

Constitution Proposals from Makenzi Hurtado

Proposal 1:

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section One

All full-time and part-time employees covered by the SVFT collective bargaining agreement in the Connecticut Technical High Schools are eligible for membership. Once becoming a member, membership will last for the duration of the collective bargaining agreement. Should a member choose to drop membership at the end of the collective bargaining agreement, ~~he/she will notify the SVFT in writing of the action within one month of the beginning of the next collective bargaining agreement. they will follow the~~ **procedure on their signed union card.**

Rationale:

When a member joins, they sign a union card with a clear timeline for dropping union membership that does not match this process.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Passed

Executive Council: Passed

Proposal 2:

ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS

Section Thirteen

The Union Representatives shall be elected by the end of the second full week in May for a term of two years. Members not present the day of the election ~~are ineligible to vote unless they are on previously scheduled school business. In such cases, they shall~~ **due to a previously scheduled absence are eligible to** vote the day before the election.

Rationale:

Allows members to vote that know they will not be in the building the day of the election.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Passed

Executive Council: Passed

Proposal 3:

ARTICLE VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section Five

The Executive Committee shall have the power to employ, set salaries as budgeted, supervise, and discharge all hired personnel such as an executive secretary, clerical help, and other persons on either a full or part-time basis as may be determined by the needs and finances of the organization. The Executive Committee shall have the power to select a negotiation team subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

~~Section Five~~

~~The Executive Council shall have the power to employ, set salaries as budgeted, supervise, and discharge all hired personnel such as an executive secretary, clerical help, and other persons on either a full or part-time basis as may be determined by the needs and finances of the organization. The Executive Council shall have the power to select a negotiation team subject to the approval of the membership.~~

Rationale:

This has been the past practice of the union. The budget committee reviews the costs and needs of hired personnel and the budget is approved by Executive Council and membership.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Passed
Executive Council: Passed

Proposal 4:

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section Four

The time and place of the Executive Council meetings shall be set by the Executive ~~Committee~~ **Council and announced at the previous membership meeting and approved by Executive Council.** Executive Council meetings will be held monthly, and the time and place of the meetings will be made known to the membership via the September SVFT newsletter. Emergency Council meetings may be held at the call of the President. **Meetings may be moved to a virtual meeting at the discretion of the President.**

Rationale:

This has become the practice since Covid and allows flexibility when the weather is not safe for driving or viruses are affecting attendance.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Passed
Executive Council: Passed

Proposal 5:

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

Section Eight

The Executive Committee selects committee members, pending approval of the Executive Council. New Committee members must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Has served or is currently serving as a building representative
- Has served or is currently serving on other committees
- Provides necessary expertise
- Balances representation on the committee between trade and academics
- Is available to attend all meetings

The Executive Committee, pending approval of the Executive Council, can elect for a committee to be open to all membership through the term.

Rationale:

Some of our committees have the ability to have a more fluid membership. This will allow all members to experience committee work and volunteer as able.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Passed
Executive Council: Passed

By-Laws Proposals from Makenzi Hurtado

Proposal 6:

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF COMMITTEE

Section Two

Section (K)

The Scholarship Committee – Shall review the applications for SVFT Scholarships and SVFT Mini Grants and select winners. The committee shall determine eligibility requirements and selection procedures.

Rationale:

Memorializes a standing committee and its role.

Proposal 7:

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF COMMITTEE

Section Two

Section (L)

Member Appreciation Committee – Shall organize member activities and celebrations including, but not limited to Teacher of the Year and Teacher Appreciation Week.

Rationale:

Allows for member input on important events in our union.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Passed
Executive Council: Passed

Proposal 8:

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF COMMITTEE

Section Three

Special Committees shall be:

- (A) Crisis
- (B) Nominations & Elections necessary by the organization
- (C) ~~Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention~~ Negotiation Committee
- (D) Opioid Crisis
- (E) DACA Support for Students
- (F) Any other as deemed

Section (A)

The Crisis Committee - Shall organize and coordinate activities of the technical high schools in any crisis situation. A crisis shall be determined by the President with the approval of the Executive Council.

Section (B)

The Nominations & Elections Committee - Shall be selected at least sixty days prior to the election of officers. (Care should be taken to ~~insure~~ ensure representation of all groups within the organization). The committee shall adhere to Article V of the Constitution pertaining to election procedures.

Section (C)

The Negotiation Committee – Shall be selected by the Executive Committee at least four months prior to the start of negotiations, pending approval of the Executive Council. Care should be taken to ensure representation across the organization. The committee members shall serve for the duration of contract negotiations.

Section (D)

Any other as deemed necessary by the organization.

Rationale:

- MTC is now a standing committee that reviews recruitment and retention.
- Typo
- The Negotiation Committee is a committee that serves outside of the term timeline of all other committees and should be considered a special committee. The contract committee should be throughout the year, whether we are in negotiations or not. Most negotiations start on January 1. “Four months prior” allows the Executive Committee to select a negotiation committee and present to Executive Council in September.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Passed

Executive Council: Passed

By-Laws Proposals by Melanie Perry

Proposal 9:

Bylaws, Article V

Section Nine **New******

Officers should use SVFT-issued devices and official communication systems when contacting members whenever practicable and shall treat member information obtained through their officer duties as confidential.

Section Ten **New******

At the end of their terms in office, officers shall turn over to the Union all files, records, and materials.

Rationale: Since most SVFT business is conducted via electronic devices and digital platforms—and SVFT officers are now provided mobile phones and laptops—this proposal clarifies that member information, communications, and records should be used for official union purposes only, and transfer with the office upon the conclusion of an officer’s service—just as we already require for committee chairs (Article IV, Section Six).

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: Passed

Executive Council: Passed