

BYLAWS OF THE JAMES M. BENNETT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the James M. Bennett High School Student Government Association. (JMB SGA)

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to serve as an official medium through which students' ideas and opinions may be presented for faculty and administrative actions; to serve as a governing body (with faculty supervision) for the development, promotion, and administration of student affairs; to give organized student support to educational, recreational, social, and charitable activities initiated and sponsored by the school, and thus form a closer relationship between the students, faculty, and administration. This organization shall also serve to further and improve student participation in school activities and promote school spirit and morale. The Association shall act as the ultimate representative of the views of the student population by instituting and pursuing policies of interest to the student body

Article III: Membership

The Student Government Association (SGA) shall consist of an Executive Council, including a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. Each class (9th -12th) will be represented by an elected Class President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian. All officers are expected to attend all monthly SGA Rep meetings and all SGA sponsored events. There will also be Co-Chairs for the SGA committees who will be chosen by the SGA Officer responsible for that committee and those Co Chairs will be expected to attend all SGA Monthly Rep meetings and committee meetings as well as events. The Association will not discriminate on the basis of age, color, gender, disability status, national origin, political persuasion, sexual orientation, race, or religion.

Article IV: Nominations and Elections

All elections shall be supervised by the SGA Advisor. Elections for SGA Executive Officers and Class officers will be held in May of the current school year, except for the incoming Freshman class. Freshman class elections will be held in September of the new school year.

Eligibility requirements for ALL SGA and Class

Officers positions:

- ALL candidates must fill out and return an "Intent to Run" application to the SGA Advisor(s) by the deadline set forth.
- ALL candidates must have maintained a cumulative 2.5 GPA and
- have had NO Out of school or In School Suspensions for the current school year and have good school and class attendance.

Voting

Voting will occur via a method agreed upon by the SGA and Advisors. Polls shall be left open for a sufficient amount of time so that all students have an opportunity to vote. A minimum of two days should be considered.

Taping of Candidate Speeches

All candidates in contested positions must supply a campaign video no less than 30 seconds, and no more than 3 minutes to the SGA Advisor according to the yearly election calendar. If there is only one student running for an open office, they will not have to do a speech as they will be the automatic winner as long as they meet the required qualifications.

SGA Executive Officers Eligibility requirements:

SGA President: Eligible candidates must be a rising Senior and have been a SGA or Class officer with at least one year prior service

SGA 1st Vice President: Eligible candidates must be a rising Senior or Junior and have been a SGA or Class Officer or Committee Member with at least one year prior service.

SGA 2nd Vice President: Eligible candidates must be a rising Junior or Sophomore and have been a SGA or Class Officer or served as a SGA Class Representative or on a SGA Committee.

SGA Secretary: Eligible candidates must be a rising Senior, Junior or Sophomore and have been actively involved in SGA or Class activities.

SGA Treasurer: Eligible candidates must be a rising Senior, Junior or Sophomore and have been actively involved in SGA or Class activities.

SGA Parliamentarian: Eligible candidates must be a rising Senior or Junior and have been a SGA or Class Officer with at least one year prior service.

Class Officers Eligibility requirements:

Eligible candidates must meet the above requirements and be a member of the class in which they are running for position of Class President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian.

In these elections, the candidate who receives the greatest number of the vote shall be elected. If there is a tie, all candidates with the tying number shall participate in a runoff election. The candidate with the highest number of votes in the runoff election shall be the elected officer.

Article V: Duties

The duties and responsibilities for the following SGA Executive Board offices include:

President: The President shall serve as primary spokesperson for and representative of the Association as well as the student body; to act on behalf of the student body; bear primary responsibility for the execution of all Association directives, chair and conduct all meetings of the Association; maintain relationships with the faculty, administration, and Board of Education; have the power to call emergency meetings; and have the power to delegate authority and appoint committees as the need arises.

Vice-Presidents: The Vice-Presidents (1st and 2nd) will fulfill the duties of the President in his/her absence; assist in the fulfillment of duties as assigned by the President; shall be responsible for communication between the student body and the Association. Each will also serve as a Co-Chair for a SGA Committee. They will also assist the Secretary in keeping attendance at all meetings and events sponsored by the SGA.

