ACADEMY OF AMERICAN STUDIES

High School

40-11 28th Street

Long Island City, NY 11101

929-487-1910

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

(PTA)

BYLAWS

2022-2023

(REVISION)

Adapted from the** Office for Family Engagement and Advocacy **PA Bylaws Template

Article I – Name

The name of the association shall be The Parent Teachers Association of Academy of American Studies, (PTA of AAS).

Article II – Objectives

The objectives of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) are to provide support and resources to the school for the benefit and educational growth of the children; to develop a cooperative working relationship between the parents and staff of our school; to develop parent leadership and build capacity for greater involvement; to foster and encourage parent participation on all levels; and to provide opportunities and training for parents to participate in school governance and decision-making.

Article III – Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Parents of students currently attending AAS are automatically members of the PTA of AAS. Parents include parents by birth or adoption, step-parents, legally appointed guardians, foster parents, and persons in parental relation to a child currently attending AAS. Parents of a child who is attending AAS full time while on the register of a citywide program are automatically members of the PTA OF AAS. At the beginning of each school year, the association shall send a welcome letter to inform parents of their automatic membership status and voting rights.

Since the Association is a PTA; Membership shall be open to all teachers, guidance counselors, principal, and assistance principals who are currently employed at the school.

Section 2: Donations

Donations are not a requirement for membership, voting or candidacy. Each member shall be requested to make a voluntary donation of at least 20.00. Donations may be transmitted via secure electronic bank transfer, and check/cash delivered to AAS, attention: PTA Liaison / Parent Coordinator.

Section 3: Voting Privileges

Each parent of a child currently enrolled at AAS shall be entitled to one vote. Proxy voting or absentee balloting is prohibited. Since the association is a PTA, each teacher, guidance counselor, principal and assistant principals currently employed at the school shall be entitled to one vote. The right of a member to vote may be limited by the Conflicts of Interest restrictions outlined in Chancellor's Regulation A-660 (CR A-660).

Article IV – Officers

Section 1 – Titles

The officers of the PTA shall be president, vice president (or co- vice presidents), secretary (or co-secretaries) and treasurer (or co-treasurers). The PTA must elect the mandatory officers; president, secretary and treasurer in order to be a functioning PTA). If mandatory positions are not filled during June elections, positions will be open for nominations in September of the next school year, with an opportunity for incoming 9th grade members to participate as candidates for vacant Executive Board positions. There shall be no qualifications for any office other than to be a parent of a child attending AAS.

Section 2 – Term of Office and Term Limits

The term of office shall be from July 1st through June 30th. All parent members are eligible to run for any office.

Term limits for each officer position for the association shall be three (3) consecutive one-year terms. The candidate who has served the maximum number of terms may be elected to serve an additional term, provided that no other candidate is nominated and is willing to serve.

Section 3 – Duties of Officers

President

The President shall preside at all meetings association and shall be and ex-officio member of all committees. except the nominating committee. The president shall appoint chairpersons of PTA committees with the approval of the executive board. The president shall delegate responsibilities of other PTA members and shall encourage meaningful participation in all parent and school activities. The president shall attend all regular meetings of the presidents' council and shall be a mandatory member of the school leadership team. The president shall meet regularly (within 2 weeks of scheduled -monthly General Membership meetings) with the executive board members in accordance with these bylaws to plan the agendas for the general membership meetings. The president shall be one of the eligible signatories on checks. The president shall attend OFEA professional development seminars relating to association leadership. The president shall assist with the June transfer of PTA records to the incoming executive board.

Vice President (Co-Vice Presidents)

The vice-president (co-presidents) shall assist the president and shall assume the president's duties in his/her absence or at the president's request. The vice-president (co-vice presidents) shall be one of the signatories on all checks.

