

DRAFT COPY ONLY February 2011

CONSTITUTION

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I – NAME AND INCORPORATION

- Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Manchester Township Education Association, hereafter referred to as the Association.
- Section 2: It is incorporated as a non-profit corporation under Title 15, Sections 1 – 123 of Updated Statutes of the State of New Jersey.

ARTICLE II – AFFILIATION

The Association shall be an affiliate of the Ocean County Council of Education Associations (OCCEA), the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA), and the National Education Association (NEA).

ARTICLE III – PURPOSES

- Section 1: To work for the welfare of students, the advancement of education, and the improvements of the instructional opportunities for all.
- Section 2: To develop and promote the adoption of such personnel policies and standards of preparation and participation as mark a profession.
- Section 3: To advance professional rights, status and responsibilities of its members as educators and school employees.
- Section 4: To represent its members and other employees in negotiations and grievances with the School Board on all matters of compensation and all other terms and conditions of employment.
- Section 5: To form a representative body to speak with authority for the active members of the Association.
- Section 6: To establish cooperation between the Association and the community.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1: Active membership in the Association shall be open to all employees of the Manchester Township Public School District identified in the recognition clause of the current collective bargaining agreement. Active members of the Association, where eligible, shall be members of OCCEA, NJEA and NEA.

Section 2: Honorary Members

Honorary membership may be conferred upon members of the teaching profession or other persons for distinguished service to education and the profession. Honorary members shall enjoy all the privileges of the Association except those of voting and holding office, and shall be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 3: Retired Members

Active members of the Association upon retirement may continue to enjoy all rights and services of the Association, except those of voting and holding office, by payment of annual dues as a retired member.

Section 4: Rights of Membership

Every active member of the Association shall have the equal rights and privileges within the Association to nominate candidates for office; to vote in elections or on referenda of the Association; to attend membership meetings; to participate in the deliberation and voting upon the business of [the Association](#); only members in the appropriate unit of representation shall have the right to vote.

Every member shall have the right to meet and assemble fully with other members; to express any views, arguments or opinions; to express views at meetings, upon candidates in an election of the Association, or upon any business properly brought before the meetings.

No members shall be fined, suspended, expelled or otherwise disciplined, except for non-payment of dues, without being served with specific written charges and given a reasonable time in which to prepare a defense which may be asserted at a full and fair hearing.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a [First Vice President](#), a [Second Vice President](#), a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2: The officers shall be elected in April of the election year, and [begin their term on July 1](#) for a term of three years. The officers shall be eligible for consecutive terms. Officers will not be eligible to hold two elected positions at the same time. [The President and the Recording Secretary shall be elected in the first year of the three \(3\) year election cycle. The First Vice President and the Treasurer will be elected in the second year of the three \(3\) year election cycle. The Second Vice President and the Corresponding Secretary will be elected in the third year of the three \(3\) year election cycle.](#)

Section 3: Officers of the Association shall serve their terms so long as they satisfactorily perform the duties of their office. Where an officer is guilty of misconduct, [defined as dereliction of duty, abuse of office, misappropriation of funds, and/or a](#)

criminal offense, such officer may be removed for cause (shown after notice and hearing) and by a two-thirds vote of the active members of the Association. Recommendation for recall can be made by the submission of a petition to the Executive Board containing the signatures of a majority of the membership provided three (3) or more buildings are represented.

The Executive Board shall notify in writing any member who has been recommended for recall and reason for said recall.

Any officer may appeal in writing to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board shall schedule hearings, whenever necessary, to review the recommendation of recall of an officer.

The report of those hearings shall be made available to the active members of the Association.

A General Membership meeting shall be called two (2) weeks after the issuance of the report.

Such recall shall be determined by a two-thirds vote of the active members of the Association within one (1) week of the General Membership meeting. The vote shall be taken by secret ballot.

Section 4: Nothing in the Article shall be construed as precluding officers from succeeding themselves in office, if duly elected.

Section 5: In the event of vacancy in the office of President, the First Vice President shall become President and serve until the next regular election.

ARTICLE VI – ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES (ARs)

Section 1: The middle school, Regional Day School, and each elementary school shall be entitled to elect three (3) Association Representatives. The high school shall be entitled to elect four (4) Association Representatives. The ARs shall be elected in April of the election year and shall take office on July 1 for a term of three years. ARs shall be eligible for consecutive terms. The election of ARs will be staggered over the three (3) year term period within each building.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The Executive Board shall consist of:

- a. The officers of the Association
- b. The Immediate Past President for the term of one year, Ex-Officio
- c. The Senior Association Representative from each building
- d. The Membership Chair, Ex-Officio
- e. The Grievance Chair, Ex-Officio
- f. Parliamentarian

The Executive Board shall be the authority of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII – REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

- Section 1: The Representative Council shall consist of:
- a. The officers of the Association
 - b. The Immediate Past President for the term of one year
 - c. Three (3) elected Association Representatives from the middle school, Regional Day School, and each elementary school building
 - d. Four (4) elected Association Representatives from the high school
 - e. Professional Development Chair
 - f. Standing Committee Chairs
 - g. Special Committee Chairs
 - h. Newsletter Editor
 - i. Parliamentarian

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be introduced, upon petition of fifteen (15) percent or more members of the General Membership from three (3) or more buildings, and shall be brought to the Executive Board. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a Constitution/Bylaws Committee. The Constitution/Bylaws Committee shall review the proposed amendments and make recommendations for action to the Executive Board.

Amendments to these Bylaws and Constitution shall be approved by two-thirds of the active members of the Association voting in a regular or special election called for this purpose, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been distributed to the active members of the Association at least two (2) weeks in advance of said election.

Revised September, 2007