

**Proposed changes to the TAGAC Bylaws**

Version 5b5 – January 12, 2014

**PROPOSED CHANGE #1: Replace Article III (Membership) as follows:**

**Section 1.** The Council should consist of not less than 12 members and not more than 18 members. Members should represent the demographics of the students serviced by the district including gender, race, ethnicity, culture, and socioeconomic status. Members should include parents or guardians of elementary school children, middle school children and high school children, with additional consideration of geographic representation. Special efforts must be made to appoint parents of traditionally under-represented racial groups in at least six member positions. Up to six member positions may be kept unfilled to facilitate recruiting more diverse members.

**Section 2.** The parent or guardian of any PPS district eligible student who can fulfill all duties and responsibilities stated in these bylaws may submit a membership application to the Chair or the TAG Administrator at any time. New members of the Council shall be appointed jointly by the TAG Administrator and the Chair. Either the Chair or the TAG Administrator may also individually recommend applicants as new members, who must then be voted on at the next regular Council meeting with the smaller of 5 members or a quorum present.

**Section 3.** Appointments should generally occur at the last meeting of the school year for a term beginning the first Monday of the following September. Each member shall be appointed for a term of three years to provide for continuity of membership. The term of a member first appointed between the first Monday of September and the last day of the following January shall be deemed to have started on the first Monday of September. The term of a member first appointed after the last day of January shall begin as appointed, but the three year period shall be deemed started on the upcoming first Monday of September.

**Section 4.** Any member who attended more than half of all regular TAGAC meetings during their first term shall be eligible for one additional three year term of service. At least five days before the last regular meeting of any eligible member's term, the TAG Administrator or any Council member may request to the Chair, a vote of affirmation. Upon such a request, the Chair will hold the vote at the next regular meeting with a quorum. A majority affirmative vote (not including the eligible member) is required for the eligible member to be appointed for the second term. If the vote cannot be held until after the first term expires, the additional term is provisional until the vote is held. Absent such request, an eligible member is automatically appointed for a second term.

**Section 5.** If a member is absent from two (2) consecutive meetings without justification, a quorum of the Council shall vote on whether or not to replace that member. When a member has been absent for more than half of the regular meetings in a single school year, that member shall be removed, unless a quorum of the Council votes not to remove that member.

**PROPOSED CHANGE #2: Article V (Meetings) Section 1**

**Original:** "The Council shall meet at least four (4) times a year."

**Proposed:** "The Council shall hold regular meetings monthly during the school year."

**PROPOSED CHANGE #3: Article VII (Establishment of Bylaws) Section 1**

**Original:** "The TAG Administrator shall notify Council members of the amendments at the next regularly scheduled meeting."

**Proposed:** "The amendments shall be sent to all members and made available along with Council meeting minutes."

**PROPOSED CHANGE #4: Article VI (Committees) Section 3**

**Original:** "Persons other than members of the Council may serve on its committees upon the recommendation of the Council and the approval of the TAG Administrator."

**Proposed:** "Persons other than members of the Council may serve on a committee upon recommendation of the head of the committee or of the Council."

**NOTES:**

1. *Without sufficient and committed members, TAGAC cannot create and maintain momentum to accomplish anything. These changes will help lighten the load on a busy TAG Administrator being solely responsible to appoint members. These changes will also help retain active members by ensuring they are able to continue in a second term as part of the TAGAC as long as they meet reasonable standards of participation.*
2. *The description of membership characteristics was consolidated and rearranged for clarity and to help support Board Policy 2.10.010-P on Racial Education Equity. Race was added as an explicit demographic that should be represented by members. Text requiring special effort to appoint racially diverse members was also added. Keeping up to 6 positions open is explicitly recommended when necessary to take more time to recruit more diverse members, in the situation where otherwise appropriate applicants are available to meet the minimum of 12 members on the Council.*
3. *Current bylaws suggest 4 members each from ES, MS and HS, but experience shows that interest among parents is greatest at ES and least at HS levels. The explicit call for 4 members each was replaced with text saying members should come from ES, MS and HS schools but not saying how many from each.*
4. *Added text to allow applications for membership at any time so that there might be a pool to select from if a new member is needed.*
5. *Originally, there were no guidelines for selecting between 1, 2 and 3 year terms. 1 and 2 years seems too short for a member to follow through on ideas and supporting recommendations. Given that any member can resign at will, a single 3 year term will remove ambiguity and better support continuity, especially for parents of Elementary School students who have many years of schooling left.*
6. *Being appointed between Sept and Jan means a new member attends over half the meetings, so this counts as their first year. Being appointed in Feb or later means attending less than half, so this does not count in their 3 year term. Something had to be said about mid-year appointees and this just seemed a reasonable approach.*
7. *Determining "whether or not prospective members can fulfill all duties..." should be a normal responsibility of appointing members so seem unnecessary.*
8. *Most if not all other PPS advisory groups meet monthly. All but one of the PPS parent advisory groups listed here: <http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/school-family-partnerships/7873.htm> meet monthly. The change in this proposal brings TAGAC in line with them.*
9. *Other minor busy work details for a busy TAG Administrator have also been transferred to the TAGAC itself.*
10. *It seems reasonable to allow the head of a committee to recommend that a non-member be allowed to serve on their own committee.*