

Constitution
of
Siletz Valley Middle School of Oregon

Purposes

We, the students and Staff of Siletz Valley Middle School of Oregon, being organized as a State Charter School, do hereby adopt this Constitution and establish our Student Government in order to:

1. Continue forever our unique identity as Siletz Valley Middle School of Oregon, and to protect that identity from forces that threaten to diminish it;
2. Protect our inherent rights as students and Staff of Siletz Valley Middle School of Oregon;
3. Promote our cultural values and beliefs, and to pass them on in our own way to newcomers forever;
4. Help our students and Staff to achieve their highest potentials in education, physical and mental health, and economic development;
5. Maintain good relationships with local and State governments; government and leadership of Siletz Valley School of Oregon, and with other schools;
6. Support the Government of the United States and encourage our students and Staff to be loyal citizens;
7. Acquire, develop, and conserve resources to enhance economic and social self-sufficiency for our School;

8. Ensure that our students and Staff will live and learn in peace and harmony among themselves and with all other people.

Article I – Membership

Section 1. Requirements.

The membership of the General Council of Siletz Valley Middle School of Oregon will consist of all people who are enrolled students, or who are employed by the Middle School.

Section 2. Adoption.

The Student Council has the power to adopt visiting students, visiting Staff, and volunteers, as honorary members.

Section 3. Loss of Membership.

Membership of students in the General Council of Siletz Valley Middle School will be surrendered for a period of nine weeks following return from disciplinary suspension. Membership is cancelled when a student is expelled or transferred. Membership of Staff members is surrendered when employment ends.

Article II – Rights of Members

Section 1. Individual Rights.

Each member of the General Council of Siletz Valley Middle School has the following rights:

The right of equal opportunity to participate in the activities Of Siletz Valley Middle School, where not in conflict with this Constitution or the laws of the United States.

Section 2. General Council.

All enrolled students and employees of Siletz Valley Middle School make up the General Council. The General Council has power to:

- (A) Elect Student Council members;
- (B) Exercise the powers of initiative and referendum;
- (C) Recall elected student officials;
- (D) Amend this Constitution, and
- (E) Advise the Student Council

Article III – Authority of the Government

The authority of the government established by this Constitution extends over all students of Siletz Valley Middle School, except where limited by this Constitution and the Laws of the United States.

Article IV – Branches of Government

Section 1. Councils.

A General Council will exercise the powers described in Article II, Section 2 of this Constitution.

The Student Council will consist of seven members; two Representatives from each class, and one Chair. The Chair may be from any Middle School grade. The Council members will be elected by the General Council, and serve for a period of nine

weeks. The Student Council will elect from its membership a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Student Council has all of the powers of lawmaking, except that given to the General Council. The Council has the right to delegate authority where needed.

Section 2. Court and Conflict Resolution

Ultimate authority rests with the Staff of Siletz Valley Middle School. The Staff will enforce the guidelines and subsequent penalties described in the Siletz Valley School Student Handbook.

The General Council will elect one male and one female K'wee – shvt – naa – gha – or Mediator. In cases of interpersonal conflict, students may seek resolution by consulting these students and arranging a conflict resolution meeting. Conflict resolution meetings will be arranged by the Mediators and monitored by Staff.

Article V – Procedures

Section 1. General Council

The General Council will hold meetings as described below, and will exercise its electoral powers in accordance with Article VI of this Constitution:

(A) The first General Council meeting of the school year will be on the first Friday of the first week of classes; afterward, regular meetings of the General Council will be held on the last day of every fourth week. Meetings will be held during 7th period.

(B) Special meetings of the General Council may be called by the Student Council if they give one week's notice to the

membership of the General Council. The Council must call such a meeting if presented with a verified petition signed by one-third of more of the General Council.

(C) The Student Council will decide what is on the agenda for a General Council meeting. Any member may submit in writing items to the Student Council for the agenda. Time must be included during General Council meetings for discussion of items that are not on the agenda. Agendas will be posted one week before each General Council meeting.

(D) The Student Council Chairman will chair all General Council meetings.

Section 2. Student Council.

The Student Council will hold meetings and take actions using the following procedures:

(A) Regular meetings of the Student Council will be held every other week, or as necessary, at a time and place to be set by the Student Council.

(B) Special meetings of the Student Council may be called by the Chairman if necessary. Also, a special meeting must be held if two or more members of the Student Council request one in writing.

(C) The agenda will be set by the Chairman. The agenda must include any item submitted by the written request of two or more members of the Student Council. The agenda must be shown to Student Council members at least 24 hours before any regularly scheduled meeting. Items may be added to the agenda at a Student Council meeting if two or more members agree.

(D) Five members make a quorum. Business matters will be decided by majority vote. Voting will be by roll call vote and the ayes and nays will be recorded in the minutes.

(E) All meetings of the Student Council are open to the membership of the General Council, but if the Student Council needs to discuss something privately, it can have a closed session - as long as everyone present knows what the general subject matter to be discussed is. No final or official action may be taken in a closed session.

