration.

Section II. Any amendment to this constitution initiated by the student body must be approved by a three-fourths vote of the student body. Upon verification of the signature by the SC, and approval of the administration, the amendment shall be accepted into the constitution.

Article X. AMENDMENTS

Section I. The newly elected Student Council members will have a meeting with all previous Student Council members to answer any questions, give any suggestions, and go over the responsibilities for each member.

Section II. Each member gets points for going to things such as meetings. In order to participate in “fun things” or activities that get you out of school each member needs a certain amount of points as decided by the President and Advisor.

Section III. Each student wanting to run for Student Council President must have been involved with Student or Class government previous to running.

Section IV. Each student wanting to run for Student Council President must complete an application and hand it in to the Student Council Advisor by the given date.

Section V. Any student that wants to be involved in a committee of Student Council must completely fill out an application by the suggested date.