

CHAPTER BYLAWS

LIBERTY PSE



Public School Employees of Washington/SEIU Local 1948

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PREAMBLE

NAME

The name of this Chapter shall be Public School Employees of Liberty and shall be an affiliate of Public School Employees of Washington (PSE), a not-for-profit 501(c)5 labor organization operating under the laws of the State of Washington. This organization was chartered by Public School Employees of Washington on June 17, 1974.

MISSION - OUR PURPOSE FOR EXISTING

It is the mission of Public School Employees of Liberty to work closely with Public School Employees of Washington to support the membership through collective bargaining and the protection of those rights, promote educational enrichment opportunities, encourage membership growth, and provide quality leadership while working closely with the State Legislature in an effort to enact laws which will represent the best interest of all classified school employees in the State of Washington.

VISION - WHAT WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE

We will provide service of superior quality and value that best meets the needs of our chapter members. We will achieve that purpose through an organization and working environment which attracts the finest people, fully develops and challenges individual talents, encourages our free and spirited collaboration to drive the organization ahead, and maintains PSE's historic principles of integrity and commitment to do the right thing.

Through the successful pursuit of our commitment, we expect our services, programs, and activities to achieve a leadership position in representing all classified employees. As a result, PSE, our members, PSE employees, the School District in which we work, and the community in which we live will grow and prosper.

VALUES - THAT WHICH GUIDES OUR DECISIONS, PERFORMANCE, AND CONDUCT

Recognizing the needs of members and PSE staff, we are committed to:

- Striving for excellence and demonstrating pride in our work.
- Having open, honest communications.
- Providing high-quality service.
- Creating a work environment that is enjoyable, rewarding, and comfortable. We want it to be based on trust and concern for the rights and welfare of others.
- Embodying honesty and integrity in our conduct and relationships with others.
- Treating others fairly, equally and respecting their individual dignity.
- Recognizing individual worth.
- Supporting creativity, innovation, and constructive changes in the organization.
- Demonstrating accountability for our performance, actions, and behavior.
- Doing the professional, technical, organizational, and ethically "right" thing as opposed to the easy, popular, or politically expedient thing.
- Demonstrating a high level of social responsibility.

1 **Section 3.2.**

2 Members shall suffer no impairment of freedom of speech concerning the operations of this
3 organization. Active discussions of organization affairs shall be encouraged and protected within this
4 organization.
5

6 **Section 3.3.**

7 Members shall have the right to a full and clear accounting of all organizational funds. At all levels
8 such accounting shall include, but not be limited to, periodical reports to the membership by
9 appropriate fiscal officers or by independent auditors not otherwise connected with the organization,
10 and a financial audit at least once a year which is made available to all members.
11

12 **Section 3.4.**

13 Members shall have the right to full participation, through discussion and vote, in the decision making
14 processes of the organization and to pertinent information needed for the exercises of this right.
15

16 **Section 3.5. GOVERNING BODY.**

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18 **Section 3.5.1. Board of Trustees.**

19 Except when general meetings of the Chapter are in session, the business and property of this
20 Chapter shall be managed by a Board of Trustees. The authority to govern and act on behalf of
21 the membership is vested in the elected Board of Trustees who shall decide all matters affecting
22 the purposes, aims and means of accomplishing the purposes of this Chapter, not specifically
23 provided for in these Bylaws or by action of the members at a regular or special meeting.
24

25 **Section 3.5.2. PSE Field Staff.**

26 PSE Field Staff shall work closely with the Chapter in an advisory position. All decisions
27 governing the business of the local Chapter shall be the sole responsibility of the elected
28 officials and membership of the Chapter.
29

30 **Section 3.6. OPERATING PRINCIPLES.**

31 In order to provide the Chapter with the highest quality direction and management possible, the
32 following operating principles shall guide the Board of Trustees.
33

34 **Section 3.6.1. Board/Membership Relationships.**

35 A positive, constructive, cooperative relationship between the Board of Trustees and the
36 membership is essential to achieving the mission and vision of the organization. Therefore, the
37 Board and membership will conduct themselves in a way that promotes mutual trust,
38 demonstrates respect for individual dignity, and displays professionalism. The Board shall
39 utilize positive conflict resolution methods and maintain open, honest lines of communication
40 that respect an appropriate chain of command within the Chapter.
41

42 **Section 3.6.2. Media.**

43 The President, or his/her designee, is the primary spokesperson for the Chapter. Media
44 inquiries to individual board members about matters of Chapter concern should be referred to
45 the Chapter President. Inquiries about a position of PSE on any matter of statewide concern or
46 specific legislation should be referred to the Executive Director at State Headquarters.
47

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Section 4.1.

