

North Buncombe High School

Student Government Constitution

Mission Statement

Our Mission as leaders is to be the bridge between students and staff by fostering a supportive environment for all. We serve as a voice of the students to make a positive impact in our school and community.

Article 1 – Elections

Section 1: You must maintain an unweighted GPA of 2.5 or higher to run for a position. You are required to take the Leadership class as well as maintain involvement in the second semester morning and/or afternoon meetings and events.

Section 2: All candidates wishing to run for office must attend a mandatory meeting. If a candidate anticipates an absence from the aforementioned meeting under dire circumstances, they must have the absence approved by the advisor before the day of the meeting. Then, candidates must declare their intended position and sign the appropriate contract on a specified deadline. All candidates must be reviewed and approved by the advisor and administration prior to campaigning.

Section 3: Any officer wishing to hold a Student Body (SB) position must have two years of experience on the council at NBHS. Students running for SB office must be in the class the year prior to the year running. SB President and Vice-President candidates must be rising seniors; SB Secretary and Treasurer candidates must be either rising seniors or juniors.

Section 4: Elections for SB will be held early in the spring semester and class office elections will be completed prior to student registration in March. The advisor, current senior and student body officers, and the newly elected SB officers will run elections.

Section 5: The following percentages will be used in determining the winners of SB President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer and Senior Class President and All Junior Class Officers: 100-point scale with the following percentages: 40% Student Votes; 15% Weighted GPA; 15% Recommendations; 15% Interview; and 15% Essay

All other positions are based on 100 points with the following percentages: 40% Student Votes; 20% Weighted GPA; 20% Recommendations; and 20% Essay.

Section 6: In the event that a student receives a “no” on their teacher recommendation, the student council advisor will inform the candidate that they have, and that they will be given the option to set up a meeting to plead their case in front of the advisor and two administrators. If the student fails to attend the

meeting to plead their case, they will be immediately disqualified from the race. If the student chooses not to plead, they will be immediately disqualified from the race.

Section 7: Open voter registration will be held for at least a 1-week period prior to the elections. Student registration will be held during a specified time. Only registered voters will be allowed to attend, view or hear candidate speeches and vote in the election. Candidates are responsible for encouraging and promoting voter registration. Students may campaign during registration as long as they are not actively registering other students. Seniors and unopposed class office candidates will handle registration.

Section 8: All candidates will give a live speech on voting day at the designated time and place. SB Officers will give a short greeting/speech to begin the speech portion prior to voting. All opposed candidates will give a speech. Unopposed candidates may or may not give a speech due to time constraints. Candidates are not allowed to use mudslinging or negative comments of any kind in their speech. Candidate speeches must be submitted to the advisor on the designated day for review. Candidates that veer from their original speech in a way that is inappropriate or against the rules laid out in the campaign section will be disqualified. Students who fail to turn in their written speech by the deadline will have 5 points deducted from their total point value.

Section 9: A minimum score of 85 points must be achieved for any student running unopposed. In a 100-point scale, there would be the range of 85-100 with the understanding that the candidate would receive 40 points from the vote since he/she is unopposed. All opposed candidates should get a minimum of 45 points without the points from voting factored in.

Section 10: Candidates are not allowed to use candy, toys, etc. on campus as bribery during the election process. Candidates are limited to eight campaign posters that may be put up around the school beginning on the designated first day of the campaign by the advisor. Candidates are allowed to distribute unlimited amounts of informational flyers or paper handouts. NO BRIBERY, MUDSLINGING, OR NEGATIVE COMMENTS OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SOCIAL MEDIA. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in immediate disqualification. Refer to Article 4, Section 1 for disciplinary action.

Section 11: The advisor has the right to appoint a student to the council for any unfilled positions. Students must meet the same minimum requirements of any other candidate for student council. These requirements are as follows; 2.5 GPA or higher, 85 points composed of the candidate's weighted GPA, recommendations, and essay.

