

The Constitution of the Student Government Association

Apopka High School

(Revised 2/2/12)

PREAMBLE

We do hereby establish this Constitution of the Student Government Association in order to serve our students and community while promoting the values, traditions, and spirit, which make us proud to be the Blue Darters of Apopka High School.

Article I – NAME & PURPOSE

Section I: The name of this organization shall be the Student Government Association of Apopka High School (SGA).

Section II: The purpose of this organization will be to develop those qualities of citizenship necessary for the preservation of our democratic system by providing students both the responsibilities and privileges of participating in a republican form of democracy within the confines of the school. It shall allow students to voice their ideas in the planning of activities that affect the general welfare of our school and students. Members shall act as ambassadors to our community through service.

Article II – MEMBERSHIP & AUTHORITY

Section I: The SGA shall be composed of elected & appointed, voting members in the executive board, senate, & house.

Section II: The membership of this SGA shall be comprised of seven officers & three sub-officers. A fluctuating number of senators and representatives, depending on school needs, will constitute the rest of SGA.

Section III: The privileges and responsibilities of SGA are delegated to it by the principal of Apopka High School; therefore, the right to veto any SGA action rests with the principal, or his designated representative, the SGA sponsor.

Section IV: Parliamentary procedure shall govern the SGA in all cases to which they are applicable. Only the president, designated officer, or sub officer can suspend the use of parliamentary procedure. This suspension must be clearly announced and reflected in the secretary's meeting minutes. The president, alone, will act as the chairperson.

Article III - DUTIES OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section I: The SGA shall be empowered to carry out numerous activities, traditions, and events on behalf of the administration and the student body. SGA shall make needed expenditures of funds, pending both a majority vote & sponsor's approval.

Section II: The SGA shall be involved in activities outside the normal school day hours. These may often be mandatory events.

Section III: The SGA will be a voice for AHS student needs and concerns within the organization.

Article IV – OFFICERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD & SUB OFFICERS

Section I: The purpose of the executive board shall be to participate and coordinate all activities of the SGA. The executive board shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, historian, parliamentarian, and supervisor of elections. The sub-officers include the president of the senate, senate pro tempore, and secretary of the senate.

Section II: The officers of the executive board, president of the senate, senate pro tempore, and secretary of the senate will be the only individuals that may chair a permanent committee.

Section III: More is required and expected from all officers and sub-officers in comparison to senators or representatives.

Section IV: Duties of the president & vice president shall be the following:

- To uphold this constitution and preside over SGA meetings. To effectively carry out all directives from the sponsor.
- Maintain communication with the sponsor regarding all activities done in the name of SGA.
- Represent students at local, district, and state functions as requested.
- Create any committee that is needed or requested by the sponsor. Coordinate all committee activities.
- Hold executive board meetings with the sponsor, officers, and sub-officers as needed.

Section V: Duties of the secretary shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this constitution. To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor.
- To keep the official record, minutes, committee reports, and files of all Student Government Association meetings.
- Maintain a log of SGA member's attendance in class, special meetings, appropriate dress, and functions.

Section VI: Duties of the treasurer shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this constitution. To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor.
- Maintain accurate records of all financial transactions of the Student Government Association.
- Supervise all money collecting operations, receipts, and management of the budget.

Section VII: Duties of the historian shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this constitution. To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor.
- Keep an accurate photographic record of all Student Government Association activities along with a SGA Scrapbook.

Section VIII: Duties of the parliamentarian shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this constitution. To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor.
- To ensure that SGA meetings are conducted in an orderly manner according to parliamentary procedure, unless otherwise suspended by the president.

Section IX: Duties of the Supervisor of Elections shall be the following:

- To uphold and enforce this Constitution. To effectively carry out directives.
- Serve as Chairperson and coordinator for Student Government Association elections.
- Maintain and update voter registration records as needed or required.
- Supervise polling places and ballots during elections when it is not a conflict of interest.

Article V - THE SENATE

Section I: The sophomore, junior, & senior classes at AHS shall be represented in the SGA through a senate.

Section II: The senate of the SGA shall fluctuate in number. The three appointed senators are selected by the SGA Sponsor after consultation with the newly elected SGA president & vice president. Freshmen may not serve as either an officer or senator.

Section III: Duties of the senator shall be the following:

- Assist all officers, as they require, in the proper functioning of SGA.
- To effectively carry out directives from the sponsor & participate in various committees and fund raising projects.
- Participate in service projects at Apopka and within the community. Participate in projects, events, and school functions

Article VI – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Section I: Members of the House are non-voting members of the SGA and subject to its Constitution. A representative will be appointed by the sponsor from any grade level. Prior experience will help in the selection, but not the sole determinate.

Section II: The SGA president, vice president and senate president will be responsible for conducting house meetings and coordinating activities with the executive board, senate, and sponsor.

Section III: The House of Representatives will be responsible for the activities of the SGA spirit organization “Blue Thunder.” The president of the senate, senate pro tempore, and secretary of the senate will be solely responsible for the operation of Blue Thunder and its activities.

Article VII - HONOR CODE

Section I: All members of SGA will treat each other with courtesy and dignity. Personal conflicts and demeaning behavior have no place within this organization. All members are equal in their ideas, opinions, and value and will be treated with respect.

