

Appendix 3

The Constitution of the School of Avalon

~Preamble~

We, the People of Avalon, in order to provide for a safe and productive learning environment, promote the obtaining and usage of knowledge for the benefit of those around us, and ensure general happiness, do ordain and establish this constitution for Avalon High School.

~Article I~

The Legislative Branch

Section I.

All Legislative power herein shall be vested in a Congress of Avalon, which shall consist solely of that group of officials.

Section II.

Congress: Organization and Powers of Impeachment

1. Congress made of any person choosing to take part.
2. Any person attending may vote, regardless of prior attendance. The only reason a person would not be allowed to vote is if that person were removed from Congress.
3. For a person to be removed there must be a majority vote in favor of removing that person. Length of removal will be judged by remaining Congress members. If a person is removed three times, that person is no longer allowed to take part in Congress.
4. No representative shall hold a position of higher power within the Congress, therefore, there shall be no Speaker of the House, nor any similar position.

Section III.

Meetings Of Congress

Meetings shall be held on a weekly basis, at whatever time is found most convenient by the members of Congress (if there is free attendance we need a set time).

Section IV.

Rules Of Procedure

Minutes must be recorded at every meeting. The Person that records minutes at one meeting leads at the next.

Section V.
Privileges and Limitations

1. Representatives of Congress shall be compensated with credit, and by no other means.
2. For a Congress member who has been removed three times to be reinstated, that member must first go through mediation, as well as be approved by Congress.

Section VI.
Procedure for passing bills, executive veto

1. Congress is charged with passing bills.
2. Any member of the school may propose a bill to the Legislative body, whether they are a student or a staff member.
3. A bill must pass through congress with a majority, after which it must be passed through the Executive branch, also with a majority vote.
4. For a bill to be vetoed there must be a majority vote within the Executive branch in favor of such a veto.
5. A bill may not be re-proposed for three weeks.

Section VII.
Powers delegated to congress

1. The Representatives of the student body shall report all meeting information to their peers.
2. Congress may make, modify, or disband any law applying to students or the student/advisor relationship so long as it is not unconstitutional or against any higher-level laws.
3. Congress reserves the right to declare emergency or follow up meetings that are not scheduled.
4. Congress may form committees to organize, control, and lead any and all social events, including but not limited to the All School Meetings, Presentation Nights, Public Relations Tours, School Dances, and other events called to order.

Section VIII.
Powers denied to congress

1. Congress may not override decisions made by higher-level laws, including, but not limited to the School Board, School District, Minnesota Government, or US Federal Law.
2. Congress may not be involved in or perform any disciplinary actions, as those are reserved for the Mediators.
3. Congress may not override the Executive veto.
4. Congress may not place restrictions on other branches of Government.

~Article II~

The Judiciary branch

Section I

Division of branch, tenure of office

1. The Judiciary branch of Avalon should consist of the Mediation Council.
2. The Mediation Council will consist of Peer Mediators as well the Circle Process Group.
3. Any student who attends the mediation training may be a Mediator.
4. Mediators will facilitate communication to resolve individual student/student issues or student/staff issues.
5. There will be a minimum of three trained Peer Mediators.
6. The Circle Process Group will address school issues through a Talking Circle and bring resolutions to Congress.

Section II

Jurisdiction

1. The Judicial Branch will be committed to Restorative Justice.
2. The Judicial Branch will handle all cases that are not in violation of higher laws.

~Article III~

Executive branch

Section I

1. The Avalon Staff shall form the Executive Branch.
2. The executive branch shall be responsible for upholding all higher laws.
3. The Executive Branch is permitted to veto laws made by Congress.
4. It is the responsibility of the Executive Branch to enforce the laws.

~Article IV~
Governing Body

Avalon School guarantees all students that it is a Democratic single party government, and will follow all procedures as such.

~Article V~
Amendment Procedures

Any member of the school may propose an amendment or bill, whether they are students or staff, to the Legislative Branch.

All proposed amendments to the Constitution must first be passed by a majority of the Executive Branch.

After the approval by the Executive Branch, the Legislative Branch will present the proposed amendment to the Avalon Community in an all school meeting. All amendments to the Constitution must be passed by a majority of the Avalon School community in a simple vote.

