

CHARTER
OF THE
STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
OF LEDYARD HIGH SCHOOL



LEDYARD, CT · 2016

WE THE LEADERS OF LEDYARD HIGH SCHOOL

determined

to foster the connection between the students and the school administration, and

to emphasize the importance of a fundamental student voice, of the dignity and worth of every student, of school entities large and small, of leadership powers of involvement and engagement, and

to promote social progress and better standards of student life in larger freedom, and

to establish and promote conditions under which justice and respect are afforded to the student voice,

and for these ends

to employ specific machinery for the promotion and advancement of all peoples, and

to practice communication and compromise, and

to live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and

to unite our strength as a driving force to ensure that progress be made,

*have resolved to combine our efforts to
accomplish these aims.*

Accordingly, student leaders, who have exhibited their full voice found to be in good and due form, have agreed to present this

Charter of the Student Leadership Council of Ledyard High School

and do hereby propose a robust and resilient student government to be known as the

Student Leadership Council of Ledyard High School.

CHAPTER I: NAME

Article 1. The name of this organization shall be the *Student Leadership Council of Ledyard High School*, hereafter referred to as the Council.

CHAPTER II: ORGANIZATION

Article 1. Its form of organization, its ideals, and its purpose shall be similar to those of the Ledyard Public Schools.

CHAPTER III: PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1. The purposes and principles of the Council shall be:

1. To promote the adoption and application of higher standards in scholarship, character, sportsmanship, and leadership.
2. To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, proactive, and serviceable citizenship.
3. To provide a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render unselfish service, and to build better communities.
4. To cooperate in creating and maintaining high idealism, righteousness, justice, and goodwill.
5. To be a center for harmonizing the actions and beliefs of students for the attainment of these common ends.

Article 2. The activities, statements, decisions, and resolutions of the Council shall be in accord with its Preamble, Purposes, and Principles. They should include those suggested by the Ledyard High School Administration, Faculty, or Staff, plus such additional activities as might be adopted by the Council.

CHAPTER IV: POWERS, DUTIES, AND ROLES

Article 1. The powers, duties, and roles of the Council should include, but are not limited to:

1. Acting as a spokesperson or unifying voice for the student body.
2. Maintaining active, two-way communication with the Ledyard High School Administration and its designees (committees, task-forces, etc.) and the student body and its organizations.
3. Identifying problems or differences of opinion within the school community, conducting research regarding the issue, and presenting a resolution.
4. Acting as an option for consultation for the Ledyard High School Administration.

5. Providing accurate information about the status of Ledyard High School and its students' opinions to the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education.
6. Celebrating student successes.
7. Constructing and evaluating school assemblies.
8. Taking counsel with its committees.
9. Disciplining members.
10. Performing other such duties it determines appropriate or those referred to it by the Ledyard High School Principal.

CHAPTER V: MEMBERSHIP

Article 1. The membership of the Council shall consist of students in good standing within the freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior classes of Ledyard High School and shall be limited to seven students. The members of the Council shall include:

1. One member of a club, activity, organization, or society approved by the Ledyard High School Principal (excluding the Serena B. Mowry Chapter of the National Honor Society, the Ledyard Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, the Ledyard Regional Chapter of the National FFA Organization, any class advisory of Ledyard High School, and the Student Congress of Ledyard High School) shall be nominated by the Faculty Advisor of each respective club, activity, organization, or society. The nominee should not be an officer or a member of the executive committee of the club, activity, organization, or society. The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall convene a meeting to evaluate and select one nominee. The individual selected by the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall be appointed to the Council.
2. The officers or the executive committee of the Serena B. Mowry Chapter of the National Honor Society shall, in consultation with the Faculty Advisor, appoint one member who is not an officer or member of the executive committee to the Council. The president, or equivalent thereof, of the Serena B. Mowry Chapter of the National Honor Society shall submit a letter, in writing, to the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education outlining his/her full faith in the appointee and the validity and concurrence on the selection of the appointee.
3. The officers or the executive committee of the Ledyard Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society shall, in consultation with the Faculty Advisor(s), appoint one member who is not an officer or member of the executive committee to the Council. The president, or equivalent

thereof, of the Ledyard Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society shall submit a letter, in writing, to the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education outlining his/her full faith in the appointee and the validity and concurrence on the selection of the appointee.

