



**NHS STUDENT COUNCIL  
IMPEACHMENT PROTOCOLS & PROCEDURES  
2020-21**

**PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose of the North High School Student Council is to serve as a representative arm of the student body of North High School, and to work to better both the school and the community through its actions.

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## **NHS STUDENT COUNCIL GOALS**

The goals of NHS Student Council are expansive. They rest on the notion that co-curricular activities are central to a high school experience, both for the individuals participating and for those who benefit from the work done and advancements made by those participating. Some of the specific goals of NHS Student Council for its representatives include, but are not limited to:

- developing leadership skills in the form of interpersonal and mass communication, time management, networking and relationship maintenance, event planning and organization, critical thinking, and peer and pupil management.
- promoting a positive culture/atmosphere for an organization.
- dedicating time and effort to an organization.
- learning how democracy impacts society and promoting civic duty.
- demonstrating recognizing, petitioning and advocating for the needs of others as their representative.
- demonstrating respect for peers and pupils.
- demonstrating respect for those in positions of authority.
- representing an organization and the community it serves.

## **GOALS OF NHS STUDENT COUNCIL IMPEACHMENT PROTOCOLS & PROCEDURES**

The purpose of the NHS Student Council Impeachment Protocols & Procedures is to support the Advisor(s), Executive Board and representatives in properly drafting Articles of Impeachment, conducting an Impeachment Trial and delivery Trial Results. This document is intended to provide guidance to the Advisor(s), Executive Board and representatives in four core areas as they pertain to the impeachment process. These four core areas include:

- drafting Articles of Impeachment.
- conducting an Impeachment Trial.
- handling Post-Trial Meetings and delivering Deliberation Results.
- managing Officer convictions.

Additionally, this document is intended to provide the Council with guidance in the decorum and notoriety of the organization so that it may continue to achieve its aforementioned goals.

## ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT PETITION PROCEDURES

Impeachment of an Officer is a challenging and delicate process, and shall only be pursued as a final recourse. When the intention and rationale exist for a representative on NHS Student Council to draft Articles of Impeachment, the following procedures shall be followed to ensure the integrity, equity, uniformity and formality of the process.

### ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT-TEMPLATE

The following template shall be used by any representative on NHS Student Council, when drafting the Articles of Impeachment Petition for a presiding Officer on the Executive Board.

#### **ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT FOR (position and name)**

DRAFTED BY (name(s) of impeachment manager(s))

This document serves as a proposition to proceed with the impeachment process regarding the current NHS Student Council (position), (name). This document, upon receiving 20% of petition signatures from current NHS Student Council representatives and consent from the current Student Council Advisor(s), will serve as the impetus for an Impeachment Motion wherein (position) (name) may be impeached, potentially followed by an Impeachment Trial, wherein (position) (name) may be convicted and removed from Office. Rationale is identified below.

#### **RATIONALE FOR IMPEACHMENT**

##### **I. REASON IDENTIFIED**

A. Specific rationale is provided.

##### **II. REASON IDENTIFIED**

A. Specific rationale is provided.

#### **AFTERMATH OF IMPEACHMENT**

Upon conviction, (position) (name) shall (identification of whether convicted Officer shall be allowed to remain a representative on Council or shall be removed completely). (Appointed position) (Appointee name) shall then serve as (appointed position) of the Council.

#### **CLOSING STATEMENT**

(Contextually appropriate statement provided.)

### PETITION SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT

As indicated in the template above, upon printing the Articles of Impeachment Petition, the Impeachment Manager(s) must acquire signatures from 20% of the current (active) NHS Student Council Representatives, before the Petition may be presented to the Advisor(s) for consent. If 20% of signatures are not acquired, the Petition will not proceed to a Council meeting where an Impeachment Motion may occur.

## Addendum II: Impeachment Protocols & Procedures

### PRESENTING PETITION TO ADVISOR(S)

If signatures are acquired from 20% of current (active) NHS Student Council Representatives, the Petition must first be provided to the Advisor(s) for consent before proceeding to a Council meeting for an Impeachment Motion. The following procedure shall be followed when presenting Articles of Impeachment Petition to the Advisor(s):

- The Impeachment Manager(s) (any representative of Student Council and a team of not more than 4 additional representatives), must request an *extra-session meeting* of the Executive Board and Advisor(s).
- The Impeachment Manager(s) shall present the Articles of Impeachment Petition at the *extra-session meeting*.
- The Advisor(s) shall identify during the meeting whether consent is provided to proceed to an Impeachment Motion during the subsequent Council meeting.

### PRESENTING PETITION TO COUNCIL

If the Advisor(s) provides consent to allow the Articles of Impeachment Petition to proceed to an Impeachment Motion during the subsequent Council meeting, the following procedure shall be followed when presenting the Articles of Impeachment Petition to the Council:

- The Impeachment Manager(s) shall present Articles of Impeachment to the Council at the subsequent meeting.
- A motion must be made by a representative (may be made by the Impeachment Manager(s)) to impeach the Officer in question.
- A vote shall occur, wherein a plurality shall be required to advance to an Impeachment Trial.
  - If a plurality is not achieved, the motion shall fail, the Officer shall not be considered *impeached*, and shall remain in his/her position.
  - If a plurality is achieved, the motion shall pass, the Officer shall be considered *impeached*, and an Impeachment Trial shall be scheduled within 2 weeks as an *extra-session meeting*.

