

CONSTITUTION OF BENJAMIN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be Benjamin Teachers' Association.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

Section 1

To promote within the teaching group the highest type of professional practice; to encourage active participation of all teachers in the solution of school problems; to urge every member of the profession to be a progressive student of education; and to arouse the intelligence to a genuine spirit of professional ethics.

Section 2

To encourage higher qualifications for entrance into the teaching profession; to promote teacher participation in school management; to aid in securing and maintaining adequate salaries, benefits, sound retirement systems, and other such improvements in conditions as will enable teachers to function properly as vital factors in the educational progress.

Section 3

To cooperate with parent teacher organizations and other such bodies having educational objectives and to aid in interpreting to the public the problems, the functions, and the steady progress of the public schools.

Section 4

To encourage teachers to exercise their rights and privileges and to accept willingly, leadership in civic affairs.

ARTICLE III

Section 1

Membership shall be open to all certificated teaching personnel employed by Benjamin School District #25, DuPage County.

Section 2

All members of the Association shall be set by the Executive Committee with the approval of the members.

Section 3

Dues and conditions of membership shall be set by the Executive Committee with the approval of the members.

ARTICLE IV – Meetings of the Membership

Section 1

Meetings of the membership shall be held at least two (2) times during the school term. Additional meetings of the membership may be called by the President, three members of the Executive Committee, or thirty percent (30%) of the membership.

Section 2

The procedure for the calling and running of meetings of the membership shall be set by the By-Laws.

ARTICLE V – Officers

Section 1

The officers of the Association shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and regional council representative(s).

Section 2

In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the vice-president shall automatically become President for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of secretary, treasurer, or on the Executive Committee, or in the event that the vice-president shall not succeed to the President's office, an election to fill the vacant office for the remainder of the unexpired term shall be held pursuant to the By-Laws at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the membership.

Section 3

Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members voting at a membership meeting, or may resign by written notice to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI – Executive Committee

Section 1

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and regional council representative(s).

Section 2

The general operation of the Association in the interim between meetings shall be vested in the Executive Committee.

Section 3

The Executive Committee shall be the policy-making body of the Association.

Section 4

The Executive Committee shall annually provide for an election to select the Association's representative(s) to the Regional Council.

ARTICLE VII – Voting

Section 1

Unless otherwise provided within, the adoption of all resolutions in the Executive Committee and the membership meetings, shall be by majority vote of the membership.

Section 2

Absentee voting by written ballot shall be permitted with respect to the election (but not for run-offs) or removal of officers, the adoption and amendment of this Constitution and the By-Laws, and the dissolution of this organization, and such vote shall be counted as if such voter were present at the meeting of the membership.

ARTICLE VIII – Amendment of Constitution or Dissolution of Organization

Section 1

The Constitution may be amended or this organization dissolved by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership at a membership meeting.

Section 2

Any five members may propose an amendment or dissolution by submitting it in writing to the secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the membership at which said members wish the proposed to be voted upon.

Section 3

In the event of dissolution, the Executive Committee shall, as soon as practicable, wind up the affairs of this organization and distribute all assets remaining, after full payment to creditors, to an organization or organizations at that time exempt from taxation under Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

ARTICLE IX – By-Laws

Section 1

By-Laws and resolutions not inconsistent with the Constitution may be adopted by the Executive Committee.

BY-LAWS OF THE BENJAMIN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I – Executive Committee

Section 1

In addition to the powers and duties enumerated in the Constitution, the Executive Committee shall select the members of any negotiating committee, and remove any such negotiating committee members by unanimous vote; shall manage, buy, sell, and transfer Association property; shall undertake such expenditures as are necessary or reasonable for the operation of the organization; and, may plan and recommend programs to the membership.

Section 2

The Executive Committee shall meet once per month, and may meet as many additional times as is necessary or reasonable to transact its business.

