

STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION
PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL
Revision December 2018

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Palisade High School, in order to develop harmony and cooperation within the student body and faculty, to promote and regulate school activities, and to promote better citizenship, do establish this Constitution for the Student Government of Palisade High School. This organization shall be known as the Student Government of Palisade High School, hereafter referred to as the Student Government (Stuco). The executive council of Student Government is made up of four officers chosen from within Student Government and known as the officers of the Student Body Association (SBA).

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Student Government will be to unify the student body, to provide a forum for the student opinions, to serve our community, and to coordinate school and community activities of the organizations.

ARTICLE II – GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Student Government shall have the power to regulate all activities concerning the SBA, subject to the approval of the Student Government advisor and administration.

Section 2. Before the student Government votes upon any matter of special interest to the entire school, a representative of each class (9-12) must be present during the voting at the Student Government meeting.

Section 3. Any motion taken or any decisions made by the Student Government shall be subject to the approval of the Student Government advisor and administration.

Section 4. Additional rules not specifically included in this constitution shall be relegated to a set of by-laws which can be changed by a simple majority of student government.

Section 5. Additional advisement can come from the formation of a House of Representatives comprised of representatives of various sports, clubs, activities and concerns at Palisade High School. The House of Representatives will be chaired by the SBA Vice President or a designee of said Vice President in event of conflict or illness. All representatives to the House of Representatives should:

- a) be chosen by their entities' sponsors.
- b) be in good standing within the Palisade High School Community.
- c) function as liaisons to and from their respective concerns.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The duties and qualifications of the SBA officers shall be:

- a) President –to have a minimum of 1 year of experience in student council. Duties will be to preside over assemblies and Student Government meetings, to make and agenda for each meeting, and to perform other duties which may arise. _Attendance and participation points will be kept by the President in a “Participation Log.”
- b) Vice-President – to have a minimum of 1 year of experience in student council. Duties will be to assume the duties of the president in the event of an absence, to supervise members of student council with relation to their respective social media accounts and to supervise all standing committees in Student Government.
- c) Secretary – to have a minimum of 1 year of experience in student council. Duties will be to keep accurate and complete minutes of each meeting, to keep and account of all activities of the Student Government, and to supervise all correspondence.
- d) Treasurer – to have a minimum of 1 year of experience in student council. Duties will be to keep accurate records and manage the financial affairs of the Student Government. Also, to interact with all other class treasurers, and to create a budget of finances.

Section 2. The privileges of membership in this organization shall include the right to vote on all Student Government matters. Membership will include President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the SBA and a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer of each class (10-12), and two (or more as deemed necessary) Members-At-Large from each class (10-12). The freshman class will be represented solely by Members-at-Large selected from incoming freshmen who apply, interview and are approved to join the incoming student government.

- a) All Student Government members must maintain eligibilities as established by PHS, District #51, and the Colorado High School Activities Association. Each Student Government member must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Maintain a 2.5 G.P.A. to maintain their position
 - b. Enroll in the full year of Student Government
 - c. Be in “good standing” in the school
 - i. Have no infractions of or altercations with the law, administration, community, faculty and staff
 - d. Have one year of student council experience if seeking the Presidency of the Junior or Senior classes.
- b) The Members-At-Large will be selected by application. Each student must submit an application to the sponsor. They will then each be evaluated and brought before an interviewing panel. The panel will consist of the next year’s SBA and the Student Government advisor. The panel will select the eight Members-At-Large, two from each class, unless the Student Government

advisor expands the number of positions. If there are no applicants for the Member-At-Large positions, the position shall remain vacant. In the case of the resignation or impeachment of a Member-At-Large, the class that the withdrawing member was from will decide if the Member-At-Large position needs to be filled.

Section 3. Attendance and tardy policies will follow the PHS guidelines and those set by the Student Government. If a member fails to abide by these standards, a new member can be appointed by the class, dependent on the Student Council Advisor's recommendation.

- a) 90% attendance will be mandatory per semester, and a bi-annual assessment will be made by the advisor the last week of every semester.

Section 4. Student Government members must support all activities sponsored by the Student Government.

ARTICLE IV – MEETINGS

Section 1. The meetings of the Student Government will be held twice monthly, or as often as necessary, during the class period designated within the regular school day.

Section 2. Special Student Government meetings, open to all PHS students, for those who want to be involved and help on projects, will be called as needed by the Council.