~FIRST AMENDMENT~

BILL OF RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Every person has the right to bring someone to mediation.
2. Every person has the responsibility to attend mediation when asked at a reasonable time.
3. Every person has the responsibility to resolve interpersonal problems. Avalon will provide time and space for mediations to facilitate better communication and resolve conflicts.
4. Every person has the right to be treated with respect and dignity.
5. Every person has the responsibility to treat others with respect and dignity.
6. Every person has the right to his or her own personal space.
7. Every person has the responsibility to respect other people's personal space.
8. Every person has the right and responsibility to try.
9. Every person has the right to ask why.
10. Every person has the responsibility to question themselves and their actions in times of duress.
11. Every person has the right to speak and communicate his or her views as long as they are respectful to others.
12. Every person has the responsibility to listen at all times to whoever is speaking.
13. Every person has the right and responsibility to be involved and participate here at Avalon High School

Avalon Laws

Law 001: Sex Ed

(2002) (Revised fall 08)

Be it enacted that Avalon will provide a sexual education seminar two times each year. The seminars shall:

- a. Be one block long.
- b. Be exclusively on sexual education.
- c. Address relationships, personal values, birth control options, pregnancy options, sexually transmitted infections, sexual health rights, sexual abuse, sexual abuse rights, and sexual orientation.

This requirement would facilitate Avalon students' access to information on sexual health so that they can make informed decisions on sexual issues.

- d. for graduation standards
- e. meet one time per a week

Law 002: Mandatory Advisory Cleaning Period

(2003) (Revised Fall 08)

This bill proposes that:

1. Each advisory will remain in the advisory and clean their respective learning areas during the last 10 minutes on Fridays (3:30-3:40pm). Each advisory can vote to have their advisories clean at a different time.
2. A clean area will be defined as:
 - Void of all unnecessary rubbish (bottles, cans, scraps of paper, etc.), both on and under desks.
 - Being or having the appearance of being neat and organized (books in a pile, no loose papers, etc)
 - Furthermore, if any rubbish receptacles exist in the advisory, a designated person or volunteer will dump said receptacle into one of the larger bins in the cafe'.
3. Students and advisors will take care to ensure that during the cleaning period, all recyclable materials will be placed into their proper receptacles.
4. The said period of time may not be more frequent than once a week.
5. The said period of time may not be shorter than a quarter-hour.
6. The preferred period of time will be during advisory time.
7. Both advisors and students will take part in the cleaning.
8. For Advisory credit, if students don't clean during that time, they do not receive credit for that time.

Law 004-Moment of Silence
(2005)

We have voted to no longer have a moment of silence at the end of the Monday morning meetings. The vote came out 16-14 in favor.—Avalon School Board Approved.

Law 005- Comfort Committee
(2005)

Avalon students have shown significant need for a comfortable meeting area. The Congress Comfort Committee would like to request the permission of the Avalon staff to allow us to bring two to three medium sized cushioned chairs (as seen in photo or smaller) and a small coffee table to provide a more comfy and welcoming place to work in the back of the café to be used by the students and staff with one person per chair. Monitoring the students' activities will be simpler in this location, and since there will be chairs rather than couches problems faced in previous years will not be an issue.

Law 006- Circle Disciplinary Action
(2005)

This bill is to insure that circle guidelines will be respected and followed. Student will be given one warning by the facilitator or can be suggested by another student. The second warning will result in the student being asked to leave that circle meeting. This decision will be made by the facilitator but can be later discussed if it was seen as unacceptable. If so, it will not count as one of the student's three dismissals. After being asked to leave three circles, the group will vote to decide if the student may return. $\frac{3}{4}$ opinion will decide this for the rest of that school year. If the student is allowed to return and another incident occurs, another vote will take place. This will happen for each situation that may follow.

Law 007-Guardian
(2005)

When a student reaches the age of 18, given that they have parental consent given in person at a conference with the parent and advisor, they have the right to sign their own project proposals, seminar registration and seminar drop forms, and permission slips for field trips.

