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Constitution
of the
Wyandanch Teachers' Association

Article I: DESIGNATION

This organization shall be designated the Wyandanch Teachers' Association.

Article II: PURPOSES

- A. To promote the best education for the student as the result of cooperative decisions and full participation of teachers in school policy, curriculum and methodology.
- B. To make independent and democratically derived determination on all policies, issues, or actions of this association.
- C. To advance the standards of the teaching profession.
- D. To secure the conditions necessary for the greatest efficiency of the teachers and the students.
- E. To promote the welfare of its members.
- F. To promote mutual assistance and cooperation with other local teacher organizations with which it is associated.
- G. To promote unity and strength in the teaching profession.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

A. Active Membership

1. All regularly employed teachers and professional employees other than those serving in a full time administrative capacity, shall be eligible for membership in this organization
2. No discrimination shall ever be shown toward individual members or applicants because of age, race, sex, religious faith, or political activities or beliefs.
3. Active membership shall be continuous until the member leaves the school system, resigns from the Association, fails to pay membership, or dies.

B. Retired Membership

Retired membership shall be open to all persons who have previously been members of the Wyandanch Teachers' Association.

Article IV: OFFICES and OFFICERS

- A. The offices of the Wyandanch Teachers' Association shall be a President, Secondary Vice-President, Middle School Vice President, Elementary Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

B. No member shall be eligible to hold office who is not a member in good standing of the Wyandanch Teachers' Association. Member must be current on dues and have not been impeached within the previous two years.

C. Duties of Officers:

1. The President shall:
 - (a) Be the Chief Executive Officer of the Wyandanch Teachers' Association.
 - (b) Administer all affairs and execute all policies of the organization.
 - (c) Preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and the general membership
 - (d) Appoint and establish the function of all committees not provided for in this Constitution. The approval of the Executive Committee shall be necessary before any action by the Standing Committee commences.
 - (e) Call regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee and the general membership.
 - (f) Fulfill such other duties as the office requires and as are consistent with this Constitution.
 - (g) Be the ranking delegate to the national Education Association and to the New York Educators Association.
 - (h) Be a member of all standing committees.
2. The Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in his/her absence and shall perform such other duties as may be required by the President or the Executive Committee.
3. The Secretary shall perform those duties usual to that office and such other duties as may be required by the President or the Executive Committee.
4. The Treasurer shall perform those duties usual to that office and such other duties as may be required by the President or the Executive Committee.

Article V: OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS (Delegate Assembly Concept)

- A. Building representatives shall be elected by secret ballot vote of the members in each building. Each building shall be entitled to one representative for every 10 (ten) members or major fraction thereof. Building representatives shall serve a 2 (two) year term commencing June 30. Each building representative shall remain in office until his/her successor assumes the office.
- B. New York State United Teachers delegates and New York State Teachers Retirement delegate shall represent the Wyandanch Teachers' Association at all New York State United Teachers' functions and meetings. The top ranking delegate shall be the President of the Wyandanch Teachers' Association.

Article VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurer, Grievance Officer, and Building Representatives.

B. Duties

The Executive Committee shall:

1. Submit an annual budget to the membership.
2. Act upon expenditures as may be required.
3. Interpret the Constitution and By-Laws of the Wyandanch Teachers' Association.
4. Make policy for the organization between the meetings of the general membership.
5. Make policy recommendations to the membership for their consideration.
6. Perform all other duties as enumerated in this Constitution.
7. Approve the By-Laws of the Association as they are formulated by the elected officers.

C. Meetings

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least monthly during the school year. Special meetings may be called by the President or by a majority of the Executive Committee.
2. Quorum shall be 51% of the Executive Committee with at least one representative from the secondary area and one representative from the elementary area.
3. A roll call voting tally shall be published after each meeting as part of the regular minutes.

D. Removal from Office

1. The Executive Committee shall have the power to impeach and remove any of its members. Impeachment may occur for the following reasons: three consecutive general meeting absences or misconduct unbecoming to the WTA.
 - a. Any member of the Committee may ask the Executive Committee to consider impeachment proceedings against one of its members.
 - b. After informal discussions a majority vote shall determine whether to continue with impeachment proceedings. In the event of a majority vote the person being charged shall be notified in writing of the specifics and be permitted to reply to the charges at the next Executive Committee meeting.
 - c. A 2/3 majority of the entire Executive Committee shall be required to remove a member from office.
 - d. The members in each building may remove a building representative from office by 2/3 majority vote of that building.
 - e. All officers may be impeached by a petition of not less than 50% of the entire membership. When this occurs, a recall vote will be taken. Removal from office will follow a vote of 2/3 of the members voting at the recall

election.

- f. Any Building Representative who misses 3 or more general or building meetings may be immediately dismissed by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Council. Legitimate excuses are Leadership meetings, conferences, and sick days.
- g. Any member impeached from office will not be able to run for office for the two years following said impeachment.