4. The officers or the executive committee of the Ledyard Regional Chapter of the National FFA Organization shall, in consultation with the Faculty Advisor(s), appoint one member who is not the President or Vice-president or resident in the Town of Ledyard to the Council. The president, or equivalent thereof, of the Ledyard Chapter of Future Farmers of America shall submit a letter, in writing, to the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education outlining his/her full faith in the appointee and the validity and concurrence on the selection of the appointee.
5. An athlete of a recognized, school-sanctioned sport, approved by the Principal and Athletic Director of Ledyard High School, shall be nominated by the Athletic Director of Ledyard High School. The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall convene a meeting to evaluate the nominee and approve him/her or submit a request, in writing, to the Athletic Director of Ledyard High School for a new nominee. The individual selected by the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall be appointed to the Council.
6. Any member, including officers or members of the executive committee, of the Freshman Class Advisory of Ledyard High School shall be eligible for nomination by the Faculty Advisor of said entity. The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall convene a meeting to evaluate the nominee and approve him/her or submit a request, in writing, to the Faculty Advisor for a new nominee. The individual selected by the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education, in consultation with the Faculty Advisor, shall be appointed to the Council.
7. Any member, including officers or members of the executive committee, of the Sophomore, Junior, or Senior Class Advisories in Ledyard High School or the Student Congress of Ledyard High School shall be eligible for nomination by the collective consent of the Faculty Advisors of said entities. The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall convene a meeting to evaluate and select one nominee. The individual selected by the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education, in consultation with any respective or relevant Faculty Advisors, shall be appointed to the Council.

Article 2. All meetings of the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education during the selection process shall be considered closed and confidential. Only the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education and any of their invitees shall be in attendance.

Article 3. The terms of all Council members shall last no more than one year. There shall be no term limits for any council member; however, members must be re-selected or re-nominated and approved in accordance with *Chapter V, Article 1* each year. Members must maintain eligibility for their seats to be re-elected to the same seat. The term beginning and ending date for all Council members, excluding the member from the Freshman Class Advisory, shall be defined as July 1. The term beginning date for the member from the Freshman Class Advisory shall be defined as November 1 or the soonest possible date after elections for that position have occurred. The term ending date for the member from the Freshman Class Advisory shall be defined as July 1 of the next year. There shall exist no member from the Freshman Class Advisory between the dates of July 1 and November 1 of each year; the Council will consist of six members during this time.

Article 4. At least one member of the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes must serve on the Council. In addition, no more than three Council members should be in the same grade. This requirement should be actively included in the selection process. In the event that this requirement is not met following the selection or appointment process, the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall convene an emergency meeting in executive session at the earliest possible convenience with the Principal of Ledyard High School and the Faculty Advisors of the eligible clubs, activities, organizations, and societies defined in *Chapter V, Article 1*. Following a discussion, the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall (1) consider an exception to the class distribution requirement in consultation with the Principal of Ledyard High School or (2) select other students to meet the class distribution requirement. The final decision regarding selection in this instance shall reside with the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education after private discussion with the Principal of Ledyard High School.

Article 5. Students may not be eligible for membership to the Council if they have displayed academic dishonesty or committed a suspendable offense.

Article 6. The nomination and selection process shall occur in the spring of each school year, well before the term completion as defined in *Chapter V, Article 3*. When the full Council is selected, with the exception of the

freshman appointee, the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall submit a letter detailing the selections to the Principal of Ledyard High School, the Faculty and Staff of Ledyard High School, the Superintendent of Ledyard Public Schools, and other individuals whom they so choose.

Article 7. Obligations of membership shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Continuance of active, two-way communication with members' respective organizations.
2. The punctual arrival to, attendance at, and preparation for all Council meetings and events. This may be excused by the Chairpersons in the event of extenuating circumstances.
3. Maintenance of Ledyard High School eligibility requirements.
4. Fulfillment of duties as assigned to members by the Council.
5. Commitment to the Preamble, Purposes, and Principles of the Council.
6. Refraining from actions and activities unbecoming of a member of the Council and/or Ledyard High School.

