

# New Trier Student Council Constitution

## ARTICLE I - PURPOSES AND POWERS

### Section 1. Purposes:

1. To formulate and express the opinions, recommendations, and suggestions of the student body to the administration, faculty, and the Board of Education.
2. To find balance between the students' voices and the administration's policies.
3. To achieve school-wide awareness of, and participation in, student-led and extracurricular opportunities unique to current interests.
4. To support activities that benefit students and the community.
5. To promote school spirit and strengthen New Trier's identity.
6. To promote diversity, inclusion, and belonging through a commitment to equity work.
7. To advocate for the sovereignty and autonomy of all clubs and organizations at New Trier Township High School.
8. To pursue any goals proposed each year by the board.

### Section 2. Powers:

1. To regulate the existence of clubs through charters.
2. To budget and supervise the activities fee fund.
3. To originate referenda to determine the opinion of the student body.
4. To define and protect students' rights.
5. To take all steps necessary and proper for carrying out the purposes of the Student Council.
6. To update the Constitution annually.
7. The school administration has the right to veto any act of the organization or to revoke any of the powers held by the organization.

## ARTICLE II - OFFICERS

- Section 1.** The officers of Student Council shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and School Culture Commissioner.
- Section 2.** Except for the President, the officers shall have the right to vote in formal and special meetings. The President is responsible for casting a tie-breaking ballot in the event of a tied vote.
- Section 3.** Officers shall meet with sponsors at least once a week to discuss Student Council issues, agendas, and other relevant topics.
- Section 4.** It shall be encouraged that any officer or group of officers attend one Board of Education meeting every year.
- Section 5.** Newly elected officers will assume certain duties in the fourth quarter after their election with the understanding that the former officers will share the duties of office until the end of their term.
- Section 6.** Officers shall be responsible for appointing Student Council board members.
- Section 7.** The officers shall abide by the Extracurricular Code.
- Section 8.** Officers shall perform constituency reports as needed.
- Section 9.** Officers can resign from their position and assume the role of a board member.

## ARTICLE III - OFFICER DUTIES

### Section 1. The President shall:

1. Call and chair all formal meetings.
2. Call periodic officer meetings as needed.
3. Present project recommendations for the Student Council Board to consider but cannot make formal motions.
4. Meet periodically with members of the administration to discuss matters of importance.

### Section 2. The Vice-President shall:

1. Assume all responsibility of the President when they are unable to do so.
2. Direct all Student Council elections. If the Vice President is running in a Student Council election, the VP will forfeit the following responsibilities for the election stated in Article 5 sections 6 and 7.
3. Record updates to the Constitution annually
4. Meet periodically with members of the administration to discuss matters of importance.

### Section 3. The Secretary shall:

1. Record, publish, and distribute minutes at the request of all Student Council members, other students, club sponsors and faculty.
2. Assume all responsibilities of the Vice-President when they are unable to do so.
3. Tally the votes and record attendance.
4. Meet periodically with members of the administration to discuss matters of importance.

### Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

1. Chair the annual Budget Day Committee hearings.
2. Assume all responsibilities of the Secretary when they are unable to do so.
3. Appoint students to the Budget Committee.
4. Keep an exact record, in writing, of all Student Council bank accounts and provide a budget report to students, administrators, and faculty who ask for it.
5. Ensure the reimbursement for all Student Council expenditures.
6. Meet periodically with members of the administration to discuss matters of importance.

### Section 5. The School Culture Commissioner shall:

1. Organize events related to the promotion of school culture.
2. Assume all responsibilities of the Treasurer when they are unable to do so.
3. Plan and direct initiatives to enhance esprit de corps and bolster Trevian pride.
4. Meet regularly with student constituents to seek feedback and ideas related to school culture and the student experience.
5. Meet periodically with members of the administration to discuss matters of importance.

## ARTICLE IV - THE DUTIES OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL BOARD

### Section 1. The Student Council Board members shall:

1. Serve on at least one standing Student Council committee.
2. Inform the student body of issues affecting them whenever a constituency is assigned or when a forum is conducted.
3. Represent the student body by expressing their opinions to the Student Council officers, the administration, the faculty, and the Board of Education.
4. Report during Period 5 to the Student Council room.
5. Attend all meetings unless excursions, illnesses, or emergencies prevent their attendance.
6. Abide by the Extracurricular Code.

## ARTICLE V - THE DUTIES OF THE SPONSORS

### Section 1. The Student Council Sponsors shall:

1. Serve as the main facilitators, role models, and mentors for the Student Council.
2. Cultivate a safe, welcoming, positive club environment.
3. Foster opportunities for leadership development among members.
4. Ensure that students work within the mission and charter of the club, and within the scope of school policies and procedures.
5. Be present at all club-related meetings, informal gatherings, events, activities, outings, and competitions, on and off campus.
6. Record regular attendance.
7. Practice responsible stewardship of the club's financial planning and management including fundraising, cash handling, deposits, donations, P-card use, and purchases.