Law 008-Math Law (removed in 2007-2008)
(2005)

Any senior may be use the hour here on referred to as the "math hour" (9:20 am – 10:20 am) that Avalon school has, to work on any projects. This includes their senior project, outstanding work, or any other obstacles that are threatening them from graduation.

They may do this once the following guidelines are met:

Ø The student must be ahead in math by one week, which by the standards now, would be 3-4 objectives.

Ø The student must be a senior or above.

Ø The student attends school on time

Ø The student is in Algebra 2 or Precalculus

Ø The student must have permission by signature from both advisor and math teacher.

If the student falls behind for whatever reason, at the advisor's/math teacher's discretion, this privilege will be revoked.

At any time, this privilege can be revoked at advisor's/math teacher's discretion.

Student will have a sheet that they must have with them, here on referred to as a "pass".

Student must have this "pass" signed, and sign it themselves. This pass will work as a regular pass does. Advisors may check it, and if the pass is lost the student will need to get another.

Ø Students may only work in their own advisory.

Ø Students must have pass with them.

Ø Students must be working during this time.

Law 009-Reading (2005)-Amended

Students have the right to read in the café provided they have turned in their annotated bibliography for the previous block. If the student is disruptive while in the café they will no longer be allowed there for the rest of the block. Students must return to the advisory on time from lunch to be able to read outside the advisory.

Law 010-Executive Veto (2007)

Although the Executive Branch retains the power to veto bill, the Executive Branch must provide academic or social reasons in writing to the next Congress meeting.

Law 011-Avalon Cleaning Crew (2008)

Avalon students effective as soon as possible, will be responsible for the cleaning of the café after lunch. In order to eat lunch in the upstairs Café' instead of the basement cafeteria, a small group of students will volunteer to clean the café daily after lunch.

Law 012- (2009)

Any new policies created by the Avalon School staff which directly affect the student body must be examined and discussed in Congress. The Avalon School staff may not prohibit

Congress from discussing any issue or policy that directly affects the student body.

Law 013

(October 2009)

If a student is disruptive or disrespectful to the point that an advisor asks them to leave the seminar, advisory, etc., and their request is denied/ignored, the student will be given one warning and if further action is necessary, the student will be permanently removed from the advisory, seminar (including Math) for the rest of the block with the exception of students with an IEP or other programs that require their presence.

Law 014

(October 2009)

In order to be in the café, students need have their pass signed by their advisor. Passes cannot be written for periods of more than an hour. If a student wishes to be in the café for more than one hour per day, this is allowed. The student would need to go back and check in with their advisor and get another pass for another hour; at that time the advisor should ask to see what work they've done and make the decision to sign the pass based on the work that has been completed.

Conduct in the café is to be as follows:

- When working in the café, all students must be quietly working and showing respect for each other, the advisors, and the café. All students in the café must have a pass.
- The maximum number of students working at each table is 5.
- If an advisor needs to send a student back to their advisory, that student loses the privilege of working in the café for one week. When an advisor sends a student back to their advisory, they should mark the appropriate line on their pass with a marker, and initial it so that the student's advisor will know that they got sent back.
- If an advisor needs to ask a an individual or a group of students to be quiet more than once, that group or individual loses the privilege of working in the café for the remainder of that day.

Law 015

(February 2010)

Avalon's congress has determined that the café will close to students during non-lunch hours on 16 Feb 2010 to 19 Feb 2010. This was proposed due to extensive pass violations, excessive volume and the noticeable lack of work. After this week, the café will reopen, but should close again for as long as necessary (duration determined by congress) if these or other problems arise again.

Passed 27-9 on 11 Feb 2010

Law 016

(March 2010)

Passed, but not enacted

We as Congress propose that a student position be created for the purpose of keeping the cafe quiet and enforcing the rules of the cafe entitled, cafe monitor. The cafe monitor will be responsible for remaining quietly on schoolwork while periodically checking passes and asking or reminding students in the cafe to work. We think this will help to keep students who are not working in line.