General membership meetings of this Chapter shall be held at least three (3) times annually at a time and place to be fixed by the membership or the Board of Trustees.

Section 4.1.1.

General membership meetings will be held the third (3rd) Monday of September, the fourth (4th) Monday of January, and the Monday during Classified Employees Week. An additional meeting may be called by the Executive Board prior to the end of the school year.

Section 4.1.2.

The Board of Trustees will meet at least one-half hour prior to any of the general meetings listed in Section 4.1.1.

Section 4.2.

Special meetings may be called by the President, the Board of Trustees, or by petition filed with the President and signed by twenty percent (20%) of the members in good standing of this Chapter.

Section 4.3.

The President shall provide at least five (5) days notification to all members of any meeting called. However, said five (5) days notice may be waived by the Board of Trustees provided that every reasonable effort is employed to notify the membership of the meeting.

Section 4.4. Voting.

At any meeting of the membership of this Chapter, each member in good standing present shall be entitled to one vote. A member must be present to vote -- no proxy vote will be allowed. The majority of members present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4.5. Board of Trustees Meetings.

Meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be called at the discretion of the President. Meetings may also be called upon motion of a majority of the members of the Board of Trustees to the President. A majority of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum. Whenever possible, twenty-four (24) hours notice will be provided before a Board of Trustee meeting is called other than those regularly scheduled in Section 4.1.2.

Section 4.6.

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the PSE State Bylaws, these Bylaws and with any special rules of order this Chapter may adopt.

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ARTICLE V

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 5.1.

The Board of Trustees shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Membership Officer, Treasurer, and a Unit Representative (herein known as a Trustee) elected by the unit from each classification of employees of the School District if represented by the local Public School Employees organization.

Section 5.2.

The term of office shall be for a period of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected. Election of officers of this organization will be held in March. The President and Treasurer shall be elected on even numbered years; the Vice President and Secretary/Membership Officer on odd numbered years.

Section 5.3.

The Board of Trustees shall hold regular meetings, and such special meetings as the President or the Board shall deem necessary for the competent management of affairs of the Chapter.

Section 5.3.1.

Notice of special meetings shall be given to the members of the Board of Trustees at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting, whenever possible.

Section 5.4.

Each member of the Board of Trustees shall possess one (1) vote in matters coming before the Board. All voting at meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be by each member present in person, and voting by proxy shall not be allowed. A majority of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5.5. Duties.

Section 5.5.1. President.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter and of the Board of Trustees. The President shall be made aware of, and supervise all activities of the Chapter; execute all instruments in its behalf; and work with PSE Field Staff, with the advice and consent of the Board of Trustees, to achieve the mission, vision, goals, and objectives of the Chapter. The President shall appoint all special committees not otherwise provided for in the Bylaws of the Chapter, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall report periodically to the membership regarding the progress and standing of the Chapter in regard to the President's official acts; and perform all other duties of the office.

Section 5.5.2. Vice President.

The Vice President shall provide such assistance to the President as requested; serve as chairperson of the Grievance Committee; shall, in the absence of the President, perform duties of that office; and in the case of permanent disability or resignation of the President, shall

succeed to that office for the unexpired portion of the current term of office. The Vice President shall also serve as the Legislative Representative.

Section 5.5.3. Secretary/Membership Officer.

The Secretary shall ensure that the minutes of general membership meetings and Board of Trustee meetings are duly recorded. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep all records of the Chapter, the Board of Trustees, and to perform such other official functions as the President and Board of Trustees may direct. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to act as the Membership Officer. The membership duties include: maintaining a current and accurate list of members of the Chapter in coordination with the membership information section in the PSE State Headquarters. She/he will ensure that all members are paying dues; render periodical membership reports as required by the PSE State Office, and perform such other official functions as the President and Board of Trustees may direct.