Article 8. Terms of dismissal of Council members:

1. Misconduct is defined as any action by a member that does not coincide with this Charter or the decisions of the Council. A member who knowingly assists, witnesses, or learns of misconduct by a fellow member shall be obligated to report such knowledge to the Council. Members who do not report their knowledge and are found not to have done so will be held similarly accountable as the member in question.
2. Dismissal is defined as the immediate removal of a member from the Council. All privileges and rights associated with membership are lost until the beginning of the next school year, when the student again becomes eligible for selection.
3. If any member is suspended by a majority vote of the Council, all privileges and rights associated with their membership and/or leadership positions in the Council shall be temporarily revoked. Suspensions shall not last more than 14 days. Before the end of a suspension, the Council shall hear the evidence and determine what sanction, if any, shall be imposed. Any such decision (by a majority vote) shall be final. The Council may choose to bypass the suspension period and begin removal hearings immediately.
4. Members of the Council who fail to meet Ledyard High School eligibility requirements, exhibit academic dishonesty, or commit a suspendible offense will be dismissed immediately without a hearing.

5. Members must maintain membership of his/her respective organizations during their term. If a member voluntarily discontinues his/her membership of or is dismissed from their associated organization, the member will be dismissed from the Council without a hearing.
6. Members must always uphold the conditions outlined in *Chapter V, Article 1*. If a member ceases to maintain the original selection requirements, the member shall be honorably dismissed.
7. At their discretion, the Council may present a warning letter for misconduct to a fellow member.
8. Any member in question shall be permitted to hear all evidence against him/her and be afforded the opportunity to provide evidence in his/her defense.
9. If a member is removed from the Council by a majority vote, the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall submit a letter to the Principal of Ledyard High School, the Faculty and Staff of Ledyard High School, the Superintendent of Ledyard Public Schools, and other individuals whom they so choose outlining the decision making-process, justification, and the individual(s) dismissed.

Article 9. In the event of a vacancy on the Council (due to removal, resignation, etc.), the vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible according to the selection process from the designated organization (see *Chapter V, Article 1*). The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall actively inform the Principal of Ledyard High School, the Faculty and Staff of Ledyard High School, the Superintendent of Ledyard Public Schools, and other individuals whom they so choose of any actions or updates. The Council shall continue regular business as long as the necessary quorum (see *Chapter VII, Article 4*) is maintained at meetings.

CHAPTER VI: OFFICERS

Article 1. The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education, as appointed by the Ledyard High School Principal and Superintendent of Ledyard Public Schools, shall serve as the presiding officers or Chairpersons of the Council, retaining all rights of that membership excluding the right to vote. The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education may not serve as Council members.

Article 2. The Chairpersons shall preside at all meetings of the Council and shall perform other duties as directed by the Council. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Chairpersons shall:

1. Sign the instruments, acts, and orders necessary to carry out the will of the Council.
2. Appoint Council committees.
3. Call special meetings of the Council as necessary.
4. Be the public spokespersons for the Council at all times, except if this responsibility is specifically delegated to another member.
5. Be responsible for the orderly conduct of all Council meetings.
6. Call meetings to order at the appropriate time.
7. Announce the business to come before the Council in its proper order.
8. Enforce the Council's policies, resolutions, procedures, and rules relating to the order of business and the conduct of the meetings.
9. Recognize persons who desire to speak, and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference.
10. Explain the effect of a motion if it is not clear to every member.
11. Restrict discussion to the question at hand when a motion is before the Council.
12. Answer all parliamentary inquiries.
13. Put motions to a vote, stating definitely and clearly the vote and the result thereof.
14. Declare meetings adjourned.
15. Fulfill duties usually performed by similar office holders.
16. Perform other duties as afforded to them by the Council.

The Chairpersons shall have the right, as other Council members have, to offer motions and resolutions and to discuss questions.

