

BYLAWS OF NEUSE CHARTER SCHOOL

(Amended by Board of Directors, August 21, 2018)

(Approved by the Office of Charter Schools per State Board Policy CHTR-014 on January 2, 2019)

ARTICLE I - Name of Non-Profit Corporation

Section 1: Name

The name of the non-profit corporation is THE NEUSE CHARTER SCHOOL OF JOHNSTON COUNTY, duly authorized under the statutes of the State of North Carolina.

Section 2: Principal Office

The principal office of the Corporation is located in the Town of Smithfield, in Johnston County, in the State of North Carolina. The street address is 909 Booker Dairy Road. Smithfield, NC 27577 and the name of the current registered agent at such address is Susan Pullium.

ARTICLE II-Purposes

Section 1: Purposes

The mission of the Neuse Charter School is as follows:

The Neuse Charter School seeks to provide a challenging learning environment to highly motivated students. High academic standards, a highly qualified staff, innovative approaches to teaching the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, and strong emphasis on communication and critical thinking skills will be the distinguishing attributes of this school. Parental and community partnerships and meaningful continuing education opportunities for teachers will be high priorities of the board and administration board to insure the school empowers every child to achieve his or her maximum potential.

ARTICLE III - Board of Directors

Section 1: Powers

The activities, affairs and business of the Corporation shall be conducted by or under the direction of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Number, Qualifications, Nomination, Election, and Tenure

- a) The number of directors constituting the Board of Directors shall be no less than five (5) and no more than eleven (11).
- b) A person needs to be at least eighteen (18) years old to be qualified as a Director. Paid employees of the Corporation may serve on the Board of Directors only as Non-Voting Members.

- c) When a vacancy or vacancies occur, either by death resignation, removal from office, end of term, tenure limit, and/or for any other reason, the board may vote at its January meeting to accept new nomination for election using the following process.
 - i. The board chair appoints a nominating committee to solicit and review nominations and to bring a recommended slate of new members and renewals to the board for approval at the May board meeting. This committee will include at least the board chair, and Executive Director (limited additional members of the board, school community may also be appointed).
 - ii. After determining the board positions to be filled and recruitment needs, a call for nominations for board members will be made to the school community in February, allowing 4 weeks for a response. This call for nominations will be promoted to all current families, faculty, staff and the general community through the PTO and the school website. Applicants must submit an application and resume to the Nominating committee.
 - iii. The nominating committee shall close the call for nomination at the March meeting and begin the process to review the nominees and select a slate for recommendation to the full board no later than the board's April meeting
 - iv. The full board shall consider and vote on the slate as recommended no later than the May board meeting.
 - v. Board training will be provided in June
 - vi. The new member(s) shall be term shall begin at the July meeting If the board membership falls below the minimum required by the bylaws then immediate nominations and elections may occur. The sitting Board Members may conduct interviews with the prospective Board candidates.
- d) Each Director shall hold office for a period of two years.
- e) Except non-voting employee Directors, each person appointed or elected may serve a maximum of three (3) consecutive (2) year terms. Directors may then serve additional one year terms at the pleasure of the board, with annual reelection. However, each director shall continue in office until the successor in that office shall have been duly appointed or until the current Director resigns, becomes disqualified, or until that director is removed.

Section 3: Ex-Officio Directors

The School Administrator/Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation shall during his or her respective term serve as an Ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. In addition, there shall be such other Ex-officio Directors as elected by a vote of the Directors then holding office. Each Ex-officio Director, including the School Administrator, shall be entitled to enter into all deliberations and to receive notice of all meetings, but he or she shall not vote nor be counted in determining the existence of a quorum.