Section 3. Robert's Rule of Order, shall be the final authority on all questions of procedure and parliamentary law not covered in this constitution

- a) Parliamentary Procedures shall be learned by all members of the Student Government.

Section 3. All activities initiated by committees requiring participation by the Stuco members must be presented to the class at least two weeks in advance of the event date

Section 4. Minutes of each meeting shall be recorded and presented by the secretary, while special committee reports must be presented by the committee heads.

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

Section 1. The date of the election of SBA officers and all class officers shall be during the final two quarters of the school year.

Section 2. Method of selecting the candidates for SBA offices will be determined by the Student Government. All the SBA candidates must be an upcoming junior or senior with previous high school student government experience. All present members will be given the opportunity to vote for SBA, and results will not be announced until all members have voted. Additionally each SBA office will be elected by the highest combined

percentage of Administration (including Stuco Advisor), PHS teachers, and present Student council members. Administration's vote will count for 20 percent, teachers' vote will count for 20 percent and Stuco's vote will count for 60 percent. In the event that no candidate receives a majority, the top two plurality candidates will have a runoff vote using the same percentages.

Section 3. All class officers will be elected by the highest combined percentage of their respective class vote, PHS teachers, and SBA (graduating and incoming) and Senior Stuco members. Class vote will count for 40 percent, teachers' vote will count for 30 percent and SBA (graduating and incoming) and Senior Stuco members' vote will count for 30 percent. In the event that no candidate receives a majority, the top two plurality candidates will have a runoff vote using the same percentages.

Section 4. If an elected officer forfeits or resigns before the end of the first week of the school year, the candidates with the second highest plurality of votes will be asked to fill the vacancy. If the elected officer ran unopposed, it shall be up to the council to decide the method for filling the position. If during the course of the school year a class officer is asked to resign or is impeached, the remaining two officers and Members-At-Large will work together to fill the position.

- a) In case of a tie, a run-off election will be held

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees and committee heads will be chosen by the officers of SBA for the beginning of the school year, but are subject to change at any time throughout the year.

Section 2. SBA officers will choose an activity or work their committee will perform unless there are activities or events that are on master calendar and need assigned to a committee.

Section 3. Committee member responsibilities are as follows:

- a) Plan and carry out specified activities and projects
- b) Communicate with the faculty, community, and other clubs
- c) Participate and improve the morale at school activities
- d) Organize each event appropriately and keep accurate evaluations and event folders for the following years

ARTICLE VII – RECALL AND REFERENDUM

Section 1. Any action of the Student Government may be brought before the SBA officers for approval. A petition signed by ten percent of the members of the Student Government may be presented at a regularly scheduled meeting. The Student Government shall vote upon the petitioned item, and a two-thirds majority vote of the

Government membership shall reject or pass the item. The Student Government advisor and administration will be involved in the final decision.

Section 2. Any SBA officer may be impeached by a petition signed by 20 percent of the student body. Reason for impeachment must be written upon the petition. The officer will be given two days to prepare a speech in his/her defense. At a regularly scheduled meeting both sides shall present their views to the Student Government. After consideration of all the facts, Student Government will vote by secret ballot whether or not to recall the said officer. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required for such an action.

Section 3. Officers of classes including Members-At-Large may be impeached by a petition signed by 20 percent of the class or organization represented. Reasons for impeachment must be written on the petition. A special meeting must be called by the sponsors, Student Government advisors, and class or organization officers for the presentation of views and voting. Three-fourths of the class must be present for voting. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required for such action.

Section 4. The Student Government advisor shall review performance periodically throughout the school year. If any member is not complying with the Student Government requirements as established by the constitution or is not fulfilling his/her duties as a representative, the SBA may bring him/her before the Student Government for a presentation of the facts from both sides. Expulsion will require a two-thirds majority vote or consent of the Student Government sponsor and the principal. If a member is expelled, the class sponsor shall be notified. A new officer shall be chosen.

Section 5. Any Student Council member can be disciplined by removal from office, reduction in office, dismissal or alternative measures for a violation of the Student Government Class Contract with consent of the principal of PHS and student council sponsor and advisement by the SBA executives.

ARTICLE VIII– INTERPRETATION

Section 1. In case of a conflict involving the interpretation of the Student Government Constitution, it shall be subject to the final interpretation by the Student Government advisor and the principal.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any amendments to this Constitution maybe proposed by a member of the Student Government. A two-thirds majority vote of the Student Government_or a petition signed by 60 percent of the student body shall be required to amend this constitution.