



THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE COUNCIL
OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Article I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name

The official name shall be the National American Indian/Alaska Native Council of School Board Members of the National School Boards Association. The National American Indian/Alaska Native Council has been established as a Council, effective August 16, 2017.

Section 2. Definition

"Council" is the National American Indian/Alaska Native Council of School Board Members

"AI/AN" is American Indian/Alaska Native

"NSBA" is National School Boards Association

"Membership" is participation in the council by the members

"LEA" is the local education association

Section 3. Mission

The mission of the American Indian/Alaska Native Council is to promote the goals and vision of the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and to provide leadership and a foundation to school board members for student educational opportunities through collaboration with key stakeholders to foster excellence and equity in public education.

The primary purpose of AI/AN is to:

- (a) Promote and advance equitable educational access and opportunities for AI/AN children through active engagement of Council members in national dialogue on educational problems, issues, and concerns in conjunction with NSBA and other national organizations committed to the continued growth and development of children of color.
- (b) Improve collaboration among all AI/AN school board members, their communities, political leaders, state school board associations, tribal education committees, and the NSBA.

- (c) Provide leadership by encouraging the most desirable and effective communication between school board members, their local school boards, communities, tribal education committees, national and state boards associations relating to AI/AN students.
- (d) Promote school district, LEA, county, tribal, state, and national legislation to improve the educational opportunities and reduce racial disparities of AI/AN students in public, tribal and contract, or federally-operated government schools (i.e., Bureau of Indian Affairs).
- (e) Study the development and academic achievement of all youth with special consideration of the unique needs of AI/AN youth within public schools.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

All members shall support the purpose of the Council as set forth in Article I.

Section 1. Regular Membership

- (a) Regular membership is available to an elected or appointed board member of any public, tribal, or contract school, as well as those schools operated specifically for American Indian/Alaska Native students by the federal government (i.e., Bureau of Indian Affairs schools) within the United States, or US territory. Regular membership shall also include one AI/AN elder appointed by the Board of Directors. Dues for both of these positions shall be waived. Additionally, representatives of American Indian/Alaska Native school board associations designated tribal school officials or designated tribal members shall qualify as regular members.
- (b) Regular members in good standing shall have the right to:
 - i. vote on all matters before the AI/AN Council as provided for in these bylaws;
 - ii. hold any office or committee position upon due election or appointment.
- (c) A student may be appointed by the Board of Directors but may not hold office or vote. Dues for this position shall be waived.

Section 2. Associate Membership

- (a) Associate membership is available to tribal administrators, educators, former board members, past presidents who no longer remain on his or her school board, and members of the Board of Directors of the National Indian Education Association, and other Indian education organizations.
- (b) Associate members shall:
 - i. not have the right to vote or hold any office in the AI/AN Council;
 - ii. have the right to serve on AI/AN Council committees as provided in these bylaws.

Section 3. Revocation of Membership

- (a) Membership in the AI/AN Council, for any category of membership except regular voting membership, may be revoked for good cause by a majority vote of the AI/AN Board of Directors.

- (b) Regular voting membership may be revoked for good cause only by majority vote of the general membership present, with due notice and opportunity to be heard being given to the affected member at the Annual Business Meeting.
- (c) Dues shall be forfeited upon removal from membership.

Section 4. Dues Payment

- (a) In order to be in good standing, a member's dues must be paid in full.
- (b) No member whose dues are delinquent shall be entitled to vote. In order to vote at the NSBA Annual Conference membership dues must be paid in full by March 1.
- (c) Dues schedule, including amount and timing of payment shall be established by NSBA.

Section 5. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the AI/AN shall be from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

Section 6. Voting Rights

- (a) Each regular member in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) vote at all meetings of the Council in all matters properly presented and discussed before the membership.
- (b) Voting by proxy is not permitted.
- (c) Decisions by the Council shall be by majority of those present except for bylaw changes, which will be made in accordance with the provisions of Article IX.

Section 7. Meetings and Elections

- (a) The annual business meeting of the AI/AN general membership shall be convened at the annual conference of the National School Boards Association.
- (b) National officers and regional directors shall be elected by the general membership at the Annual Business meeting of the AI/AN. Officers shall take office immediately upon election.
- (c) Voting by proxy or absentee voting shall not be permitted at any AI/AN Council meeting.
- (d) In addition to the annual business meeting, the Board of Directors shall hold at least three meetings per year. Meetings may be held via conference call or other electronic means, provided that all members of the Board are notified at least 72 hours prior to the meeting of the date, time, and purpose thereof.
- (e) All AI/AN Board of Directors are expected to attend all scheduled AI/AN conference calls and meetings. In the event of two or more absences in a fiscal year, excused, or unexcused, which, in judgment of the Board of Directors, limits a member's effectiveness, the board of directors reserves the right to declare the seat vacated by vote of the majority. Prior to such action, however, the Board of Directors shall notify the member that because of his or her attendance record, further absence may result in action.