Section 4: Duties

- a) Directors shall perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively and individually by law, the Articles of Incorporation or by these Bylaws. Directors shall stand in a fiduciary relation to the corporation and shall discharge the duties of the respective positions in good faith, and with that diligence and care which reasonably prudent men and women would exercise in similar circumstances and like positions.
- b) Directors shall appoint, remove, and evaluate the School Administrator/Chief Executive of the Corporation.
- c) Directors shall conduct an annual self-evaluation(s) to ensure their quality of service to the corporation.
- d) Directors shall meet at such times and places as required by these Bylaws. The Board will consider a director with two consecutive un-excused absences from regular meetings as having resigned.
- e) Directors shall register their addresses with the Secretary of the Neuse Charter School.

Section 5: Resignation of Directors

A Director may resign at any time by giving notice in writing to the Chairperson or Secretary of the Corporation. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified, or if no time is specified, at the time such resignation is received by the Chairperson or Secretary.

Section 6: Vacancies

If a vacancy should occur in the Board of Directors by death, resignation, disqualification, or otherwise, the remaining Directors may continue to conduct the Corporation's business. The vacancy may be filled as provided in Section 2c of this Article III. A Director who is chosen in this manner shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the person whom the newly elected Director succeeds.

Section 7: Compensation

Directors shall serve without compensation for their services to the Board. However, a person who is a Director may receive compensation for serving in another capacity in the Charter School for which there should be reasonable compensation, e.g., compensation as a substitute teacher for a short period of time.

Section 8: Director's Adverse Interest

If any Director has an adverse interest in a corporate transaction, such Director must make full disclosure to the Board of the adverse interest as soon as such Director knows, or should know of its existence. Upon full disclosure, the Board may approve the transaction only by a good faith vote of a majority of the disinterested Directors present. However, no such transaction may be approved if it would constitute self-dealing prohibited under sections 4941 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provisions of any later federal tax laws, or if it would result in the imposition of any excise tax under any other provision of Chapter 49A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provisions of any later federal tax laws.

Section 9: Certain Director Liability

A Director shall be subject to the liabilities imposed by law upon Directors. In addition, all Directors who vote for or assent to any distribution of assets of the Corporation contrary to any lawful restrictions in the Non-profit Corporation Act of the State of North Carolina, the corporate Charter, or the Bylaws, shall be jointly and severally liable to the Corporation for the amount of such distribution. Furthermore, such liabilities shall not exceed the debts, obligations and liabilities existing at the time of the vote or assent where the Director relied and acted in good faith on financial statements of the Corporation to be correct and to be based on generally accepted principles of sound accounting practice by the Chairperson or the Treasurer, or certified by an independent public accountant or firm of such accountants to fairly reflect the financial condition of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IV-MEETINGS

Section 1: Regular Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet a minimum of eight (8) times per year with the date, time and place being designated by the Chairperson or the Chairperson's designee. One of these meetings shall be the annual meeting (Section 4) of the Board of Directors. The North Carolina open meeting laws will be followed during all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Substitute Regular Meetings

If any regular meeting shall not be held as designated in Section 1, above, a substitute meeting may be called by the Chairperson or by two or more of the Directors. This meeting may be designated as a regular meeting.

Section 3: Special Meetings

The persons authorized to call Special Meetings of the Board are the Chairperson or at least two Directors. All Board Members must be notified not less than four (4) days in advance of the place and time of a Special Board Meeting, such notice to be made pursuant to Section 4, below.

Section 4: Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held within 3 months after the close of the fiscal year for the purpose of selecting officers, approving financial reports, and to transact any other business as may be specified in the notice of the meeting.

Section 5: Notice of Meetings

Notice of any regular meeting, including the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, shall be given to the Board Members at least one-week (seven days) prior thereto. Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least four (4) days prior thereto. All notices shall be in writing delivered personally or sent by mail, telegram, fax, or electronic mail to the address of each Director as shown on the records of the Corporation with a confirmation from each Director that notice was received and to be sent to Secretary.

Section 6: Quorum

The presence of one half (1/2) of the members of the Board of Directors at a meeting duly assembled shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If less than a quorum is present at the time and place of any meeting, the Directors present may adjourn the meeting until a quorum shall be present.

