

LAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL
CONSTITUTION

Preamble

WHEREAS, We, the students of Lakeland High School, wish to promote better relations between students, faculty, administration, community; and

WHEREAS, We wish to develop and promote a sense of school spirit and responsibility in the student body; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to coordinate the activities of the various organizations in the school; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to improve Lakeland High School and interschool relations in all ways possible;

WE, the students of Lakeland High School, do hereby establish and maintain a student government to be representative of the general student body and known hereafter as the General Organization or G.O. of Lakeland High School.

Article I Officers and the Executive Council

Section A. The Executive Council shall consist of the following voting members. Each member shall have only one vote.

1. President, or designee, of the G.O. – shall vote only in case of a tie
2. Vice-President, or designee
3. Secretary, or designee
4. Treasurer, or designee
5. Presidents, or designees, of each Class
6. Chairmen of all standing Committees
7. Chairmen of all temporary Committees which will be in existence for three or more school months
8. In the event no specific Officers are elected, the cabinet will identify designees for roles, as specified above.

Section B. The Student Congress shall consist of the Executive Council and all other elected cabinet members.

Article II Nomination and Election of G.O. Officers and the Student Congress

Section A. All students in grades 9 through 11 shall be allowed to vote in annual elections designed to promote careful consideration of the issues and candidates. Incoming freshmen will elect representatives each fall.

Section B. Nomination and election of Officers and Student Congress members will take place on a date some time in April for rising 10-12 graders. The same opportunity will be afforded to freshmen in September.

Section C. Students may run as a group for specific offices or as an undefined cabinet. Cabinet should contain 4 to 6 members.

Section D. A non-binding faculty vote will also be held for advising purposes for all student government elections.

Section E. Candidates for the G.O. cabinet must be from the Senior Class.

Section F. All candidates seeking office must have a passing average in each subject.

Section G. Candidates for the Student Congress will automatically be nominated upon submitting to and having been approved by the Political Affairs Committee, a petition of 50 names. Petitions for Class Officer positions must contain names of students from the respective grade level.

Section H. Candidates for G.O. office will be presented in a special assembly to the Student Body, to be held in May and September, respectively. All candidates must be present and participate in the assembly to be elected.

Section I. Candidates are permitted to conduct campaigns as stipulated below:

1. Within a given time frame, generally one week prior to the election.
2. Campaign posters and signs should be limited to the Fine Arts and Industrial Hallways. No posters should be hung in unauthorized areas such as on windows, academic hallway walls, lockers, light fixtures, etc.
3. All signs and posters must be approved by administration before posting.
4. No more than 50 posters should be hung in the building, per candidate or cabinet.
5. Vandalizing of the campaign materials of other candidates can result in removal from candidacy.
6. Any gifts or tokens, which candidates choose to distribute, can be worth no more than \$1 per item, and any food products must adhere to the district Wellness Policy.

Section J. G.O. Officers and members of the Student Congress shall be elected by secret ballot.

Section K. Students eligible to vote for the Student Congress members are only those students in the candidates' grade.

Section L. No person may be elected to more than one G.O. position.

Section M. Write-in candidates are not allowed.

Section N. Members of the Student Congress shall be responsible for initiating the impeachment process as laid out in this document.

Article III. Duties of Officers and agencies of the G.O.

Section A. Duties of Officers of the Executive Council.

1. President, or designee
 - a. Shall preside at all Executive Council and G.O. meetings
 - b. Shall participate in all assemblies, as needed
 - c. Shall have the power to create any special Committees deemed necessary by the President, or designee or Student Congress. All permanent Committees shall be subject to approval by a 2/3 vote of the Student Congress.
 - d. Shall have the power to spend up to \$25 without approval of Student Congress unless an emergency exists as determined by G.O. Advisor, for items deemed necessary for operation of the G.O., and shall report such expenses to the Treasurer, or designee. Advisor must approve all expenditures over \$50.
 - e. Shall have the power to appoint a G.O. Vice-President, or designee, Secretary, or designee, or Treasurer, or designee in the event no one is elected, of impeachment, or of resignation. The Student Congress must approve any appointee by a 2/3 vote.
 - f. Shall have the power to call all meetings of the Executive Council and Student Congress.
 - g. May vote in the event of a tie.
2. Vice-President, or designee
 - a. Shall become President in the event the Presidency is vacated.
 - b. Shall preside at G.O. meetings in the absence of the President, or designee.

- c. Shall fulfill any other duties as delegated by the President, or designee.
 - d. Shall make up the agenda for Executive Council and general G.O. meetings.
3. Secretary, or designee
- a. Shall take attendance.
 - b. Shall keep the minutes of G.O. and Executive Council meetings.
 - c. Shall attend to all correspondence of the G.O.
 - d. Shall make known the minutes of the last meeting to the Student Body.
 - e. Shall carry out a roll call vote, when requested, and seconded by any Student Congress member.
 - f. Shall provide each member of the Student Congress with a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.
 - g. Shall, at each general meeting of the Student Congress and Executive Council, read the minutes of the previous meeting.
 - h. Shall be considered to fill the position of Vice President should a vacancy occur.
 - i. Shall make known to the General Student Body the procedure for attaining a G.O. meeting on a student issue. This procedure shall consist of written notification to the G.O. Secretary, or designee, requesting a hearing and outlining the issue at least two days before the date of the meeting at which the meeting will occur.
 - j. Shall perform any other duties delegated by the President, or designee.
4. Treasurer, or designee
- a. Shall keep records of, and attend to all financial activities of the G.O., its Committees, and the Executive Council.
 - b. The Student Government shall have the responsibility to receive and regulate activity funds under G.O. jurisdiction subject to established audit controls of New York State.
 - c. Shall be considered to fill the position of Secretary should a vacancy occur.