Secretary (Co-Secretaries)

The secretary shall maintain the official record (minutes) of the proceedings and actions of all association meetings. The secretary's responsibilities shall include the preparation of notices, agendas, sign-in sheets and materials for distribution. The secretary shall prepare and read the minutes of each association meeting and shall distribute copies of the minutes at the next scheduled meeting for review and approval by the general membership (live, in-person meetings). Record of meetings (minutes) will be posted to school website (PTA Domain) within 7 days following scheduled general membership meetings, with parents informed of access during each general membership meeting (virtual meetings). The secretary shall incorporate all amendments that are on file in the principal's office. The secretary shall be responsible for reviewing, maintaining and responding to all correspondence addressed to the PTA (Mail/Email). The secretary shall assist with the June transfer of all PTA records to the incoming executive board.

Treasurer (Co-Treasurers)

The treasurer shall be responsible for all financial affairs and funds of the association. The treasurer shall also be responsible for maintaining an updated record of all income and expenditures on school premises (designated PTA File Cabinet) and shall be one of the signatories on checks. The treasurer shall be prepared to prepare and present/provide copies of financial reports at all association meetings. The treasurer shall prepare and provide copies of the interim and annual financial reports. The treasurer shall make available all books or financial records for viewing by members upon request and for audit. The treasurer shall attend OFEA professional development seminars relating to financial affairs. The treasurer shall assist with the June transfer of all PA/PTA records to the incoming executive board.

Section 4

Election of Officers

Officers shall be elected between the third Wednesday in May and the third Friday in June for a one-year term beginning July 1. Any timeline established by the PA/PTA to complete the nominations and election process must adhere to this timeframe. Elections will be held at the September PTA meeting, to fill any vacancies or the required positions (President, Secretary, Treasurer). The principal must be notified in writing of the date of the election by May 1.

Employees of the school, including parent coordinators, may not serve as association officers.

4.1

Nominating Committee: A nominating committee must be established during the March general membership meeting. The nominating committee shall consist of three to five members. The majority of the committee members must come from the general membership. The remaining members of the nominating committee shall be selected by the president, subject to the approval of the executive board. The nominating committee shall choose one of its members to serve as chairperson. No person employed at AAS shall be eligible to serve on the nominating committee.

No person who is running for office may serve as a member of the nominating committee.

The nominating committee shall solicit candidates from the membership in writing, in English and other languages as appropriate, for recommendations of candidates for all offices. The nominating committee will also be responsible for conducting the election meeting. This includes the following:

- Canvassing the membership for eligible candidates;
- Preparing and distributing all notices of any meeting pertaining to the nomination and election process, in accordance with CR A-660. Notices should be translated into languages spoken by parents in the school whenever possible;
- Preparing ballots, attendance sheets, a ballot box, tally sheets and all other materials pertaining to the election;
- Verifying the eligibility of all interested candidates prior to the election;
- Ensuring that an opportunity is provided to all members allowing for nominations, including self-nomination, to be taken from the floor and then officially closed during the April PTA meeting (September for the Vice President position).
- Scheduling the election at a time that ensures maximum participation;
- Ensuring that only eligible members receive a ballot for voting;
- Ensuring that the election is certified by the principle or his/her designee immediately following the election;

The appropriate Presidents' Council and/or OFEA must conduct an expedited election if a nominating committee cannot be formed.

4.2

Notices: The meeting notice and agenda for the Spring general membership election meeting shall be distributed in accordance with CR A-660's notice requirements. All meeting notices and agendas shall be available in English and translated into languages spoken by parents in the school whenever possible. The distribution date shall appear on all notices. If nominations have been closed, the election meeting notice shall list all candidates in alphabetical order by surname under the office for which they are nominated.

4.3

Contested Elections and Use of Ballots:

- Written ballots shall be used in all contested elections.
- Names of candidates shall appear on the ballot in alphabetical order by surname under the title of the office(s) for which they were nominated.
- Names of candidates for the positions of co-presidents must be listed as a team.
- Ballots shall be printed with voting instructions in English and other languages spoken by parents in the school whenever possible.
- Ballots shall be distributed once voter eligibility has been established.
- Ballots shall be counted immediately following the election and in the presence of the members.
- Ballots shall be retained for six months by the chairperson of the nominating committee or if there is no nominating committee, by an officer. If the chairperson will no longer be an eligible member after June 30, the ballots shall be turned over to the incoming secretary.