## ARTICLE VI - ELECTIONS

- Section 1.** Juniors with at least three semesters of experience on Student Council are eligible to run for the position of President. All other positions (Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and School Culture Commissioner) require 1 semester of experience on Student Council to run.
- Section 2.** Officer elections shall take place during the third quarter.
- Section 3.** Board selections shall begin immediately after the conclusion of officer elections.
- Section 4.** The officers shall assume full responsibilities after the last day of senior attendance and shall serve a term of two semesters the following school year.

- Section 5.** The Vice-President shall validate all petitions. If the Vice-President is running in a Student Council election, they will forfeit this responsibility to the next officer in the order of succession who is not running in the election.
- Section 6.** The Vice-President shall be responsible for working with the head sponsor to record all electronic ballots accurately. If the Vice-President is running in a Student Council election, they will forfeit this responsibility.
- Section 7.** There shall be a special board election for the officers where the total board vote shall equal 25% of the school-wide popular vote.
- Section 8.** If there are more than two candidates for a single officer position, a primary election will be held within Student Council where all voting members will vote. The top two vote getters will move on to the general election. In the event of a tie, all tying candidates for first or second place will move on to the general election.

## ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

- Section 1.** Proposed clubs will be discussed in special meetings.
- Section 2.** Formal meetings shall be conducted under the procedures outlined in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised which should be available to all board members.
- Section 3.** Formal meetings shall take the form as follows:
1. The President shall chair the meeting and call the meeting to order.
  2. In the event of absence or a conflict of interest, the President can defer chairmanship to other officers in the order of: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and School Culture Commissioner.
  3. Officers shall make weekly officer announcements, which will address officer issues presented by the board, other officers, the administration, and other subjects of relevance.
  4. Committee heads shall make weekly committee announcements, which will detail progress made on projects and other subjects of relevance.
  5. The chair shall open the floor to any old business not settled in previous meetings. Old business is only open to motions.
  6. New business shall follow old business, where new motions shall be presented to the board.
  7. The current officers shall decide the specific procedures of formal meetings and communicate them with the rest of the board.
  8. The debate shall stop when no further speeches are presented or when a board member moves the previous question.
  9. With a 2/3 majority vote, discussion can end and move on to a formal vote.
  10. Unless specified by the motion, all main motions shall pass with a majority vote.
- Section 4.** Special meetings may also be called by the President with the approval of the Vice President, by unanimous consent of the sponsors, or by any four officers. These meetings will follow the rules of formal meetings. The agenda is determined by the person calling for the meeting and should be clearly expressed if the meeting is approved and called to order.

- Section 5.** Club proposal meetings do not follow the same procedure as formal meetings. The procedure goes as follows:
1. If the Board unanimously agrees to hear a club proposal, the meeting shall be called to order by the Presiding Officer.
  2. The floor is immediately turned over to a designated Board member, who shall make a formal motion to pass the club proposal.
  3. After the motion is made, the floor belongs to the club representative(s), who can use the time at his/her discretion to explain their club or to answer questions from the Board.
  4. At any time, any Board member except the President may make a motion to close debate. In the event of a majority vote, business immediately moves to the next club without a motion to reconsider.
  5. At the discretion of the chair, the club representatives may be asked to leave the room for the vote.
  6. A motion to adjourn can only be made when either all clubs present are discussed and voted on or when time expires.
  7. A meeting may be called any day of the week.
  8. Any club representative conflict of interest with any Student Council member will be resolved by the officers and sponsors.
- Section 6.** Duties of the Chair:
1. The chair is responsible for keeping order in the meeting and ensuring Robert's Rules are followed.
  2. Nobody may speak unless formally recognized by the chair.
  3. The chair can limit speech and questioning times in order to expedite the meeting and ensure all matters are addressed.
- Section 7.** If a student representative from the club is not available to attend a club's meeting, the Clubs Committee may, with the approval of three officers, schedule the meeting for another day. If a representative from the club cannot come on any day, the club must submit a form to StuCo explaining the club's merits and the reason for which no member can attend the meeting.
- Section 8.** A majority of all voting members shall constitute quorum.
- Section 9.** A majority of all voting members present, and voting shall be required to pass any main motion. Board members who abstain will function as a non-vote and shall be excluded from vote total. Abstentions are *not* counted as "nay" votes.
- Section 10.** Minutes for all meetings shall be made available to the public within a week of their approval. A complete and/or an abridged version must be made easily accessible to constituents, and a complete version must be kept in the archives. This duty shall be carried out by the Secretary.
- Section 11.** A pre-meeting shall be held by the officers in order to discuss the agenda on a day to be determined by the President and sponsors. This should be a consistent meeting day.

## ARTICLE VIII - CHAIRS AND LIAISONS

- Section 1.** The leadership roles are designed to further assist in the efficient management of Student Council Actions. Needs of the council are evaluated every year in collaboration with the officers and sponsors. New roles are determined as needed and posted for all members to access annually on Canvas.
- Section 2.** Those members appointed to leadership positions for the following school year will be selected by means of an application and interview process conducted by the Officers after the annual Induction Ceremony.
- Section 3.** If an appointed member does not present commitment to the duties their position pertains to, they may be removed from their leadership position.
- Section 4.** Members in any leadership position may resign from their role and assume the role of a board member.
- Section 5.** Additional roles may be added throughout the year if needed to further assist the management of Student Council.