Article 3. The Council shall elect from its selected members at its first meeting of the July 1 term (see *Chapter V, Article 3*) a Secretary, who shall serve for a term of one year. The votes of each Council member shall be recorded in the record of the meeting. If a secretary is not chosen because of the inability of any one Council member to receive four affirmative votes for the position, the Ledyard High School Principal shall select the Secretary.

Article 4. The Secretary of the Council shall:

1. Perform the duties of the Chairpersons at Council meetings when all eligible Chairs are absent.
2. Maintain a record of all Council proceedings; one official copy shall be maintained in the office of the Ledyard High School Principal.

3. After it has been approved by the Council, submit a report of the doings of the Council to the Ledyard High School Principal at the last meeting before July 1.
4. Fulfill duties usually performed by similar office holders.
5. Perform other duties as afforded to him/her by the Council.

CHAPTER VII: MEETINGS

Article 1. The Council shall hold regular meetings at such time and place as shall be determined by the Council.

Article 2. Special/Emergency meetings may be called by any member with a 24-hour notice to all members. The Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education shall notify the Ledyard High School Principal, in writing, outlining the occurrence of and reason for the special/emergency meeting.

Article 3. An “executive session” is defined as a meeting of the Council at which any non-members, except those invited by the Council, are excluded in entirety. The Council may hold an executive session by a majority vote of the members at a scheduled meeting. The motion to enter an executive session shall state the reason(s) for the executive session and name any individuals invited to attend the executive session. Executive session may occur for one or more of the following reasons: (1) to discuss the appointment, performance, evaluation, or health of a member, (2) to consider discipline or dismissal of a member, or (3) to consider business deemed sensitive in nature.

Article 4. Four Council members shall constitute a quorum of the Council, but no resolution or vote, except a vote to adjourn or to fix the time and place of the next meeting, shall be adopted by less than four affirmative votes.

CHAPTER VIII: COMMITTEES

Article 1. A system of committees may be used for the planning, execution, or evaluation of any projects, activities, or relations.

CHAPTER IX: CONTINUITY

Article 1. In the event that the position titled "Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education" is eliminated for any reason, the Ledyard High School Principal shall select two students to fulfill the duties afforded to

the Student Representatives to the Ledyard Board of Education outlined in this Charter.

CHAPTER X: AUTHORITY BEYOND THE CHARTER

Article 1. The Council may adopt policies, resolutions, procedures, and rules for the organized operation and management of the Council. These shall be set by a majority vote of the Council and shall remain in effect from year to year until repealed or revised by the Council. In no case shall any policy, resolution, procedure, or rule contradict a provision of the Charter of the Student Leadership Council of Ledyard High School.

Article 2. The latest edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order” shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically defined by this Charter or any policies, resolutions, procedures, and rules adopted by the Council.

CHAPTER XI: AMENDMENTS

Article 1. Amendments to this Charter shall be adopted by a five-sevenths vote of the members present at any regular meeting held one week or more after the regular meeting at which the proposed amendment or amendments were read, or after giving written notice thereof to each member one week prior to the action on such an amendment or amendments.

Article 2. This Charter and all amendments or additions thereto shall not become effective until approved by the Ledyard High School Principal.

* * *

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the following have signed, approved, and vested their confidence in this original Charter of the Student Leadership Council of Ledyard High School:

Amanda O. Fagan
Ledyard High School Principal

Gianni Jannke
Architect of the Council & Charter

Rachelle Robeson
Architect of the Council & Charter

DONE at the Town of Ledyard on the twelfth day of February,
two thousand and sixteen.

ADDENDUM TO THE ORIGINAL CHARTER

It shall be understood that the first Council selected in the Spring of 2016 will serve through the term ending on July 1, 2017.

This understanding is in the spirit of continuing efforts to establish this student government as a successful entity within the school district.

This agreement shall expire immediately after July 1, 2016 and shall not be extended in any capacity.

* * *

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the following have signed, approved, and vested their confidence in this addendum to the original Charter of the Student Leadership Council of Ledyard High School:

Amanda O. Fagan
Ledyard High School Principal

Gianni Jannke
Architect of the Council & Charter

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DONE at the Town of Ledyard on the twelfth day of February,
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