ARTICLE III: GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the AI/AN shall consist of four (4) officers and five (5) regional directors.

- (a) The term of office for each director and officer shall be two (2)-years.
- (b) Each member shall serve until the selection and installation of his or her successor is fulfilled during the Annual Business meeting, or until removal.
- (c) The NSBA Executive Director, NSBA President, and President of the National Indian Education Association, or his or her designated official, shall serve as *ex-officio* non-voting members of the Board of Directors. They shall also be *ex-officio* non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee

- (a) The officers of the Council shall be the Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Immediate Past Chair, and the Elder and, shall comprise the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
- (b) The Chair will automatically ascend to the position of Chair at the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting of the Council at the NSBA Annual Conference.
- (c) The NSBA Executive Director and NSBA President shall serve as *ex-officio* non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Regional Directors

- (a) There shall be five (5) Regional Directors, representative of the five geographical regions as established by NSBA as follows:
 - i. **Central:** Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Wisconsin.
 - ii. **Northeast:** Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, U.S. Virgin Islands
 - iii. **Pacific:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington
 - iv. **Southern:** Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.
 - v. **Western:** Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wyoming.
- (b) Regional Directors shall serve a term of two-year, and their regular election cycle shall be staggered as follows:
 - Central, Northeast, Western
 - Pacific and Southern

- (c) Regional Directors shall
 - i. participate in matters before the AI/AN Board of Directors;
 - ii. promote and encourage participation in the activities of the AI/AN Council, and activities of the National School Boards Association;
 - iii. act as spokespersons of the AI/AN Council in their region when requested to do so by the Chair of the Executive Committee;
 - iv. serve as members of the Membership Committee, and
 - v. perform such other additional duties as determined and assigned by the AI/AN Council Chair.

Section 4. Duties and Powers

Where appropriate the duties of the officers shall be carried out with the assistance of NSBA staff.

The duties and powers of the officers shall be as follows:

Chair

- (a) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Council and of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.
- (b) The Chair shall appoint all members of any standing or special committees of the Council and shall be deemed a member of all such committees, except that the Chair shall not be a member of the Nominating Committee.
- (c) The Chair shall be the primary spokesperson for the AI/AN Council.
- (d) The Chair shall perform any other duties as may be prescribed by the general membership.

Chair-Elect

- (a) The Chair-Elect shall preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair, at the request of the Chair, or upon a vacancy when the Chair is unable to serve.
- (b) The Chair-Elect shall have the primary responsibility for the organization and implementation of the AI/AN programming at the NSBA Annual Conference.
- (c) Additional duties shall be determined and assigned by the Chair.

Secretary

- (a) The Secretary shall work with NSBA Equity Staff to coordinate, prepare and keep all minutes of the Council and see that all required notices and announcements of meetings are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws.
- (b) The Secretary shall be the custodian of the records of the Council.

(c) Additional duties may be determined and assigned by the Chair or the Board of Directors.

Immediate Past Chair

- (a) The Immediate Past Chair shall serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee and as a member of the Policies and Resolutions Committee.
- (b) The Immediate Past Chair shall serve as Parliamentarian.
- (c) Additional duties shall be determined and assigned by the Chair.

Section 5. Duties of the Executive Committee

- (a) The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the AI/AN Council between meetings of the Board of Directors.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall meet upon the call of the Chair, or upon the call-in writing of any three (3) members of the Executive Committee.
- (c) The Executive Committee may meet via conference call or other electronic means.
- (d) All actions of the Executive Committee are subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Section 6. Duties of the Board of Directors.

- (a) The Board of Directors shall act on behalf of the AI/AN Council between meetings of the general membership.
- (b) The Board of Directors shall meet upon the call of the Chair, or upon the call in writing of any five (5) members of the Board of Directors.
- (c) The Board of Directors shall hold at least three meetings a year. In addition to the Annual Business meeting, The Board may meet via teleconference or other electronic means.

Section 7. Eligibility to Serve

In order to serve on the AI/AN Board of Directors, an officer or regional director shall meet the following qualifications:

- (a) A regular member of AI/AN, with all dues paid in full.
- (b) Each officer and regional director with the exception of the Immediate Past Chair, shall be a duly elected or appointed member of a school district board of trustees, board of education, or state board of education.

- (c) A school board member in a district that is a member in good standing of the state school boards association.
 - i. this requirement must be met prior to each term by submitting a letter of recommendation from his/her state association.
- (d) A member of the state Native council (if applicable).
- (e) If any of these conditions are violated while the board member is in office, the position will be considered vacant.

Section 8. Term Limits

- (a) A Regional Director shall be elected to serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- (b) An elected officer shall be elected to serve no more than one 2-year term in the same office.
- (c) The Elder may be re-appointed.

