

Cyprus High School  
Community Council

## **Rules of Order and Procedure**

### **To promote ethical behavior and civil discourse each council member shall:**

- Attend council meetings on time and be prepared
- Make decisions with the needs of students as the main objective
- Listen to and value diverse opinions
- Be sure the opinions of those you represent are include in discussions
- Expect accountability and be prepared to be accountable
- Act with integrity

All meetings are open to the public. Time limits may be set for public opinions at the discretion of the community council.

The agenda of each upcoming meeting with draft minutes of the prior meeting will be made available to all council members at least one week in advance.

Minutes will be kept of all meetings, prepared in draft format for approval at the next scheduled meeting.

The council will prepare a timeline for the school year that includes due dates for all required reporting and other activities/tasks that the council agrees to assume or participate in. The timeline will assist in preparation of agendas to be sure the council accomplishes their work in a timely manner.

The chair or vice-chair conducts the meetings, makes assignments and requests reports on assignments. In the absence of the chair or vice-chair other council members shall conduct meetings.

Meetings shall be conducted and action taken according to very simplified rules of parliamentary procedure as required in 53A-108.1(9) (i). Items on the agenda take priority over other discussions coming before the council. Action of the council will be taken by motions and voting. The motions and voting are recorded in the minutes.

A motion (or an action to be taken by the council) is stated as a motion. Someone else on the council “seconds” the motion indicated that at least one other person on the council feels the motion is worthy of discussion. Then the council members may provide input and discussion as called upon by the chair. When discussion seems complete, the chair may call for a vote on the motion. Alternatively, when a member of the council “calls the previous question” (a motion to end discussion of the first motion), a second is required and then, without discussion the chair calls for a vote that must pass by 2.3 vote. If the vote on the previous question fails, the council’s

goes back to discussion their first motion. If the motion to call the previous question passes, the chair directly calls for a vote on the first motion. A vote to call the previous question is used to move business along.

- A tie vote is a lost vote.
- A main motion may be amended.
- Nominations can be closed by saying, “I move to close nominations.”
- Most motions are main motions.
- A point of order is offered when there is some question if procedure had been followed correctly.
- To stop debate or discussion on a motion and force the vote a member would say, “I move the previous question.” This requires a second 2/3 vote.
- Hasty action can be corrected by use of the motion to reconsider. Only one who voted on the prevailing side may make this motion.
- A person who made the motion may withdraw the same motion.
- Action items must be on the planned agenda to be voted on during the current council meeting.

### **Election Procedure**

Elections will be held in the fall of each year with 10 days’ notice given prior to the election. All interested parents can submit their application to join the council during this 10 days period.

Terms for community council are for two years with the beginning date determined by the school consistent with local school board policies. Parent members must have a child at the school at least one of the two years of their term.

The school Principal oversees the election or a designee, and is conducted by means of secret ballots. Ballots for parent elections are deposited in a secure ballot box. Parents elect parent members and the staff elects staff members.

Approximately half of the school’s community council seats are up for election each year.

Results of the election will be maintained for three years and made available to the public upon request.

If positions are vacant after the elections, council members will appoint parents to fill positions.

The school community council will elect a chair and vice-chair annually. The chair must be a parent member and the vice-chair may be a parent or school employee member. The principal may not serve as an officer of the council.

If an existing member misses three consecutive meetings, the community council may replace them.