Section 5.5.4. Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall receive and be accountable for all funds and monies belonging to the Chapter; pay all obligations incurred by the Chapter as authorized by the Board of Trustees; keep an accurate record of receipts and disbursements; and maintain bank accounts and depositories designated by the Board of Trustees. Such money shall be withdrawn only by checks signed by the President and/or Vice President and the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall render periodical financial reports as required by the Board of Trustees, the membership, or Public School Employees of Washington to ensure that the Chapter is in compliance with all laws and regulations required by the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Labor. The fiscal year for all financial reports shall be from September 1 to August 31 of the following year, inclusive. The Treasurer shall act as custodian of all properties of the Chapter.

Section 5.5.5. Trustee.

A Trustee shall represent the classification of employees which elected them and express to the Board of Trustees the needs, desires, and concerns of the members in their classification. They will be responsible, along with the Grievance Committee, in advising an employee about their contractual rights.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTIONS, FILLING OF VACANCIES, AND RECALL PROCEDURES

Section 6.1.

Members shall have the right to fair and democratic elections at all levels of the Chapter. This includes ten (10) working days notice of nominations and elections, and equal opportunities for competing candidates to state their qualifications and reasons for seeking office to the Chapter membership. Elections shall be conducted by secret written ballot and certified by the Chapter Secretary/Membership Officer.

1 **Section 6.2.**

2 Members shall have an equal right to run and hold office, except those persons set forth in
3 RCW 41.56.030 Par. 2, a, b and c, and those employees classified either by State Statute or appropriate
4 state regulatory agencies as being a “supervisory employee.”
5

6 **Section 6.3.**

7 Elections shall be held during the month of March. Terms of office shall be from April 1 through
8 March 31. The term shall be for two (2) years for each officer.
9

10 **Section 6.4.**

11 Nominations may be made by the nominating committee, but whether or not such nominating
12 committee is used, nominations shall be permitted from the floor at the meeting held for the election.
13

14 **Section 6.5.**

15 To be eligible, a member must be in good standing for one (1) year immediately preceding the
16 election.
17

18 **Section 6.6.**

19 Members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot vote, and the balloting shall be so
20 conducted as to afford all members a reasonable opportunity to vote. At least ten (10) working days
21 advance notice shall be given the membership prior to the holding of the election.
22

23 **Section 6.6.1.**

24 All members of the Chapter shall be eligible to vote for the positions of President,
25 Vice President, Secretary, Membership Officer, and Treasurer. In the election of a Trustee,
26 only members in the classification of employees that the Trustee will represent shall be allowed
27 to vote.
28

29 **Section 6.7.**

30 Every member of the Board of Trustees shall, upon assuming office, subscribe to the obligations
31 contained in these Bylaws.
32

33 **Section 6.8.**

34 Any member of the Board of Trustees may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the
35 membership at any regular or special meeting of the Chapter. Written notice of the proposed removal
36 must be given to the Board of Trustee member at least five (5) working days prior to the date of the
37 meeting at which the removal is to be voted upon. Such notice must state the cause for the proposed
38 removal.
39

40 **Section 6.9.**

41 Unexcused absences from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be due cause
42 for removal of the member by the Board of Trustees. Removal of a Board member because of
43 excessive absenteeism shall not require the 2/3 vote of the membership.
44

45 **Section 6.10.**

46 A vacancy in any position, except that of President, shall be filled by the Board of Trustees in
47 accordance with the procedures set forth below:

1 **Section 6.10.1.**

2 In the event the President cannot serve the remainder of his/her current term, the Vice President
3 shall serve as President for the completion of the term.
4

5 **Section 6.10.2.**

6 In the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice President, Secretary, Membership Officer, or
7 Treasurer, all members shall be notified of the vacancy and nominations solicited for the
8 position. Nominations shall be accepted for a period of twenty (20) calendar days following
9 the notification to members. The President, at his/her discretion, may either call a special
10 meeting of the Board of Trustees, or act upon the vacancy at the next regularly scheduled
11 Board meeting. Each candidate for the position may submit a letter, or have three (3) minutes
12 to address the Board prior to the vote to describe their qualifications and reasons they are
13 seeking the position.
14