ARTICLE IV. STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1. Nominating Committee

- (a) The Immediate Past Chair shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee. When the position of Immediate Past Chair is vacant or the Immediate Past Chair is unable to serve, the Nominating Committee will be chaired by a member of the Executive Committee designated by the Chair.
- (b) Nominations for the Board of Director's positions must be submitted to NSBA for action by the Nominating Committee a minimum of sixty (60) calendar days prior to the election of officers.
- (c) The Nominating Committee shall submit a slate of recommended candidates for each position at the annual business meeting of the AI/AN Council.
- (d) If a candidate is not selected by the Nominating Committee, they may run from the floor by submitting an application with supporting documents informing NSBA staff and submitting endorsements from five AI/AN members in at least two states outside of the candidate's own state no later than thirty (30) calendar days before the general election.
- (e) The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Immediate Past Chair and two regular voting members of the Council, appointed by the Chair.
- (f) The Nominating Committee shall conduct itself and shall discharge its duties according to the standing rules duly adopted by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Bylaws Committee

- (a) The designee of the Chair shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee.

- (b) The Bylaws Committee shall include the Secretary and two (2) Regional Directors, to be selected by the Chair of the committee.
- (c) The Bylaws Committee shall present recommendations for approval by the Board of Directors for the presentation to the general membership.

Section 3. Policies and Resolutions Committee

- (a) The designee of the chair shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee.
- (b) The Policies and Resolutions Committee shall include the Chair, Immediate Past Chair, and up to two other Council members as appointed by the Chair.
- (c) The Policies and Resolutions Committee shall present recommendations for approval by the Board of Directors prior to submission to the NSBA Policies and Resolutions Committee.

Section 4. Membership Committee

- (a) The designee of the chair shall serve as Chairperson of this Committee.
- (b) The membership committee shall include the five (5) Regional Directors.
- (c) The Membership Committee shall make recommendations on strategies for maintaining and increasing membership.

Section 5. Elections Supervisory Committee

- (a) The Chair shall appoint a committee to supervise the election of officers and directors.
- (b) The committee shall be comprised of five (5) members, one from each region, but shall not include officers, directors, or candidates for Council office.

ARTICLE V. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. Removal

Any Officer or Director who has not represented the best interests of the AI/AN Council shall be removed from office, for good cause, by majority vote of the general membership present or the NSBA Board of Directors. Such removal and vote shall be taken only at a duly convened meeting of the general membership or the NSBA Board of Directors, with due notice and opportunity to be heard being given to the affected member. If a member is removed from the Board, that member shall not be eligible to run for the board for at least two years.

Article VI. Officer and Director Vacancies

Section 1. Vacancies

- (a) The Chair, with consent and confirmation of the Board of Directors, shall fill vacancies occurring in any office, except for the office of Chair or Chair-Elect. Such appointee shall serve the unexpired term of that office.
- (b) If there is a vacancy for any reason in the office of Chair, the Chair-Elect shall succeed—to the office immediately and shall have all the powers and perform all duties of the office. The Chair-Elect shall serve a full term as Chair upon completing the remainder of the term caused by the vacancy.
- (c) If there is a vacancy for any office which cannot be filled by these provisions for succession to office, the Board of Directors shall appoint from its own membership an officer *pro tempore* to perform the duties of the vacated office until the office is filled by an election by the general membership at the Annual Business Meeting of the AI/AN Council.
- (d) Any Director appointed to fill a vacancy shall be eligible to serve two full terms as director upon completing the remainder of the term caused by the vacancy.

ARTICLE VII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the official parliamentary authority for the AI/AN Council when not in conflict with these bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended only by vote of the general membership. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those voting shall be required to approve amendments to these bylaws before submitting to the NSBA Board of Directors for final approval.

These bylaws are intended to permit the Council to carry out duties in its advisory capacity to NSBA consistent with the emphasis on AI/AN students. These bylaws may be amended at any time by the super majority vote of the members who are present at a duly held meeting, provided that written notice of the meeting and of the proposed amendment shall be given to each member not less than ten (10) calendar days nor more than thirty (30) calendar days before any meeting of the Council at which an amendment of the bylaws is to be adopted.

Section 2. Adoption

These bylaws of the National AI/AN Council of School Board Members of the NSBA shall become effective upon the signature of the President of both the Council and NSBA.

Section 3. Review

These bylaws shall be reviewed and revised accordingly at least every three years.

Article IX. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of:

(a) Fifty (50) percent of the full voting membership of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

(b) Ten (10) percent of the full voting membership of the AI/AN Council.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF THE AI/AN COUNCIL

Section 1. Dissolution

Should this organization be dissolved or terminated in any manner, all real and personal property shall be held for use of its successor organization. In no case shall any real or personal property, or proceeds from the sale thereof, be retained to the pecuniary benefit of any member of the Council. In case of any eventuality not covered in this document, the Executive Committee of the Council is empowered to dispose of such assets in the best interests of the Council.

Originated:

Revised: April 1999

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