Section 7: Decision Making

Actions by the Board will be decided by majority vote, with the exception of an action on a previously adopted item, which requires two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. The Chair will call for a vote on all agenda items identified on the agenda as "Decision Required." Except as otherwise provided by statute, or by the Charter of the Corporation, or by these Bylaws, if a quorum is present when a vote is taken, the affirmative vote of a majority of directors present is the act of the Board of Directors and shall control on all matters. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

ARTICLE V-Officers

Section 1: Designation of Officers

The officers of the Board of Directors of this Corporation shall include the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The Directors may designate and fill other corporate officers as needed. Any two offices or more may be held by one person, except the offices of Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. No officer shall sign or execute any document in more than one capacity.

Section 2: Election, Term of Office and Qualifications

Each officer shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. These officers shall hold office during the fiscal year after their election. Other officers, as needed, may be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of this article and may be elected by the Board at the Annual Meeting.

Section 3: Subordinate Officer and Agents

The Board of Directors may appoint other officers or agents (i.e. School Administrator/Chief Executive Officer), each of whom shall hold office for such period, have such authority, and perform such duties as the Board of Directors may determine. The Board of Directors may delegate to any officer or agent the authority to appoint any subordinate officer or agent and to prescribe the respective authorities or duties.

Section 4: Duties

Officers shall stand in a fiduciary relation to the Corporation and shall discharge the duties of their respective positions in good faith, and with that diligence and care which reasonable prudent men and women would exercise in similar circumstances and like positions.

Section 5: Removal

The officers specifically designated in Section 1 of this Article V may be removed either with or without cause, by vote of the Board of Directors present at any regular meeting; or at a special meeting of the Board called for that purpose. The officers appointed in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of this Article may be removed, either with or without cause, by the Board of Directors, by a majority vote

of the Directors present at any meeting. The removal of any person from office shall be done without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed.

Section 6: Resignations

Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors or to the Chairperson or Secretary of Neuse Charter School, or, if that officer was appointed by an officer or agent in accordance with Section 3 of this article, by giving written notice to the appointing officer or agent.

Section 7: Vacancies

A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal or disqualification, or any other cause, shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term of such office in the manner prescribed by these Bylaws for regular appointments or elections to such offices.

Section 8: School Administrator/Chief Executive Officer

The School Administrator/Chief Executive Officer shall have general charge of the business and affairs of the corporation and control over its employees. The School Administrator/Chief Executive Officer shall do and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors, including managing of day-to-day operations. The School Administrator/Chief Executive Officer shall serve as ex-officio member of the Parent Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors as well as work in partnership with these groups to achieve the mission of NCS.

Section 9: Chairperson

The Chairperson shall have general charge of the business and affairs of the Board of Directors. The Chairperson has the responsibility for conducting meetings. The Chairperson shall perform such other assigned duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 10: Vice-Chairperson

At the request of the Chairperson, or in absence or disability of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Chairperson.

Section 11: Secretary

The Secretary (or designee) shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by the law. The Secretary shall be the custodian of the statements, books, records, reports, certificates, and other documents of the Corporation and the seal of the Corporation, and see that the seal is affixed to all documents requiring such seal. The Secretary shall perform all duties and possess all authority incident to the office of Secretary, and such other duties and have such other authority as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 12: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have supervision over the funds, receipts, disbursements and securities of the corporation and shall serve on the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall perform such other duties and have such other authority as may be assigned or granted by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer

may be required to give a bond for the faithful performance of the duties of the office in such form and amount as the Board of Directors may determine.

Section 13: (removed Dec 14, 2010)

Section 14: Duties of Officers may be Delegated

In case of absence of any officer of the corporation or for any other reason that the Board may deem sufficient, the Board may delegate authority of duties of such officer to any other officer or to any Director provided a majority of the entire Board of Directors concurs therein.

