

Payne Junior High Student Council Constitution and By-Laws

Updated July 2019

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be called the Payne Junior High Student Council.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of the Payne Junior High Student Council shall be to:

- develop respect among the student body, faculty, and community
- promote good citizenship
- promote scholarship
- promote a positive atmosphere throughout the school
- promote the democratic form of government
- assist in the coordination of school activities
- promote leadership
- promote cultural values
- promote human relations

Article III – Powers

All powers of the student council are delegated to it by the school administration. The principal has the right to veto any act of the student council or to revoke any of the powers held by it.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1 – The student council must consist of four elected student body officers and one president and vice-president from grades 7th and 8th.

Section 2 – Student body officers will be elected the previous school year whenever possible or in the first three weeks of the current school year.

Section 3 – All representatives of Payne Junior High must maintain a 2.0 (C) grade point average. All officers must maintain a 2.0 (C) grade point average. Any member who falls below the grade point average will be placed on probation and may be removed from office if his/her grades do not improve the next quarter.

Section 4 – All members are expected to maintain high standards of citizenship. Any member who receives two or more referrals may be removed from office.

Section 5 – Any member who receives off-campus suspension will automatically be removed from Student Council.

Section 6 – Each member shall take the oath of office.

Section 7 – Each member shall pay a club fee of \$25.00 through Infinite Campus.

Article V – Officers

Section 1 – The officers of this organization shall be: Student Body President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Eighth Grade Class President and Vice-President, and Seventh Grade Class President and Vice-President. Sponsorship may deem necessary to name an interim officer in the event a position remains open or becomes open.

Section 2 - A) Before the end of the school year, the student body shall have the opportunity to elect the student body officers.

B) Sponsor will determine election guidelines.

Section 3 – The duties of the officers shall be:

A) General Characteristics of all officers shall be the following:

1. Energetic willingness to attend and participate many Student Council projects, events, and activities. This may include before school, lunch time, after school, weekends, and evenings.
2. A commitment to improve and maintain the academic and social environment at PJHS.
3. Good communication skills with both adults and peers.
4. Strong organizational skills and time management.
5. Positive citizenship at school and in the community.

B) Student Body President

1. Preside over all student council meetings.
2. Appoint committees within the council.
3. Sign all money expenditures within the council.
4. Vote on any matter in which the council is equally divided.
5. Lead council discussions.
6. Help prepare agenda for council meetings.
7. Represent the student body at school, district and civic events, and meetings.

C) Student Body Vice-President

1. Perform the duties of the president in his/her absence.
2. Help coordinate the work of committees.
3. Help prepare agenda for council meetings.
4. Represent the student body at school, district and civic events, and meetings.

D) Student Body Secretary

1. Keep minutes of all student council meetings.
2. Keep files on all student council activities.
3. Perform other such duties as are generally associated with this office.

E) Student Body Treasurer

1. Shall have charge of all student funds, both collection and disbursement.
2. Shall maintain an accurate record of all such funds.
3. Perform other such duties as are generally associated with this office.

Article VI – Team Senators

Section 1 – Each grade level team will be allowed two team senators. Senators must uphold the same standards as other student council officers and abide by the bylaws.

Article VII – Representatives

Section 1- Any student not elected to an office or senator seat, may still attend student council meetings as a non-voting voice. In order to participate in outside events such as field trips, leadership activities, and district or state conventions, representatives must attend 80% of student council meetings and activities according to the records of the secretary and advisors.

Article VIII - Removal from Office

Section 1 – An officer or representative may be removed from office for five absences from council or committee meetings and or events, failure to carry out his or her duties as an officer or representative, or for any other actions which are detrimental to the welfare and

best interests of the council and or the school including, but not limited to, off-campus suspension. An officer or representative in a school sponsored sport may be excluded from the five absence count as long as the absence pertains to a sports event; that officer or representative must still fulfill all student council duties on their own time.

Section 2 – If a representative resigns or is removed from office, the sponsor shall appoint a replacement, with the approval of the council. If an officer resigns or is removed from office, the student council shall be empowered to fill the vacancy except in the case of the President, in which case the Vice-President becomes President.

Section 3 – By a student council vote of $\frac{3}{4}$, an officer may be subject to impeachment. The outcome of the trial will be final.

Article IX- Meetings

Section 1 – The student council shall meet when necessary at a customary time and place. The meetings shall have appropriate publicity and all meetings will be open meetings.

Section 2 – Special meetings may be called by the President or by the sponsor, or by a written request of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the student council members.

Section 3 – The secretary must type minutes of the meetings within two school days from the date held and a copy submitted to the school administration for communication and record keeping.

Article X – Sponsor

Section 1 – The principal shall appoint one or more members of the faculty to serve as faculty advisors to the student council.

Section 2 – The sponsors shall serve as advisors. They shall not vote.

Section 3 – The sponsor may veto any action that is not in the best interests of the student body or violates any school rules or the student council constitution.

Article XI – Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed at the beginning of the school year if necessary.

Special committees shall be appointed as necessary.

Article XII – Amendments

The constitution may be amended by a three-fourths majority vote of the student council.

The vote shall be taken following the second reading in council. The amendment must have the approval of the sponsor and the school administration.

Student Council By-Laws Acknowledgement

- Payment of a \$25 club fee. Paid through Infinite Campus.
- No more than five (5) absences from meetings (unless within constitutional reason).
- All events (hosted or scheduled) are mandatory.
- Be punctual to meetings.
- Maintain a 2.0 average.
- Zero tolerance on referrals (includes academic).
- Zero tolerance on in-school/off-campus suspension.
- Compliance with all policies in the CUSD student handbook.
- Be respectful at meetings. Follow parliamentary procedures
 - No talking out of turn
 - Stay in seat
 - Do not do homework at meeting
 - Do not bring friends to visit with to meetings
- Maintain "Student Council" behavior on and off campus.
- No horseplay or rowdy behavior at meetings.
- Be prepared to work and have fun.

I have read and understand the Student Council Constitution and By-Laws and agree to uphold them to the best of my abilities.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Email: _____

Student Email: _____