(F) All final decision of the Student Council on matters of permanent interest to the General Council will be written in the form of a law. The laws will be available to members of the General Council.

(G) All final decisions of the Student Council on matters of temporary interest to the General Council will be written in the form of a resolution. The resolutions will be available to members of the General Council.

(H) No Student Council member will vote on any matter where there is a conflict of interest.

(I) A written record will be kept of Student Council meetings. The record will be available to all members of the General Council.

Section 3. Student Court

Members of the General Council may consult the Mediators on matters of discipline outlined in the Student Handbook. Subsequently, Mediators may advise Staff members of Siletz Valley Middle School of General Council concerns regarding the

Student Handbook. Concerns must be submitted in writing. If deemed appropriate by the Staff, concerns will be referred to Student Council for consideration. All changes to the Student Handbook must be approved by the Siletz Valley School administration, staff, and school board.

Article VI – Elections

Section 1. Voters.

Except where described in this Constitution, all members of the Siletz Valley Middle School General Council will have the right to vote in all elections.

Section 2. Manner of Voting.

All elections will be by secret ballot, except that the General Council may make recommendations to the Student Council by voice vote or show of hands at General Council meetings. The opportunity to cast absentee ballots will be offered to students who cannot vote in person.

Section 3. Student Council Election

Elections for Student Council will be held quarterly on the last day of the first week of the quarter, except as provided in Article VI, Section 5. The times and places of voting will be set by the Student Council. New members will take office upon certification of election results by the Staff. Candidates for Student Council must be student members of the General Council who have not lost their membership in accordance with Article I, Section 3. Candidates for Student Council must have passing grades in all classes at the time of the election. Candidates must have no discipline referrals on their record from the previous quarter. Candidates must file statements of their candidacy with the Staff not less than ten days

before the quarterly election. The Staff will post the list of candidates not less than seven days before the election.

Section 4. Voting Procedures.

All members of the General Council will be allowed to cast one vote for Council Chair. All male members of the General Council will be allowed to vote for one male K'wee – shvt – naa - gha candidate, and all female members of the General Council will be allowed to vote for one female K'wee – shvt – naa – gha candidate. Each grade level will elect two Student Council Representatives. Voting for grade-level candidates will be limited to General Council members from that grade. The winners will be the two candidates with the most votes.

Section 5. First Election of the Year.

The election of the first Student Council of the school year will be held on the last day of the second week of classes. Candidates must declare their candidacy in accordance with Article VI, Section 3.

Section 6. Vacancies.

If any student office becomes vacant between elections, the Chairman will recommend a person who meets the requirement of a candidate for that position to fill the vacancy. The person will take office to serve the rest of the term when the appointment is approved by Student Council.

Article VII – Initiative, Referendum, Recall, and Expulsion

Section 1. Initiative.

If the General Council wishes to have a new law or resolution, a petition describing the law or resolution that is signed by at least

one third of the General Council must be submitted. The petition must be approved by the Siletz Valley Middle School staff. The proposed law or resolution will then be submitted to a vote of the General Council at a regular or special election to be held within one week of verification. The vote of a majority will decide the outcome.

Section 2. Referendum

If at least one-third of the members of the General Council submit a petition that has been approved by the Staff, or if at least four members of the Student Council request it, any proposed or previously enacted law or resolution of the Student Council will be voted on by the General Council at an election to be held within ten days of the petition. The vote of a majority will decide the outcome.

Section 3. Recall.

Upon receipt and approval by the Staff of a petition of at least one-third of the General Council, the Student Council will call a special election to consider the recall of the elected student official named in the petition. The election will be held within one week of verification of the petition by Staff, unless there is a regular election within two weeks – in which case, the matter will go on the next ballot. If the majority of those actually voting favor the recall, the office will be declared vacant and filled according to the rules of Article VI, Section 6 of this Constitution.

Section 4. Expulsion.

The Student Council may expel any Member for being irresponsible, or for gross misconduct, or if four of the seven Members wish it. The Council member in question must be

allowed to appeal, and the case will be heard by the Mediators and Staff.

Section 5. Ordinance.

Initiative, referendum, recall, and expulsion procedures will be set by ordinance by the Student Council, as long as the procedures do not violate election rules described in this Constitution.

Article VIII – Amendment

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the qualified voters of Siletz Valley Middle School of Oregon in an election called for that purpose by the Staff. It will be the duty of the Staff to authorize an election on any proposed amendment at the request of a majority of the Student Council, or if at least one-third of the General Council signs a petition to add an amendment. The Staff may choose to not authorize an election to amend this Constitution.

Article IX – Adoption

This Constitution, when adopted by a majority vote of the qualified voters of Siletz Valley Middle School of Oregon, in an election called by the Staff for that purpose, will be submitted to the Staff for approval, and will take effect from the date of approval.