- **(note: during virtual meetings, voting will consist of secure online voting (google forms) during the meeting).**
- **Both in-person and virtual elections/voting require voters to be present. Absentee Ballots are not Permitted.**

4.4

Uncontested Elections:

If there is only one candidate for an office, a member must make a motion for the recording secretary to cast one vote to elect the candidate for office. A vote of the membership is required for approval of the motion. The result of the motion must be recorded in the minutes.

4.5

Officer Vacancies:

All officer vacancies must be filled by succession of the next highest ranking officer. For example, a vacancy in the position of president will be filled by the vice-president or next highest ranking officer. In the event that an office cannot be filled through succession, an expedited election much be held to fill the vacancy. Officers who wish to resign their positions once an election has been certified must submit their written resignation to the secretary and immediately turn over all associated records. The ranking of officers for succession purposes shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.

4.6

Expedited Election Process:

Expedited elections shall be held to fill vacancies in the event they cannot be filled through succession. The executive board shall be responsible for announcing vacancies and distributing written notice of the expedited election. All nominations must be taken from the floor, immediately prior to the election. If the election is contested, written ballots must be used in accordance with Section 4.3 of these bylaws.

Section 5

Education Council Selectors

In the case of co-presidents, co-secretaries and/or co-treasurers, the remaining executive board members will vote to choose who will be the CEC, CCSE, CCELL or CCHS selectors.

Section 6

June Transfer of Records

The outgoing PTA executive board shall arrange for the orderly transfer of records and information of the PA, which shall include an overview of all PTA transactions for the school year, to the incoming executive board. At least one meeting will be scheduled during the month of June for this purpose. Any member of the executive board may request the assistance of the presidents' council during this process.

Section 7

Disciplinary Action

Any officer who fails to attend TWO (2) consecutive executive board or general membership meetings shall be removed from office by recommendation of the executive board or motion from a member and two-thirds vote of the membership present. The officer shall be given the opportunity to submit in writing an explanation showing good cause which explains his/her reason for not attending these meetings for the Board's consideration.

PTA officers may also be removed for unsatisfactory performance by following the procedure outlined below:

- At any general membership meeting, a PTA member may make a motion to begin the process of removing an executive board member for unsatisfactory performance.
- If the motion is approved by two-thirds of the assembled members, the PTA must select a review committee by majority vote. Executive board members may not serve on the review committee.
- The review committee will gather relevant information and present its findings to the general membership to allow the members to make an informed decision about the motion. Findings must be presented in writing at a general membership meeting within 30 school days of the date the motion was presented. The PTA's notice and agenda must indicate that a vote will be taken by the general membership regarding the removal of a PTA executive board member.
- The result of the motion must be submitted in writing to the principal, which the principal must forward to the appropriate superintendent and the CFEO.

Article V – Executive Board

Section 1

Composition

The executive board shall be composed of the elected officers of the association. The executive board may also include chairpersons of standing committees. Employees of AAS shall be ineligible to serve as an elected officer of the association. Officers shall be expected to attend all executive board meetings, and general membership meetings.

Section 2

Meetings*

Regularly scheduled meetings of the executive board shall be held monthly, September through June, on the last Wednesday of each month at 6pm, unless such date shall fall on a legal or religious holiday, in which case the meeting shall be held on the following or previous Wednesday. The day/ time of scheduled meetings may be adjusted if necessary, with 7 days notice to the PTA. Between September and June of the school year, 2/10 required meetings will be held in-person on the property of AAS.

Section 3

Voting

Each member of the executive board shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 4

Quorum

Three (3) members of the executive board shall constitute a quorum, allowing for official business to be transacted.

Article VI – General Membership Meetings*

Section 1

General Membership Meetings

1.1 The general membership meetings of the association shall be held on the last Wednesday of each month from Sept-June, at 6:30 unless such day falls on a legal or religious holiday. In such instances, the meeting shall be held on the following or previous Thursday as determined by the executive board. Written notice of each membership meeting shall be distributed in languages spoken by parents at the school, whenever possible. Notice must be sent at least ten days at the school prior to the scheduled meeting. The date of distribution shall appear on all notices.