## ARTICLE IX - MEMBER ATTENDANCE

- Section 1.** Attendance will follow the current year's New Trier Student Handbook Attendance Policy.
- Section 2.** An accumulation of four unexcused absences for a Student Council member, according to the New Trier Attendance Policy, will result in a conversation with the officers and sponsors to determine possible outcomes.
- Section 3.** For an officer, an accumulation of three unexcused absences will automatically begin the impeachment process to be conducted at a formal meeting.

## ARTICLE X - IMPEACHMENT

- Section 1.** Any member can move to impeach another member during a formal meeting.
- Section 2.** The member being impeached will have the opportunity to explain their case.
- Section 3.** If the chair of a meeting is up for impeachment, the next-in-line shall chair the meeting and impeachment proceedings.
- Section 4.** A 2/3 vote of Student Council's voting members against an impeached member will result in his/her removal.
- Section 5.** Impeachable offenses include, but are not limited to:
1. Having an accumulated two unexcused absences in a quarter.
  2. Having misused Student Council resources and facilities in violation of school policies.
  3. Having a violation of the Extracurricular Code.

## ARTICLE XI - VACANCIES

- Section 1.** A position becomes vacant as a result of resignation, impeachment, or incapacitation.
- Section 2.** If there is a vacancy in the presidential office, the Vice-President will assume the position of President.
- Section 3.** The procedure for filling a Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or School Culture Commissioner vacancy is as follows:
1. The election process shall be run by the officer next in the succession.
  2. All current Student Council Board members are eligible to fill the vacancy.
  3. All interested candidates shall be given the opportunity to speak on their own behalf and shall be open to questioning by the board.
  4. The Board shall hold a mandatory election to nominate the top two candidates.
  5. This shall be a closed ballot election within the board to determine the election winner.
  6. In case of a tie, the sponsors will be the tie breaker.
- Section 4.** In the instance of a Board member's vacancy, no replacement will be made.
- Section 5.** The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and School Culture Commissioner may resign their office while retaining a position as a Board member.

## ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution, or any part of it, may only be amended by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of all voting members of Student Council.

PASSED - MAY 30, 2025

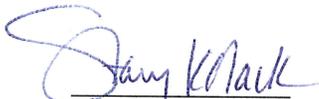
# Student Council Constitutional Review

Affirmed this 30th day of May 2025 by:

FIRST	LAST	ID	SIGNATURE
20260066	Sophie	Abendroth	<i>Mary Abendroth</i>
20270071	Arezo	Ahmadi	
20270003	Avni	Arora	<i>Avni Arora</i>
20260102	Aditya	Banerjee	<i>Aditya Banerjee</i>
20260119	Aaliya	Bhaidani	
20270178	Emerson	Buck	<i>Emerson Buck</i>
20270187	Phoebe	Campbell	<i>Phoebe Campbell</i>
20260210	Charlotte	Coatar	<i>Charlotte Coatar</i>
20260223	Mikaella	Cord-Cruz	<i>Mikaella Cord-Cruz</i>
20270296	Amelia	Dorenwendt-Oldson	
20270301	Lyla	Drapatsky	<i>Lyla Drapatsky</i>
20260337	Clementine	Frazer	<i>Clementine Frazer</i>
20270458	Alina	Hirschle	<i>Alina Hirschle</i>
20270483	Noa	Jackier	<i>Noa Jackier</i>
20260029	Catherine	Ji	<i>Catherine Ji</i>
20260509	Katherine	Kelly	<i>Katherine Kelly</i>
20270560	Alexa	Kunreuther	<i>Alexa Kunreuther</i>
20270602	Chloe	LeMonds	<i>Chloe LeMonds</i>
20270633	Norah	Luzadder	<i>Norah Luzadder</i>
20261082	Christian	McKoy	<i>Christian McKoy</i>
20270692	Sienna	Michelson	
20270720	Aleena	Nasir	<i>Aleena Nasir</i>
20260045	Blake	O'Donnell	

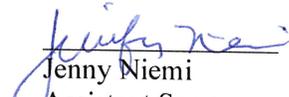
20260785	Ananya	Ray	Ananya Ray
20260845	William	Schellenberg	
20270910	Emma	Shanley	Emma Shanley
20260882	Payton	Sierens	Payton Sierens
20260891	Matthew	Slater	Matthew Slater
20260981	Molly	Walbrun	Molly Walbrun
20260997	Elizabeth	Weir	Elizabeth Weir
20261003	Phoebe	Welch	Phoebe Welch
20270059	Charlotte	Wenzke	Charlotte Wenzke

And by:

  
 Stacy Kolack  
 Head Sponsor

  
 Stephanie Gamauf  
 Assistant Sponsor

  
 Kate Goodman  
 Assistant Sponsor

  
 Jenny Niemi  
 Assistant Sponsor