Section B. Description and duties of G.O. Agencies.

1. Standing Committees
- a. Political Affairs
 - 1. Shall consist of at least four and no more than six voting members from the G.O. The committee will coordinate with advisor and administration on

procedures and details on any election. The advisor will make final decisions on any issues in dispute among the G.O. cabinet.

2. Duties of Committee
 - a. Initiate and hear impeachment charges.
 - b. Carry out polls and referendums when deemed necessary by Student Congress.
 - c. Revise the Constitution.
 - d. Organize and carry out all elections.
 - e. Make available to all students a copy of the School Policy.
 - f. Hear student grievances.
- b. Principal's Advisory Committee
 1. Each class shall designate one elected member to serve on the Principal's Advisory Council.
 2. Duties of Committee
 - a. Initiate meetings of Principal's Advisory Council, as needed.
- c. Social Affairs
 1. Each class shall appoint a committee to organize all social events for the class.
 2. Committee members must coordinate with advisors and building administration on all details related to calendar, event themes, criteria for participation, etc.
- d. Fundraising Committee
 1. Each class shall appoint a committee to organize all fundraising events for the class.
 2. Committee members must coordinate with advisors and building administration on all details related to calendar, event themes, criteria for participation, etc.

Article IV. Loss and Replacement of Representatives and Officers

Section A. Removal and Replacement of Class Officers and Student Congress members.

1. Student Congress shall initiate impeachment proceedings through the G.O. Political Affairs Committee.

2. Student Congress members and G.O. Officers may be dismissed by 2/3 vote of Student Congress.
3. A Committee Chairman, or designee, may be dismissed by a 2/3 vote of the Student Congress or by the President, or designee of the G.O., except a Chairman elected by a Committee who may be removed by a 2/3 vote of that Committee.
4. Any voting member of the Student Congress may initiate impeachment proceedings.
5. Impeachment proceedings for G.O. and Class Officers and Student Congress members must be approved by a majority vote of Political Affairs Committee and only for the reasons stated below:
 - a. Malfeasance in office.
 - b. Failure to carry out constitutional duties.
 - c. Failure to maintain a passing overall average.
 - d. Three consecutive or six accumulated, unexcused absences from G.O. meetings.
6. If a member of the Student Congress is removed from office, the vacancy thus created will be fulfilled by a person designated by the Class President, or designee, with the consent of a 2/3 majority of the Class Council.
7. Every G.O. member charged with being “lax in duty” has the right to defend his or her case by calling witnesses. He or she may also cross-examine the complainant and his witnesses. After all evidence has been aired, the Student Congress will vote on the charges. A 2/3 vote is necessary for dismissal.
8.
 - a. If the Office of President and Vice-President of the G.O. are vacant at the same time, the Secretary, then the Treasurer should be considered to fill these vacancies. If they are not interested, then it is the responsibility of the Political Affairs Committee to nominate a President who must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Student Congress.
 - b. If the Office of President of the G.O. is vacated, the Vice-President, or designee, will immediately become President and will appoint a Vice-President who must be approved by 2/3 vote of the Student Congress. The Secretary and then

the Treasurer should be considered for this vacancy over outside candidates.

Section B. The Chairman, or designee, of the Standing Committees shall be responsible for the appointment and removal of all individuals within their respective Committees. If no Chairman has been identified, then the advisor will decide.

Article V. G.O. and Executive Council Meetings

Section A. G.O. and Executive Council meetings shall be held whenever necessary but ideally once every two weeks.

Article VI. Right to Petition

Section A. Students have a right to petition the administration. A petition must have fifty student signatures and it must be sponsored, but not approved, by the G.O. A meeting shall be held within five school days between the Principal and/or his agent, two representatives from the G.O., and two or three petitioners. A written response must be furnished within three school days after the meeting.

Section B. If the petitioners feel the decision of the Principal is not acceptable, then they may petition the Superintendent of Schools. G.O. requests the Superintendent respond, in writing, within 10 school days.

Section C. If the petitioners are still not satisfied, they may petition the Board of Education through their Board of Education representative.

This step-by-step process may not be circumvented for any reason whatsoever.

Article VII. Veto Power of the Principal

Section A. The right to veto any actions of the G.O., except its inner governmental workings, rests with the Principal of Lakeland High School.

Article VIII. Amendments

Section A. Anyone may propose an amendment to the Constitution.

Section B. An amendment, having been proposed, will immediately be submitted to the Political Affairs Committee to determine its value and feasibility.

Section C. The Political Affairs Committee will report its findings to the Student Congress at the next G.O. meeting.

Section D. An amendment must be ratified by $2/3$ of the voting membership of the Student Congress to become law.

Adopted April 2, 2009