Section 12: Rising ninth grade representatives are elected through the middle school. NBHS student council and advisor are not involved in this process. Elections typically take place in May at North Buncombe Middle School. The middle school advisor sends ninth grade representative names to the high school advisor.

Article 2 – Responsibilities (1st semester in Leadership class)

Section 1: Class will begin with a meeting each day to layout the agenda for the day and/or week. Discussion may include voting, updates, etc. about upcoming projects and events.

Section 2: The Executive Council presides over the council in conjunction with the advisor. SB Vice President replaces the president in the case of removal from council, helps lead the council to make decisions, etc. The SB President, SB Vice President, and Senior Class President make the afternoon announcements. Executive council will sit in on the interview process for end of year elections.

Section 3: Senior members of council are required to help with elections in the spring. It is their responsibility to plan class reunions. Junior members of council are required to plan the Senior/Junior Prom in association with the prom advisor.

Article 3 – Homecoming

Section 1: When the council comes to session first semester, one of its first duties will be to coordinate and execute homecoming. To do this, council members will be placed into one of the following committees: Homecoming, Spirit Week, King Court, Parade, or Pep Rally. In certain circumstances, some committees may be grouped together-- this issue shall be resolved on a yearly as-needed basis.

Section 2: Each of the homecoming committees is responsible for a number of things in the execution of their work. Such responsibilities include, but are not limited to; Calling members of the community/businesses, getting early dismissal from class approved by administration, orchestrating events for student participation, arranging a vote for student consideration, and working with the city of Weaverville to arrange the homecoming parade.

Section 3: Three weeks before homecoming, nominees for the homecoming court will be chosen via google form by the Hawk Quests. Hawk quests are only allowed one nominee. In the following week, after getting permission from the nominees, a second vote will be conducted to determine the homecoming court, and finally a third vote will be held among only juniors and seniors to determine the queen and maid of honor, who will then be announced at the homecoming football game. Votes are verified and approved by administration. King court nominees are chosen by the committee in charge of King court on a year-by-year basis. With the permission of the final nominees, the homecoming king will be chosen at the pep rally by student cheers.

Article 4 – Discipline

Section 1: Disciplinary action will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the advisor, administration, and council members when necessary.

Section 2: Any student council member who receives OSS may be removed from the class and stripped of his/her office and title. Leaders are expected to conduct themselves as role models. Good judgment should be used when using and posting to Social Media, including but not limited to: Facebook, Twitter,

Instagram, Snapchat, texting, etc. In addition, please refer to the NBHS Cheating Policy in the Student Handbook. Refer to section 1 for disciplinary action.

Article 5 – Responsibilities (2nd Semester Council)

Section 1: Each council will decide that year the expectations for the spring semester. These should include: as needed council meetings; assistance with voter registration and elections; Senior Day (seniors); prom (Juniors); projects we are asked to support and/or coordinate; end-of-year celebration for the council.

Section 2: The newly elected council is required to meet in order to: gather contact information for new members, discuss the leadership class; makes plans/dates for New Student Orientation and Homecoming week dates. After elections are completed, the council will continue to meet on an as-needed basis with the current council and newly elected members.

Article 6 – Amending the Constitution

Section 1: One person is needed to propose an amendment or by-law. After discussion of the proposal, a vote is to be taken. There must be a 75% majority vote to put the amendment in place.

Section 2: Presidential succession is to take place in the case of a vacant position or if a member is removed due to disciplinary action. All current student council members are expected to behave in a manner that represents the school, the council, and themselves in a professional and leadership manner. This includes behavior on and off campus and is inclusive of all social media including: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. Removal from the council can occur at the discretion of the faculty advisor and/or the administration. Refer to Article 4 section 1 for disciplinary action.

Article 7 – Graduation

Section 1: Students who have been in the Leadership/Student Council class for at least three years and maintain a weighted GPA requirement of at least 3.5 will receive a Graduation Honors Cord.

Section 2: Senior Class President will be on stage to assist with the presentation of diplomas. They will be the first to graduate in their class.

Amended and Revised by 85% majority in the December 10th 2021 session