1.2 All meetings, including committee and executive board meetings must be held in the association's home school, **OR** through virtual platforms (i.e.; zoom, Microsoft teams). HYBRID Meetings are not permitted.

Under no circumstances are PTA meetings to be held in private residences or commercial venues (e.g., restaurants and private clubs)

1.3 All eligible members may attend and participate during general membership meetings and may speak to agenda items subject to restriction in these bylaws.

1.4 Observers may speak and otherwise participate, if acknowledged by the chair.

*Final dates of meetings shall be determined by consensus.

Section 2

Order of Business

The order of business at meetings of the association, unless changed by the executive board shall be

- Call to order
- Reading and Approval of Minutes (Verbal notice to General Membership that Minutes are posted on School Website under PTA, except in the case of in-person meetings at AAS, during which hard copies of minutes will be available).
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Principal's Report
- School Leadership Team Report
- Committee Reports

- Old Business
- New Business
- Guest speaker / workshop
- Adjournment

Section 3

Quorum

A quorum of 8 PTA members (The quorum for a general membership meeting must consist of representation by at least 8 PA members, including a minimum of 2 executive board members and 6 parent members) shall be required in order to conduct official association business.

Section 4

Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting shall be available in written form and read for approval at every general membership meeting. The minutes of any association meeting must be made available upon request to any member. Minutes will be posted on the PTA section of the school website, and available in the AAS Main Office upon request.

Section 5

Special Membership Meetings

5.1 A special membership meeting may be called to deal with a matter of importance that cannot be postponed until the next general membership meeting. The president may call a special membership meeting with a minimum of 48 hours written notice to parents stating precisely what the topic of the meeting will be.

5.2 Upon receipt of a written request from five (5) association members, the president must call a special membership meeting within five working days of the request and with 48 hours written notice to parents.

Section 6

Parliamentary Authority

Meeting rules of order should be adopted for use as a guide and included in these bylaws. Where no meeting rules of order are adopted, *Robert's Rules of Order – Newly Revised* will be deemed to apply, provided that it is consistent with laws, policies, rules, and regulations.

Article VII – Committees

Section 1

Standing Committees

1.1 The president will appoint standing committee chairpersons with the approval of the executive board. Ad-hoc committees shall be established by executive board approval. Only chairpersons of the

standing committees will be allowed to vote on executive board issues. The standing committees of the association are the following:

Membership: The membership committee shall be responsible for encouraging parent participation, outreach and recruitment. The Chairperson for the Membership committee shall make every effort to coordinate their outreach efforts and strategies with the school's Parent Coordinator. The membership committee shall help with newsletter to all members which contains, at a minimum, messages from the principal, PA/PTA president. List of executive board members, all PTA meeting dates, student and parent events, school policies, PA budget and any other material deemed appropriate by the association. The committee shall also be responsible for maintaining a current list of members which shall be available without home addresses and telephone numbers at every membership meeting.

Budget: The budget committee shall be responsible for drafting 1) a proposed budged each spring for approval by the membership, 2) a written review of the prior year's budget, both of which must be presented for vote at the May membership meeting, and 3) presenting the budget process. (See Article VIII, Section 3.)

Audit: The audit committee shall conduct an internal audit or shall recommend that an external audit of all financial affairs of the organization be conducted based upon their initial findings. The treasurer shall make all books and records available to them. The audit committee shall prepare a written report or provide copies of the external report to be presented to the membership at a general membership meeting or upon completion of their review and investigation.

Article VIII – Financial Affairs

Section 1

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the association shall run from July 1 through June 30.

Section 2

Signatories

The president [or co-presidents], treasurer, secretary, and vice president shall be authorized to sign checks. All checks require at least 2 signatures. The 2 signatures of a check may not be related by blood or marriage. Under no circumstances may spouses, siblings, in-laws or other relatives or members of the same household sign the same PTA check. A PTA member may not sign a check if she/he has any direct or indirect interest in the expenditure.

