

# Election Policy of the Nelson High School Student Council

Established in 2017

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## Key Dates:

Event	Date	Changes
First Draft Written	Feb 27, 2018	First draft is written and edited.
Approved by Committee	Feb 28, 2018	Committee has submitted the final draft for discussion, debate, and approval of the Student Council.
Approved by the Council	Mar 26, 2018	Student Council has discussed, debated, and approved the signature.

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## 1. Definitions

- 1.1. **Election** shall be defined as the democratic selection of the representatives that shall form the Student Council. The student body of Nelson High School shall together elect a President and Vice President.
- 1.2. **Incumbent Student Council** shall be defined as the group of serving Student Councillors and Executive members that are currently serving during the duration of an election period. This group shall be responsible for the successful completion of the election cycle near the end of their term.
- 1.3. **President-elect** shall be defined as the candidate who has won the presidential election during an election cycle, but has yet to take the oath of office. The Vice President-elect shall be defined as the candidate who has won the Vice presidential election during an election cycle, but has yet to take the oath of office.
- 1.4. **Student Council-elect** shall be defined as the group which has been selected by the President-elect, Vice President-elect, and Teacher Liaison to serve in the next term.
- 1.5. **The Chief Elections Officer** shall be responsible for the proper running and logistical management of the Presidential and Vice Presidential election from a neutral perspective.
- 1.6. **Council Inauguration Day** shall be held on the second semester exam return day, in June of every year, in which the President-Elect, Vice President-Elect and Council-elect will take their collective oath of office.

## 2. Incumbent Student Council Responsibilities

- 2.1. The incumbent Student Council shall be responsible for nominating one of its members to serve as Chief Elections Officer. The qualifications for such a role are as follows:
  - a. Be a student who is not returning to Nelson High School in the next school year, and;

- b. Be a Student Councillor with more than 1 years experience in the organization, and;
  - c. Pledge their neutrality during the election cycle to the Student Council, and understand that they are in no way allowed to participate in the process or any other anti-democratic plots.
- 2.2. The incumbent Student Council shall be responsible for carrying out the election process every year starting no earlier than May.
- 2.3. The incumbent Student Council shall announce when candidates may begin filing applications to run for President or Vice President.
- 2.4. The incumbent Student Council shall be responsible for ensuring that all campaigns following all regulations set forth in this document and the Constitution of the Nelson High School Student Council. All breaches of protocol are to be reported to the Chief Election Officer who shall decide the punishment for the breach up to and including disqualification, so long as the Teacher-Liaison consents.
- 2.5. The incumbent Student Council shall be responsible for ensuring that all campaigns are to be fair and leave both the Student Council and Nelson High School free of negative reputation at all costs.

### **3. Responsibilities of the Staff of Nelson**

- 3.1. The Staff of Nelson High School shall be responsible for ensuring the election process follows all school and board policies and guidelines through the Teacher Liaison.

### **4. Responsibilities of the Student Body**

- 4.1. All students of Nelson High School have the right to run for the office of President and Vice President.
- 4.2. All students of Nelson High School are eligible to vote for one (1) Presidential candidate and one (1) Vice Presidential candidate.
- 4.3. All students who wish to partake in the vote for President and Vice President must have a valid Student ID card from Nelson High School.

### **5. Application Process**

- 5.1. Each candidate for President or Vice President must submit the appropriate forms in order to properly declare their candidacy, including an enclosed and sealed teacher recommendation and a letter of support from a leadership group.
- 5.2. All applications must be completed within 14 days of the election set by the Chief Elections Officer.

## **6. Campaigning**

- 6.1. All campaigns for President and Vice President shall commence no earlier than May 1st of every election cycle.
- 6.2. Election campaigns may only commence once the candidate has submitted all of the proper documentation, and submitting it to the Chief Elections Officer of the incumbent Student Council.
- 6.3. The campaigns of all candidates must be focused on their skills, experiences, and advantages, rather than the faults or weaknesses of others.
- 6.4. All campaigns may, from time to time, request the Chief Elections Officer to advertise in the form of wall posters or campaign events. The Chief Elections Officer, in conjunction with the incumbent Teacher Liaison, shall determine whether or not the advertisement or event is suitable for campaigning.

## **7. Election Procedure**

- 7.1. Voting in the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- 7.2. All elections for Student Council President and Vice President are to be held during the lunch period (Period 3) on election day to avoid students missing class.
- 7.3. Ballots shall have all the names of the declared and recognised candidates for both President and Vice President.
- 7.4. There may be a maximum of four (4) voting areas throughout Nelson High School which shall be selected by the Chief Elections Officer with the consent of the Student Council. All voting areas must be manned by at least one (1) member of the Nelson High School Staff, and one (1) member of the Student Council while voting is active.
- 7.5. After the election period, the votes shall be counted under the supervision of the Chief Elections Officer and Teacher Liaison.
- 7.6. The winner of the Presidential Election is the candidate which receives the largest number of votes in the Presidential election. The winner of the Vice Presidential Election is the candidate which receives the largest sum of votes in the Vice Presidential Election.
- 7.7. As soon as the votes have been counted and announced, the Chief Elections Officer, with the consent of the Student Council and Teacher Liaison, shall release the results of the election, with all formal documents available for candidates to examine should the result of the election be contested.
- 7.8. The official documents and ballot count in an election must be photocopied and sealed in the official records of the Student Council.

## **8. Special Circumstances**

- 8.1. If a candidate for President or Vice President wins their respective election, they immediately forfeit their right to hold any other position on the Student Council for the next term of office other than the office they have been elected to.
- 8.2. Should an the result of an election be within the margin of 20 votes, there shall immediately be a recount to ensure the correct victor of the election.
- 8.3. If there is a tie for the Presidential Election, there shall be a revote within 2 weeks between the two candidates two tied in the first round of voting. The winner of the second round shall be declared President.
- 8.4. If there is a tie for the Vice Presidential Election, there shall be a revote within 2 weeks between the two candidates two tied in the first round of voting. The winner of the second round shall be declared Vice President.
- 8.5. Should a winner be unable to be named after a period of more than 4 weeks, the incumbent Student Council President shall request of the Administration of Nelson High School to elevate one (1) incumbent Student Councillor to the position of President, and one (1) incumbent Student Councillor to the position of Vice President.

## **9. Transition of Power**

- 9.1. The official transition of power shall take place on the Council Inauguration Day of every year, once the Presidential candidate has taken the oath of Office. The Vice Presidential candidate may then proceed with taking their oath of office. The Student Council-elect may then take a collective oath of office.

## **10. Amendments**

- 10.1. To make amendments to this document, the council must make an official motion with a majority of councillors agreeing to open the document to debate.
- 10.2. *Article 11,1 The Constitution of the Nelson High School Student Council* outlines the requirement of this document. This document may not be terminated so long as this article is in place.

## **11. This document shall come into effect on March 26th, 2018.**