Secretary: The Secretary shall be the primary administrator of the Association, keep records of all actions taken by the Association, and maintain minutes of all SGA meetings. They shall maintain electronic mailing lists, compile agendas, and distribute and keep a copy of the Bylaws throughout the academic year. The secretary shall also address all student correspondence. They will also serve as a Co-Chair of an SGA Committee.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall implement procedure, which ensures fair and timely funding of student activities; administer and monitor the budget of the Association, be the primary financial officer of the Association, and provide financial reports at every meeting. They will also serve as the Co-Chair of the SGA Fundraising Committee.

Parliamentarian: The Parliamentarian shall advise the Association as to the requirements of the Bylaws and ensure that parliamentary procedure is followed at all meetings. They will also serve as a Co-Chair on an SGA Committee.

Article VI: Meetings

The Student Government Association shall meet at least every month throughout the academic year. Times and dates will be decided by the SGA Advisors and approved by the Principal. The Executive Board, SGA Committee Co-Chairs and all 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade officers shall comprise the SGA. This will enable orders of business to be addressed at the earliest possible time. Executive Board meetings should at a minimum be held once a month prior to the SGA General Assembly, at the leisure of the Executive Board.

Article VII: Committees

There shall be six SGA committees. Committee Co-Chairs will be a member of the Executive Board and one additional student. Committees are required to hold at least one monthly meeting where minutes and attendance should be recorded.

Publicity

The Publicity committee is responsible for publicizing all SGA events such as Fundraisers, After School Events, Dances, Blood Drives, and Spirit Weeks (HC/Fall, Winter, Spring), to the school body. Making posters, handing out flyers and making announcements are only a few of the ways the publicity committee can make the SGA event a success.

Fundraising

The Fundraising committee will oversee all fundraising events that the SGA holds. The fundraising committee should assist the executive board in coming up with ideas to help out the SGA monetarily. This committee will be co-chaired by the SGA Treasurer.

Dance

The Dance committee is responsible for organizing the Homecoming and Spring Fling Dances. This includes decorations, having refreshments donated, booking the DJ, set up and clean up.

Mandatory that All SGA and Class officers are expected to help with set up and clean-up of dances.

Community Involvement

The Community Involvement Committee is responsible for extending a helping hand from the SGA to the Bennett Community and surrounding areas. The two biggest events that this committee will be responsible for is the SGA Turkey Trot 5K Run and Walk for the Coach Mike Orr Scholarship held in November and Pasta for Pennies collection held in February/March.

Teacher Staff Appreciation

The Teacher/Staff Appreciation Committee is responsible for providing small tokens of appreciation to the teachers and staff here at JMB. They may be monthly, by seasons or

holidays. This committee will also help organize and execute the Teacher Staff Appreciation luncheon in May.

ILT Representative

The Instructional Leadership Team at JMB has one student representative that is responsible for going to the monthly ILT meetings and speaking on behalf of the entire student body. This is usually the SGA President however if they are not able to attend one of the VPs will need to go in place and report. That student will then report back to the Executive Board Officers and Class officers concerns and thoughts from the ILT team.

Temporary committees may be created to address issues, solve problems, and make recommendations to the Association. The President of the Executive Council and the SGA Advisors will determine membership and chairmanship of these committees.

Article VIII: Attendance

As elected officials to the Student Government, it is paramount that the Association have as many members present at each meeting as possible. However, it is understood that circumstances out of members' control do warrant an occasional absence. If a member is going to be absent at any meetings, he or she needs to notify one of the SGA Advisors directly. If one meeting is missed without legitimate excuse within a semester, the member shall be warned by the advisor. If an additional two unexcused meetings are missed, then disciplinary actions will occur.

Article IX: Impeachment or Removal

Members are expected to follow the basic rights and responsibilities of all students. They are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and to remember whom they are representing at all times. Members will be considered leaders within the school and must respect that standing. Failure to do so may require removal or impeachment.

Any Out of School suspension will result in automatic loss of office for officers on any level as it is considered behavior unbecoming of an SGA or Class officer. This will be handled by the SGA Advisor and the Principal.