Section 3

Budget

3.1 The executive board shall be responsible for the development and/or review of the budget process, which includes:

- The outgoing executive board must review the current budget, annual financial status, accounting, expenditures and outstanding bills and prepare a proposed budget for the next

school year. The proposed budget must be presented to and approved by the membership no later than the May meeting.

- The incoming executive board must review the proposed budget in September for presentation and discussion during the September meeting. Budget amendments may be proposed at this time.
- The executive board must present the budget process for membership approval no later than the October meeting.
- The counting and handling of any cash, checks, or money orders received by the PA, must be completed by at least 2 PTA members. These PTA members cannot be related by blood or marriage. Funds must be counted in the school on the same day of receipt. The PTA's financial records must display the total amount of funds and the signatures of the PTA members who participated in counting the funds.
- No parent or staff member shall collect fund raising proceeds from any student without the written approval from the principal.
- All funds shall be deposited in the bank account by authorized executive board members within 24 hours of receipt, whenever possible. No funds shall be kept in a member's home but shall be secured and locked in the school. PA funds must be taken to the bank for deposit by at least 2 authorized members.
- Documentation related to every transaction must be maintained at the school (e.g., cancelled checks, deposit receipts, purchase orders, PTA minutes related to the financial transactions, etc.)

3.2 The budget may be amended by vote of the general membership at any membership meeting.

3.3 All expenditures not included in the budget at the time of its adoption must be approved by resolution of the membership.

3.4 The executive board is authorized to make an emergency expenditure not to exceed two hundred dollars ($250.00) with (2/3) approval by the executive board. These expenditures shall be reported to the general membership at the next PTA meeting in writing by the treasurer. The minutes of the meeting must reflect a vote taken by the PTA to accept this action.

Section 4

Audit

4.1 The president shall request volunteers to form an audit committee of 3 to 5 persons. Executive board members who are not eligible signatories on association checks may serve on the audit committee. The majority of the committee shall be comprised from the general membership.

4.2 The audit committee shall conduct an audit of all financial affairs of the association with the help of the treasurer who shall make all books and records available to them. The audit committee may also recommend that an external audit of the association's financial records be conducted.

4.3 Additional duties of the audit committee may include the examination of all relevant financial statements and records of disbursements, verification of all association equipment and ensuring compliance with bylaw provisions for the transaction of funds.

4.4 The audit committee shall prepare a written report or provide copies of the external report to be presented to the membership at a general membership meeting or upon completion of their review and discussion during the June transfer of records.

Section 5

Financial Accounting

5.1 The treasurer shall prepare the Interim Financial Report by January 31st and the Annual Financial Report by June 30th, including all income, expenditures, and other transactions. These reports shall be presented and reviewed by general membership. Copies of these reports shall be provided to the principal.

5.2 The treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the association and shall keep accurate records in a form consistent with these bylaws and applicable Regulations of the Chancellor. In accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-610, parents must obtain written approval from the principal before collecting fund raiser proceeds from students. The treasurer and at least one other PA officer shall transport all funds to the bank, and deposit slips shall identify the source of all deposited funds. All parties involved in financial transactions shall initial the deposit slips. All records of the PTA including checkbooks, ledgers, cancelled checks, invoices, receipts etc., shall be maintained and secured on school premises.

Article IX – Amendments and Regular Review of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the PTA by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the amendment has been presented in writing to the membership at the previous meeting, and appears in the notice of the meeting at which it is to be amended. Amendments are effective immediately unless otherwise specified. A thorough review of these bylaws shall be conducted every 3 years. All provisions of these bylaws must conform to CR A-660 and Department of Education guidelines. Any PTA member may present a motion at a general membership meeting to amend a provision of the bylaws that is not in compliance with CR A-660. Amendments that bring the bylaws into compliance must be voted on immediately after the motion is presented. A two-thirds vote of the membership is required for approval.

These bylaws as set forth above have been voted on and approved by the membership. The most recent amendment was approved, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, at the membership meeting held on 6/15/2023.

Signed By:

_____

President

_____

Secretary

Filed with the Principal on _____