ARTICLE VI - Committees

Section 1: General

The Board shall have an Executive Committee and four (4) standing committees - Finance, Academic Affairs, Resource, and Board Development. Committees shall meet and conduct business between board meetings and make reports and recommendations at board meetings. Each Director shall serve on at least one standing committee

Section 2: Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Board of Directors, and will include the immediate past Chairperson. The Executive Committee is commissioned by and responsible to the Board of Directors to function on behalf of the Board of Directors in matters of emergency and in interim periods between regularly scheduled board meetings, The Executive Committee shall have and exercise the authority of the Board of Directors provided that such authority shall not operate to circumvent the responsibility and authority vested in the Board of Directors by the by-laws, and any action taken is to be ratified by the Board of Directors at its first subsequent meeting.

Section 3: Finance Committee

Purpose Statement: The Finance Committee is commissioned by and responsible to the Board of Directors to supervise the financial affairs of the school and to make recommendations in regard to the operating and capital budget, salaries, and other business affairs.

The Committee Shall:

1. Work with school leaders to construct and oversee the fiscal budget.
2. Regularly monitor the expenditures of the school.
3. Review fiscal policies and propose new or revised policies as appropriate to the Board.
4. Monitor and present to the Board any contracts entered into by the school.
5. Comply with and act upon any audit findings.

Appointments and Composition:

1. Appointments of the chair and members of the Board Development Committee shall be made annually by the Chair of the Board with the advice and consent of the Board and the school leaders in accordance with the By-Laws.
2. The Chair of this Committee shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
3. Members of this committee shall be members of the Board of Directors, subject to the conditions stated in the By-Laws. Additional committee members may be appointed and need not be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Academic Affairs Committee

Purpose Statement: The Academic Affairs Committee is commissioned by and responsible to the Board of Directors to advise, assist, and advocate the pursuit and maintenance of academic excellence at Neuse Charter School.

The Committee Shall:

1. Work with school leaders to define academic excellence and strategic academic priorities.
2. Regularly monitor the educational quality of the school's academic programs.
3. Review academic policies and propose new or revised policies, as appropriate, to the Board.
4. Monitor the school's strategies for enrollment management.
5. Review significant findings and recommendations from NCDPI and other specialized accrediting agencies, and monitor that any recommendations and requirements are addressed appropriately within designated timeframes.
6. Consider whether the instructional budgetary needs reflect the school's academic mission and priorities.

Appointments and Composition:

7. Appointments of the chair and members of the Board Development Committee shall be made annually by the Chair of the Board with the advice and consent of the Board and the school leaders in accordance with the By-Laws.
8. The Chair of this Committee shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
9. Members of this committee shall be members of the Board of Directors, subject to the conditions stated in the By-Laws. Additional committee members may be appointed and need not be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 5: Resource Committee

Purpose Statement: The Resource Committee is commissioned by and responsible to the Board of Directors to work to forge and maintain school-community partnerships, and to coordinate fund-raising and social events to promote the school's mission and maintain positive morale.

The Committee Shall:

1. Work with school leaders to plan and execute fund-raising efforts.
2. Promote NCS through community social events.
3. Assist the Executive Director in developing school-community partnerships.
4. Review fund-raising policies and propose new or revised policies, as appropriate, to the Board.

Appointments and Composition:

1. Appointments of the chair and members of the Board Development Committee shall be made annually by the Chair of the Board with the advice and consent of the Board and the school leaders in accordance with the By-Laws.
2. The Chair of this Committee shall be a member of the Board of Directors.
3. Members of this committee shall be members of the Board of Directors, subject to the conditions stated in the By-Laws. Additional committee members may be appointed and need not be members of the Board of Directors.

Section 6: Board Development Committee

Purpose Statement: The Board Development Committee is commissioned by and responsible to the Board of Directors to be responsible for matters pertaining to the Board's membership, training, and compliance. Nominations Committee and By-Laws Committee shall be considered subcommittees of the Board Development Committee.