## **IMPEACHMENT TRIAL PROTOCOL**

In the event an Officer is impeached, the Constitution of the Eau Claire North High School guarantees him/her the right an Impeachment Trial. When an Impeachment Trial occurs, the following procedures shall be followed to ensure the integrity, equity, uniformity and formality of the process.

### SCHEDULING PROTOCOL

The scheduled Impeachment Trial shall begin during period 1 and proceed until finished, with breaks assigned appropriately, dependent on Trial duration. Post-Trial Meetings shall occur within the same school day, following the Impeachment Trial.

### ROLES OF TRIAL OFFICERS

The following roles shall exist for any Impeachment Trial:

- Presiding Moderator(s) (NHS Student Council Advisor(s))
- Prosecution (Impeachment Manager(s); representation not exceeding 5 members)
- Defense (Impeached Officer & Defense Team; representation not exceeding 5 members, included Impeached)
- Jury (all NHS Student Council Representatives (active))

### TRIAL ORGANIZATION

The following agenda shall be employed for any Impeachment Trial:

- Introduction (Presiding Moderator(s))
- Opening Arguments (Prosecution)
- Opening Arguments (Defense)
- BREAK
- Evidence & Witnesses\* (Prosecution)
  - Cross-Examination (Defense)
- BREAK
- Evidence & Witnesses\* (Defense)
  - Cross-Examination (Prosecution)
- BREAK
- Jury Questions
- BREAK
- Closing Statement (Prosecution)
- Closing Statement (Defense)
- Jury Vote
- Closing (Presiding Moderator(s))

\*A witness list must be produced by each the Prosecution and Defense, one week in advance of the Impeachment Trial, and presented to the Advisor(s). The Advisor(s) must provide witness lists to opposing counsel.

## **RESULTS DELIBERATION & POST-TRIAL MEETING PROCEDURES**

Regardless of the outcome of an Impeachment Trial, meetings must be conducted with the Prosecution and Defense to decompress and ensure socio-emotional health, and results must be communicated to the Council and. After an Impeachment Trial occurs, the following procedures shall be followed to ensure the integrity, equity, uniformity and formality of the process.

### POST-TRIAL MEETINGS PROCEDURE

The Advisor(s) shall meet, in order, with the Defense and Prosecution, respectively. During the meeting, the following shall occur:

- Discussion of the trial proceedings.
- Deliverance of voting results.
- Explanation of subsequent steps based on Articles of Impeachment Petition.
- Assurance of socio-emotional health.
- Contact with parent/guardian.
- Confidentiality agreement\* signed.
- Remaining discussion.

In association with the decorum of a representative of the Council, voting results that are conveyed during a post-trial meeting shall remain confidential until released to the Council. Following their release, both parties shall exhibit behaviors in accordance with Addendum I: Code of Conduct, Behavior Requirements. Any misconduct on the part of representatives shall be dealt with in accordance with consequences outlined in Addendum I: Code of Conduct, Code Violation Consequences & Process, Behavior Violation Consequences & Process.

### RESULTS DELIBERATION

To ensure the socio-emotional health of the impeached Officer, results of the Jury Vote shall not be released during the Impeachment Trial. Following Post-Trial Meetings with the Prosecution and Defense, the Advisor(s) shall communicate the conviction/acquittal of the impeached Officer by 11:59 PM, the day of the Impeachment Trial.

## **OFFICER CONVICTION/ACQUITTAL PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES**

Regardless of the outcome of the Jury Vote, a clear pathway must be established for the impeached Officer following the Impeachment Trial. After identification of conviction/acquittal, the following procedures shall be followed to ensure the integrity, equity, uniformity and formality of the process.

### ACQUITTAL PROCEDURES

If the impeached Officer is *acquitted*, the following shall occur:

- The Officer shall remain *impeached*, as this title does not reflect on the results of the Impeachment Trial, only on the Impeachment Motion.
- The Officer shall retain his/her position on the Executive Board and meet all requirements therein, as identified by the Constitution of the Eau Claire North High School, Article IV.
  - No retribution shall occur by any representative of NHS Student Council, or they shall be swiftly subject to Addendum I: Code of Conduct, Code Violation Consequences & Process, Behavior Violation Consequences & Process.

### CONVICTION PROCEDURES

If the impeached Officer is convicted, the following shall occur:

- The Officer shall be removed from his/her position on the Executive Board, and the appointed replacement identified in the Articles of Impeachment Petition shall immediately replace the convicted Officer.
- The Officer shall be subject the *Aftermath of Impeachment* as established by the Impeachment Managers in the Articles of Impeachment Petition.
  - No retribution shall occur by any representative of NHS Student Council, or they shall be swiftly subject to Addendum I: Code of Conduct, Code Violation Consequences & Process, Behavior Violation Consequences & Process.