Section II: The highest level of citizenship and integrity will be the minimum standard of behavior in SGA. Honesty is not a luxury and deceit will not be tolerated. Civility is mandatory. Manners and common courtesy are expected at ALL TIMES.

Section III: Violation of **ANY** of the above will result in disciplinary action, drastic grade reduction, or removal from office depending on the seriousness of the transgression. Honor code violations will be reviewed by the sponsor and principal of AHS.

Article VIII - ELIGIBILITY & CANDIDACY FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section I: Officers, senators, and representatives must maintain an overall 2.65 G.P.A. Failure of any class by a student may result in a suspension from SGA activities and duties for a nine-week period.

Section II: All candidates will possess an excellent citizenship and attendance record at Apopka High School.

Section III: No officer of the Student Government Association may also be an officer of any class council at the same time.

Section IV: A candidate must turn in their candidacy petition, submit recommendations, and receive the sponsor’s endorsement before the due date. Any student wishing to run for the office of president or vice president **must** have one-year prior SGA experience and the sponsor’s endorsement based on their proven ability, citizenship, and academic record.

Section V: Only a student who will be a senior during their term may run for the office of president or vice president. A student may only run for one SGA office at a time. The one-year prerequisite for seeking the office of president or vice president may only be waived by the sponsor. The student will be interviewed by sponsor first before being allowed to seek these positions.

Article IX - ELECTIONS

Section I: The executive board and senate will be elected in the spring. Representatives are appointed in the spring too.

Section II: New officers, senators, and representatives will assume their official responsibilities the day after the current school year ends. An officer-elect or senator-elect may act or represent the school in lieu of an existing member if approved by the sponsor. Positions not filled by the election will be filled (appointed) by the sponsor.

Section III: Election rules, declaration of candidacy, and teacher recommendations will be compiled into a packet and provided by the sponsor prior to the election. A candidate’s failure to follow the rules will result in disqualification. It is the candidate’s responsibility to review this constitution prior to running for office (ask the sponsor for a copy or check the SGA website).

Article X - FINANCES

Section I: All matters pertaining to finances shall be subject to the approval of the principal of Apopka High School. All financial expenses pertaining to the work of the SGA must either be authorized by a majority vote of the executive board, senate, and house with final approval from the sponsor or solely authorized by the sponsor as needed.

Article XI - ELECTION OF SPECIAL SGA AMBASSADORS

Section I: Special Ambassadors to Student Government Association shall be elected each year. These ambassadors will be nominated by current seniors in the fall. There will be eight female members and eight male members. These members will represent SGA at various functions throughout that school year.

Section 2: These special ambassadors will make up the membership of the homecoming court. The student body will then elect one member of each court as homecoming king & queen.

Section 3: Requirements to be a special ambassador and member of the homecoming court are as follows (the same as elected SGA membership): A student must have an overall 2.65 unweighted G.P.A. and possess an excellent citizenship, behavior, and attendance record at Apopka High School (No Level 2, 3, or 4 referrals).

Article XII - COMMITTEES

Section I: The sponsor will determine the number of general committees at the beginning of the school year. Thereafter, special committees within the SGA may only be formed by the president or sponsor.

Article XIII - TERM OF OFFICE

Section I: All elected and appointed members of the SGA shall serve a term of one school year (No term limits).

Article XIV - VACANCIES

Section I: The sponsor shall appoint vacancies in the executive board, senate, & house that occur during the school year. Selected candidates must meet all requirements and recommendations for office.

Section II: If the president shall not be able to complete his/her term of office, the vice president shall assume the presidency.

Article XV - REMOVAL FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Section I: Any member of SGA can be removed if they fail to execute their duties in a responsible fashion. Each case shall be reviewed by the sponsor, and if deemed necessary, presented to the principal of Apopka High School for a final judgment.

Sections II: Grounds for dismissal from the Student Government Association may include:

- Repeated failure to fulfill the responsibilities set forth in this constitution.
- Administrative suspension, multiple detentions, or repeated infractions of established sponsor or school rules.
- Failure to maintain a cumulative 2.65 G.P.A. or an acceptable attendance/academic record.
- Any behavior or action that would compromise the high standard of the SGA or the reputation of AHS.
- Failure to report to the SGA sponsor any referral, suspension, class failure, or detention in a timely manner.
- Violations of the SGA honor code and established rules.
- (If a senior) Failure to graduate with your class.

Article XVI - RE-ELECTION

Section I: After a SGA member has served a year in student government, they may only run for a position as an officer or seek reappointment as a senator, if they are considered to be in "Good Standing". Good standing will be determined by the sponsor based on the student's attitude and performance in SGA.

Section II: An SGA member in "Good Standing" is a student who the sponsor considers to have been an asset, working hard in their position the prior year with a good attendance record. Furthermore, the member has shown themselves to be reliable, responsible, and willing to go, above and beyond, in their representation of Apopka High School. Without the recommendation of the sponsor, the student will not be considered in "Good Standing" and will not be allowed to return to SGA in any capacity.

Article XVII - RATIFICATION

Section I: This Constitution, including future revisions as necessary, shall become effective upon ratification by the sponsor, president, & vice president of the SGA.

February 2, 2012

Ms. Amanda Hicks
SGA President 2011-2012

Mr. Paul Peters
Student Government Sponsor

Ms. Laila Foster
SGA Vice-President 2011-2012