15 **Section 6.10.3.**

16 Any other vacancy shall be filled only for the remainder of the term in which the vacancy
17 occurs; provided, however, that when vacancies occur in the office of Trustee, the President
18 shall direct that a classification meeting be held and that the classification elect a successor for
19 the remainder of the vacant term. Election of the successor must be by majority vote. In the
20 event that more than two candidates run for the office, the candidate with the lowest vote total
21 will be dropped from the ballot after each round of voting until one candidate receives a
22 majority of the votes cast.
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26 **ARTICLE VII**

27 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

28
29 **Section 7.1.**

30 Local Chapters shall adopt bylaws that do not conflict with PSE State Bylaws. State Bylaws shall
31 always supersede local Bylaws where conflict exists.
32
33

34 **Section 7.2.**

35 This Chapter shall send to the PSE State Office a list of names and addresses of its Board of Trustees
36 and members, together with other information required by PSE and shall notify PSE of all changes in
37 board members, members, and addresses.
38

39 **Section 7.3.**

40 This Chapter shall not enter into any collective bargaining agreement, amendment thereto, dispute
41 settlement agreement, grievance settlement agreement, or any other agreement or waiver which affects
42 or pertains to wages, hours or working conditions of the employees in the bargaining unit, nor any
43 agreement which would affect the rights of employees represented by PSE, nor any agreement
44 affecting the scope of any collective bargaining unit, with the District, Employer, or other entity or
45 agent, unless such agreement is first reviewed and approved by the Executive Director of Public
46 School Employees of Washington or his/her designee, provided decisions of the Executive Director
47 may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

1 **Section 7.3.1.**

2 Original signed copies of all documents pertaining to issues outlined in Section 7.3 shall be
3 submitted to the regional service center, who will then forward the original to State
4 Headquarters after appropriate copies have been made.
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8 **ARTICLE VIII**

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10 **COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES**

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12 **Section 8.1. Grievance Committee.**

13 A Grievance Committee shall be composed of the Vice President and at least one unit representative
14 from each classification of employees in the Chapter; and shall be responsible for advising members of
15 their rights as outlined in the State Bylaws, Article XIV, State Grievance Panel.
16

17 **Section 8.2. Negotiating Committee.**

18 A Negotiating Committee shall consist of a representative elected from each classification of
19 employees represented by this bargaining unit and the President and Vice President. The committee
20 shall work with the PSE Field Representative in developing proposals and negotiating agreements.
21

22 **Section 8.3. Governmental Affairs Committee.**

23 The Governmental Affairs Committee shall work as a liaison between Chapter members and the Zone
24 Representative on the state PSE Legislative Council. Names and address of all committee members
25 shall be submitted to Public School Employees of Washington, and PSE shall be notified of any
26 changes in members or addresses.
27

28 **Section 8.4. Annual Convention Delegates.**

29 Delegates shall be elected by secret ballot at a meeting of the general membership. Approved
30 expenses incurred by elected delegates attending the Annual Convention shall be paid by the Chapter
31 or in accordance with appropriate provisions of PSE State Bylaws.
32

33 **Section 8.5. Audit Committee.**

34 An Audit Committee shall be selected by the Board of Trustees to audit the financial records of the
35 Chapter.
36

37 **Section 8.6. Other or Special Committees.**

38 The Board of Trustees shall designate such special committees as they determine necessary in the
39 carrying out of the objectives and purposes of this Chapter.
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ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

Section 9.1.

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees at any regular or special meeting thereof; providing, that notice of the intent to amend any specific provision be given to the members of the Board of Trustees at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting at which said vote is to be taken.

Section 9.2.

The Board of Trustees may submit any amendment to the Bylaws to the general membership for discussion and vote.

BY: _____

Bonnie Van Tine

Bonnie Van Tine, Chapter Secretary

DATE: _____

2.1.18

Adopted June 17, 1974
Amended October 4, 1999
Amended November 9, 2004
Amended September 6, 2006
Amended March 10, 2014
Amended March 14, 2016
Amended September 18, 2017