Article VII: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- A. General membership meetings shall be open only to members in good standing.
 - 1. General membership meetings shall require 5 days prior notification.
 - 2. Meetings of the general membership may be called by the President, a majority of the Executive Committee, or by petition of 25% of the membership.
 - 3. A quorum at a general membership meeting shall consist of 25% of the total membership of record at that time.
- B. Building Meetings
 - 1. A building meeting (for the membership of each particular building) may be called at the discretion of the building representatives, or by a petition of 20% of the building membership.
 - 2. A quorum in each building shall consist of a majority of the members in that building.

Article VIII: COMMITTEES

- A. Standing Committees – Members of all standing committees shall be appointed by the President. The approval of the Executive Committee shall be necessary before any action by the Standing Committee commences. All committees shall report to the Executive Committee at each monthly Executive Committee meeting. All members shall have one year terms of service. Each committee shall have a budget of no more than \$1000 with the exception of the Grievance Officer who is paid on scale as Vice President.
 - 1. Professional Negotiations Committee – Shall be composed of five members. This committee shall consist of at least one member from the elementary, middle, and senior high school areas.
 - 2. Social Committee – Shall be composed of at least one member from the elementary, middle school and senior high areas and will handle all of the WTA Social events.
 - 3. Grievance Committee – Shall handle and process all grievances.
 - 4. Owl Center Committee – Shall handle and process all information pertaining to the Owl Center.

5. APPR Committee – Shall be composed of a member from the elementary, middle school and senior high areas.

B. Special Committees

1. Special committees shall be appointed by the President. The approval of the Executive Committee shall be necessary before any action commences.
2. Special Committees shall submit a written report to the Executive Committee at the conclusion of their assignment.

Article IX: TERMS OF OFFICE

Duly elected officers shall serve a two year term commencing June 30. Each officer shall remain in office until his/her successor assumes the Office.

Article X: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. Officers and Delegates

1. An election of officers and New York State United Teachers delegates shall be held no later than June 20.
2. An election committee shall be appointed by the President subject to the approval of the Executive Committee prior to any action commencing.
 - a. The election committee shall submit a list of candidates to the membership at least two weeks prior to the election.
 - b. Additional nominations may be made by petition signed by 10 (ten) members in good standing, submitted to the elections committee no later than one week prior to the election.
3. Procedure for voting and tabulating returns shall be prescribed by the elections committee and shall conform to any legal requirements.
4. Members in good standing may vote for all officers and delegates.
5. Any members running for a VP position with a partner must also run as a partnership for building rep. If partnership only wins one office, then it will be up to partners and President to select one of the two members for the position won.
6. Members cannot run for two or more separate positions without a partner.

B. Building Representatives

1. An election of building representatives shall be held no later than June 20.
2. The President shall appoint one person in each building to conduct the election and collect the ballots.
3. Each member in good standing may vote for each position to be filled.

Article XI: VACANCY

- A. The Executive Committee by secret ballot shall fill a vacancy in the office of the President from the three Vice-Presidents when that vacancy is for less than one year. In the event the vacancy in the office of President be for one or more years, such a vacancy shall be filled by a vote for the general membership between the three Vice-Presidents within thirty days of the occurrence of the vacancy. The elected official shall serve the remainder of the term of office.
- B. In the event of a vacancy for Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, or building Representative the President shall appoint a replacement for the unexpired term subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.
- C. If a vacancy occurs for a New York State United Teachers delegate and/or NYTRS delegate, it shall be filled by the first alternate. If this is impossible, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Committee.

Article XII: FINANCES

- A. The fiscal year of the Wyandanch Teachers' Association shall be July 1—June 30.
- B. The Treasurer shall issue an annual financial report to members within three months of the end of the fiscal year.
- C. Upon approval of the Executive Committee, the annual budget shall be presented to the general membership for their approval.
- D. A member automatically loses his/her good standing, if his/her dues are in arrears upon thirty (30) days notice by the Treasurer. The payment plan for members not on payroll deduction is as follows:
 - a. 1/10 per month
 - b. ½ by September 20 and the other ½ by February 20
 - c. Total dues by January
- E. Checks must be signed by the President and either the Treasurer or Secretary.
- F. No monies may be used to honor or to provide gifts to anyone outside the Wyandanch Teachers' Association without prior authorization of the Executive Committee.

Article XIII: AFFILIATIONS

This organization shall be affiliated with the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and its national affiliates.

Article XIV: AMENDMENTS

- A. The proposed amendment must be submitted to the Executive Committee in writing by a member in good standing.

B. The Executive Committee shall submit the proposed amendment to the general membership for its ratification.

C. An amendment shall be ratified when voted for by 2/3 of the general membership voting by secret ballot.

Article XV: RATIFICATION

This constitution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by 2/3 of the membership voting. Voting shall be by secret ballot in each individual building. Absentee balloting shall be permitted with notification prior to the balloting.

Article XVI: STIPENDS

The following stipends will be given out no later than June 30th:

President -	\$7,500.
Vice President -	\$2,500.
Secretary -	\$2,000.
Treasurer -	\$2,000.
Grievance Officer -	\$2,500.
Building Reps -	\$250.

Article XVII: EXPENSES

All expenses shall be reimbursed as per NYSUT expense reimbursement policy.