The Committee shall:

1. Facilitate the By-Laws Committee in reviews and revisions of By-Laws as often as deemed necessary by the Board, or as often as needed for legal compliance.
2. Facilitate the Nominations Committee with regard to recruitment, orientation, membership rules and public announcements as outlined in the By-Laws.
3. Conduct annual self-evaluation of the Board of Directors.
4. Review and ensure that the Board maintains compliance annually with regard to training by NCDPI, and oversee compliance with Open Meetings laws of the State of North Carolina.
5. Review and ensure that the Board maintains compliance with regard to its own by-laws, and established policies and practices, and propose new or revised policies, as appropriate, to the Board.

Appointments and Composition:

1. Appointments of the chair and members of the Board Development Committee shall be made annually by the Chair of the Board with the advice and consent of the Board and the school leaders in accordance with the By-Laws.
2. The Chair of this Committee shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

3. Members of this committee shall be members of the Board of Directors, subject to the conditions stated in the By-Laws. Additional committee members may be appointed and need not be members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII- (not used)

ARTICLE VIII - General Provisions

Section 1: Corporate Seal

The corporate seal shall be in such form as shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the corporation shall be July 1 through June 30.

Section 3: Amendments to Bylaws

These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted at any regular or special meeting upon a consensus vote of the Directors then in office provided however, that notice shall be given of the intention to alter, amend, or repeal or to adopt new Bylaws at such meeting at least seven (7) days prior to such meeting in writing delivered personally or sent by mail, email or fax to the address of each Director as shown on the records of the Corporation.

Section 4: Books and Records

The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of accounts and shall keep minutes of the proceedings of its Board of Directors.

Section 5: Meeting Regulation

All meetings of the Corporation, including annual, special, and other meetings, shall be governed by the following established group agreements: one person speaks at a time; respect diverse opinions; agree to disagree; be willing to let up when it's time; listen: sit back, breathe, hear; learn from others; be willing to encourage "thinking out of the box"; strive to find another answer.

Section 6: Officer and Director Indemnification

The Corporation shall indemnify any Director or former Director or officer of the Corporation or any person who may have served at its request as a director or officer of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise against liabilities and reasonable litigation expenses, including attorney's fees, incurred by the Director in connection with any action, suit or proceeding in which that Director is made or threatened to be made a party by reason of being or having been such Director or officer, except in relation to matters as to which the Director shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to have acted in bad faith or to have been liable or guilty by reason of willful misconduct in the performance of duty. The indemnification authorized by this Section 6 (a) (remove blue text) shall be

in addition to that permitted by North Carolina General Statutes 55A-8-50 through 55A-8-58 or as authorized in these Bylaws.

The corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a Director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise against any liability asserted against and incurred by the person in such capacity, or arising out of the officer's status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify that officer against such liability.

Expenses incurred by a Director, officer, employee, or agent in defending a civil or criminal action suit or proceeding may be paid by the corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding as authorized by the Board of Directors in the specific case upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the Director, officer, employee, or agent to repay such amount unless it shall be ultimately determined that the person is entitled to be indemnified by the corporation as authorized by North Carolina General Statutes 55A-8-50 through 55A-8-58 or as authorized in these Bylaws.

Section 7: Conflict of Interest

No Director, officer, or employee of the corporation shall obtain any direct or indirect economic stake in any entity participating in the programs of the corporation, and the corporation shall not employ any individual who serves as a Director or officer of such an entity, or an individual who owns a stake in any such entity. It is the policy of the corporation that no Director, officer, or employee of the corporation shall receive any personal or private benefit resulting from the activities of the Corporation or from the receipt by the Corporation of funds from the State of North Carolina or from any other source, apart from reasonable compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the conduct of the business of the Corporation. In furtherance of this policy, the Board of Directors shall have the power to make such rules and regulations concerning conflicts of interest as it deems appropriate from time to time.

Section 8: Prohibited Activities

The corporation shall comply with 501(c)(3) prohibitions against substantial lobbying and involvement in political campaigns for public candidates. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to, its members, Directors, officers, or other private persons.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by corporations exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

Section 9: Disposal of Assets

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation as directed pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes.