We propose that the cafe monitor be allowed to ask students who do not have passes to return to their advisory in which they belong. The cafe monitor will be allowed to ask students who are loud, disruptive, or not working and do not rectify their behavior after being asked twice to return to their advisories. The cafe monitors will keep their voices at a normal and respectful volume. In the event that a student refuses to leave the cafe, the cafe monitor is to alert an advisor of the issue and request that the advisor solve the issue. The cafe monitor should keep a list of students who were asked to leave and give it to an advisor at the end of the cafe monitor's shift for the advisors to decide punishment for the students.

We also propose that there will be a cafe sign-in for students to sign their names so the cafe monitor will have an easier time keeping track of who belongs in the cafe.

We believe the requirements for becoming a cafe monitor should be approved by the student's advisor and at least one other advisor. The applicant should not have had previous problems in the cafe for the year they are applying.

Law 017

(March 2010/repealed Sept. 6th, 2010 after Open Lunch was reinstated).

The Students and Congress of Avalon feel that in order to facilitate mental health and academic development, and that exposure to fresh air being essential to both, we should be provided the opportunity to leave the building but remain in Dickerman Park on Avalon School property before the sidewalk at Metro Lighting during the Lunch Period from 12:20 to 12:55. This privilege will operate under the same availability as Open Lunch passes, and will be supervised by staff members.

Law 018

(June 2011)-Not enacted 2012-2013

Advisory Council: An Advisory Council will be established beginning Sept. 6th, 2011. The Advisory Council will serve as a set group of student leaders, nominated by advisors and voted for by students at the end of each year. The Advisory Council will consist of one student from each advisory. The purpose of the Council is to create a set of leaders who will attend congress regularly with ideas on how to better the community, and report back to their advisory after each congress meeting. They will also be expected to take responsibility for the school outside of congress as it becomes necessary, and do their part to help congress acquire more members. The requirements for being a Council Member/Advisory Representative are as follows:

- Must have attended Avalon's High School for at least one full semester
- Must attend congress regularly
- Must report to their advisory with notes from the previous congress meeting during morning check-in
- Must be trained as a student mediator and a student mentor
- Must show leadership in the school community
- Must encourage other students to be engaged in the school community

A committee member may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the Council. Grounds for removal include:

- Poor attendance to congress
- Recurring failure to report to advisory
- Being a negative force in congress or the school community

In the event that a Representative is removed, that student's advisor will appoint another student who meets the requirements previously listed. The committee will meet during the 4th block of the school year to discuss possible changes to the bill.

Law 019 Gender free bathroom times

(March 2012)-Changed in 2014-2015 with addition of 3rd bathroom.

Congress voted to have gender-free bathroom times at 8:45-9:00, 10:30-10:45, 1:15-1:30, and 3:40-4:00 daily specifically

Law020 Bandana Rule/Dress Code update.

(September 2012)

On the behalf of a large group in Avalon School, students should be able to wear bandanas in an appropriate ways(Not in the back of pockets). Students may also be able to wear bandanas with polka dots, stripes, different designs so on and so forth. Students may NOT "gang-bang" with ANY color or ANY design of ANY bandana on or they will have to remove the bandana immediately and take any consequence exposed at that time.

Law 020 Café Rules

(April 2013)

Students may work in the café with advisor approval from 9:20-12:00pm and from 1:20-3:00pm. Students must have:

- 1.Special orange pass
- 2.Specific reason with advisor's permission
- 3.Two person limit at tables (without a staff member)
- 4.Three or more people have to be accompanied by a staff member

Law 021 Monday Morning Meeting Announcer

(May 2015)

A student who is chosen to be the Monday Morning Meeting Host must be in good academic standing. The person cannot fail a class or they will lose the position. If the person is going to fail a class, the host may take a leave of absence. The host may be 'voted off' (i.e. too quiet,

no energy, etc) by Congress after a warning for improvement. The host may also be removed by staff. A person may choose to leave at anytime, but the expectation is that the position is a 2 year commitment. Every year the hosts are in charge of the replacements. The hosts will announce the opportunity for interested students and select new a new hosts for the following year.

With approval by the Avalon School Board, Congress has also revised the following policies in the Avalon Student Handbook:

Dress Code (2003)

Tardy Policy (2005)

Attendance Policy (2005)

Open Lunch Policy (2007/Revised 2010)

Revised Avalon Constitution (2008)