Section 3

Meetings may be called by the President or by any two other members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II – Officers

Section 1

President. The president shall be the chief executive officer, with the power and the duty to enforce the Constitution and By-Laws, carry out Association policies in the interim between Executive Committee meetings, sign contracts and agreements, represent the Association before the public either personally or through delegates, appoint and remove members of all committees, serve as ex-officio member without vote on all committees, and preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and the membership when present. Further, he or she shall have the power and duty to perform all acts generally associated with the Constitution and By-Laws.

The president, as of the vote taken in May of 1997, shall have a term of 2 years at which time there will be an election to either re-elect the president, if he or she chooses to rerun, or to elect a new president. The first election will be held in the spring of 1998 and the elections shall be every other year thereafter unless there is need for an election on the odd numbered years.

Also, in accordance with the vote held in May of 1997 the president, starting with the school year 1998-1999 will be given a stipend to be used in any way desired by the president, through the treasurer of the Association equal to the cost of the school year's full Association dues (IEA, NEA and BEA). This sum will be awarded at the completion of the school year.

Section 2

Vice-President. The vice-president shall have all the powers and duties of the President in the President's absence, shall succeed to the President pursuant to the

Constitution, and shall otherwise have such powers and duties as may be assigned to them by the President.

Section 3

Secretary. The secretary shall maintain the records of membership and official files, and shall assist the President with Association correspondence. He or she shall keep accurate minutes of each meeting of the Executive Committee and each meeting of the membership (and shall distribute the same to the membership as soon as is practicable after each such meeting), and exercise such other powers and duties as may be assigned to him or her by the President.

Section 4

Treasurer. The treasurer shall keep accurate financial records, including records of all receipts and disbursements, hold all organization funds in such account or accounts as shall be designated by the Executive Committee, reimburse the officers and Executive Committee members for their reasonable expenditures on behalf of the Association, and exercise such other powers and duties as may be assigned to him or her by the President.

ARTICLE III – Membership Meetings

Section 1

The membership shall act through meetings called pursuant to ARTICLE IV of the Constitution, and may form and dissolve such committees and exercise such powers as are not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2

Upon being notified that a meeting has been called, the secretary shall provide written notice, stating the place, date, time and nature of the business to be considered, to each member at least five (5) school days prior to the date set for the meeting.

Section 3

All absentee ballots permitted by ARTICLE VII of the Constitution must be received by the secretary no later than the date and time set for the meeting at which such proposal is to be considered. No particular form for such ballot shall be prescribed; but the ballot shall unambiguously indicate the proposal voted upon, the nature of the vote, and the name of the voter. At no time shall the secretary disclose, or cause to be disclosed, the name or vote of any member who voted by such absentee ballot except to allege a voter irregularity.

Section 4

Upon proper motion and the approval of the majority of the membership, any proposal may be submitted to a secret written ballot.

ARTICLE IV – Nominating Committee and Elections

Section 1

The Executive Committee shall choose the nominating committee of three (3) by April 1.

Section 2

A Committee on elections shall conduct the election of officers by ballot at the meeting in May. The Executive Committee shall have power to make all necessary rules for carrying out the election. Nominations for the various offices may be brought in by a nominating committee in writing, and nominations may also be made from the floor.

Section 3

The newly elected Executive Committee shall assume its duties with the opening of the following school year.

ARTICLE V – Dues

Section 1

Local dues shall be established by the Executive Committee and approved by the membership.

Section 2

All dues shall be collected by the treasurer.

ARTICLE VI – Miscellaneous

Section 1

The books and records of the organization shall be open to inspection by any member upon reasonable request.

Section 2

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on September 1 and shall end on August 31 each year.

Section 3

All gifts, donations, grants, income and funding of any type shall be utilized for the general operation and purpose of the Association and all such received in cash shall be placed in the organization's general bank account or accounts.

ARTICLE VII

Section 1

These By-Laws may be amended by majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee. A proposal to amend these By-Laws shall be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to its being voted upon.