Other behavior warranting removal from the SGA might include, but is not limited to: heinous violation or deprivation of council members of their rights; Serious failure to execute the duties of elected office responsibilities; Conduct unbecoming a council member, in both public and private, such as felonious criminal activity, or any other behavior judged to be unsuitable for a student representative.

If a member of the SGA feels that another member has not fulfilled his or her responsibilities, impeachment proceedings may be initiated against the member. The accuser must bring the expulsion recommendation in a detailed letter as well as evidence to the SGA Advisors for

further review. If an impeachable offence has occurred then a special meeting will be called of the Executive Board and Class Officers for a vote. The accused may defend him or herself, and a two-thirds vote shall be required for impeachment.

When a vacancy occurs in an Executive Board or Class Officer position, the Executive Board or Class Officers may choose to meet and appoint a person that satisfies the positions requirements or is an existing SGA member to fill that vacancy. That appointment will need to be confirmed by the General Assembly at the next meeting. The person's appointment to that position will be considered "acting" until such time as the General Assembly can confirm the appointment. If the General Assembly does not confirm the appointment, that person can not be reappointed to the same position.

If the Executive Board or Class Officers takes no such action, then the Vice-President(s) shall replace the President, followed in line of succession by the Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.

Article X: Amendments

The bylaws shall be reviewed in March of each year. The President of the association will remind members, or appoint a committee to do so. Any routine bylaw revisions shall be presented at April's General Assembly for approval. Emergency or time sensitive bylaw revisions can occur as needed.

The bylaws may be amended if the amendment is passed by a three-fourths vote in favor.

Article XI: Advisors

All meetings of the SGA shall be supervised by the advisor to the Student Government Association or another adult instituted by the advisor due to extenuating purposes.

Article XII: Vetoes

The SGA Advisor(s) and High School Principal shall have the power to veto any amendment or any bill or recommendation passed by the Association. In this event, the vetoing party must submit the reasons in writing to the Executive Council President.

Article XIII: Voting

In order to pass an issue through the Association, it must be voted upon, and a majority of the voting members must be in favor of it. In order for a vote to occur, it must be called either by the President or by a motion by voting members of the Association.

History of changes:

April, 2018. All approved unanimously.

1. Remove Specific names, and outdated procedures.

IV: Nominations and elections.

Eligibility requirements for ALL SGA and Class Officers positions:

Replace Mrs. Riggins with SGA Advisor(s) in

Voting

Replace section with:

Voting will occur via a method agreed upon by the SGA and Advisors. Polls shall be left open for a sufficient amount of time so that all students have an opportunity to vote. A minimum of two days should be considered.

Taping of candidate Speeches

Replace section with:

All candidates in contested positions must supply a campaign video no less than 30 seconds, and no more than 3 minutes to the SGA Advisor according to the yearly election calendar.

Class officer eligibility requirements

Remove and relocate to: Article IX: Impeachment or Removal

In case of resignation, impeachment, or removal of a Student Government Officer, the Vice-President(s) shall replace the President, followed in line of succession by the Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.

Article VI: Meetings

Remove

Meetings will be held the 2nd Thursday of the month during 5th period in the Media Center for the current SY but are subject to change if needed.

Add

Executive Board meetings should at a minimum be held once a month prior to the SGA General Assembly, at the leisure of the Executive Board.

2. Add a yearly review to Article X: Amendments

Add:

The bylaws shall be reviewed in March of each year. The President of the association will remind members, or appoint a committee to do so. Any routine bylaw revisions shall be presented at April's General Assembly for approval. Emergency or time sensitive bylaw revisions can occur as needed.

3. Redefine filling vacancies.

When a vacancy occurs in an Executive Board or Class Officer position, the Executive Board or Class Officers may choose to meet and appoint a person that satisfies the positions requirements or is an existing SGA member to fill that vacancy. That appointment will need to be confirmed by the General Assembly at the next meeting. The person's appointment to that

position will be considered “acting” until such time as the General Assembly can confirm the appointment. If the General Assembly does not confirm the appointment, that person can not be reappointed to the same position.

If the Executive Board or Class Officers takes no such action, then the Vice-President(s) shall replace the President, followed in line of succession by the Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.