

Ballot for Proposed Amendments to the School Board Nominating Committee Resolution

The Joint Committee has reviewed the School Board Nominating Committee Resolution and recommends the following amendments, which must be approved by Scarsdale School District voters. The Committee proposed amendments to the public on November 17, 2019 and made changes pursuant to community feedback. The entire text of the Resolution, marked to indicate all changes, is posted online at <http://scarsdalesbnc.com/> and will also be available at the polling location.

Please vote 'Yes' or 'No' for each of the 21 proposed amendments below:

Proposed Amendment No. 1	Yes	No
Prohibit members of the Administrative Committee from simultaneously serving on the Nominating Committee, the Citizens' Nominating Committee, the Board of Education, or the Village Board. Expressly permit the Chair and Vice Chair of the Nominating Committee and graduating Nominating Committee members to serve on the Administrative Committee.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change to maintain that governance of the Administrative Committee is independent from other local organizations, and to clarify (but not modify) the concurrent service that Chairs, Vice Chairs, and third-year Nominating Committee members currently perform on the Administrative Committee. Article II, Section A.1.b (Additions are in bold and deletions struck-through in the entirety of this document):

Members of the Administrative Committee may not simultaneously serve on, ~~and shall be ineligible for election to, either~~ the Nominating Committee, ~~or~~ the Citizens' Nominating Committee for the nomination of Village officials (the "Citizens' Nominating Committee"), **the Board of Education, or the Village Board. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a member of the Nominating Committee shall be permitted to serve simultaneously on the Administrative Committee and the Nominating Committee after the final meeting of the Nominating Committee in such member's final year of service on the Nominating Committee. In addition, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Nominating Committee are also members of the Administrative Committee.**

Proposed Amendment No. 2	Yes	No
Clarify the two year Administrative term that Nominating Committee members serve upon completing their three-year Nominating Committee term.		

The Joint Committee recommends this to clarify (but not change) the length of members' terms on the Administrative Committee. Article II, Section A.2.a states that voting members of the Administrative Committee include:

all voting members of the Nominating Committee whose terms on the Nominating Committee **will end at the next Nominating Committee election, or ended at the past Nominating Committee election, upon the calling of the initial Administrative Committee meeting in Sections A.4(a) and B.1 below** ~~upon the last election of the Nominating Committee, and those whose terms shall end upon the next election of the Nominating Committee;~~

Proposed Amendment No. 3	Yes	No
Merge the Joint and Administrative Committees into one Administrative Committee, which will be led by an Election Chair and Vice Chair and a Resolution Chair and Vice Chair.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change to share the Administrative workload among a greater number of people, and allow Chairs and Vice Chairs to specialize in either running the election or modifying the Resolution. It also clarifies that the Election and Resolution Chairs are impartial, and the Election and Resolution Vice Chairs are impartial when acting as Chairs. This organizational change does not increase or reduce any of the work that is currently being done by the Committee. This is a global change throughout Article II (and eliminating Article IV) that necessitates a reading of the entire Proposed Amended Resolution to identify every instance of title change and structural combination.

Proposed Amendment No. 4	Yes	No
Permit the initial Administrative Committee meeting of the year to be called by June 30.		

The Joint Committee recommends that the first meeting of the Administrative Committee be permitted to be called later than is currently required (June 30, rather than April 30), as it currently must be held before the School Board election. The Committee has found that mandatorily holding its first meeting before the School Board election is premature and unproductive. Article II, Sections A.3(a):

(a) The **Administrative Joint** Committee (~~as described in Article IV hereof~~) shall elect the **Election Chair**~~Administrative Chair~~, **Election Vice Chair**, **Resolution Chair**, **Resolution Vice Chair**, and **Treasurer** at a meeting of the **Administrative Joint** Committee, which shall be called by the outgoing **Election Chair**~~Administrative Chair~~, ~~as provided in Article IV, Section C. hereof~~, by no later than **June** ~~April~~ 30 of each year. The Administrative Committee shall encourage civic and educational organizations and all qualified voters in the School District to submit names to serve as Election Chair and Vice Chair, Resolution Chair and Vice Chair, and Treasurer.

Article II, Section B.1: **The outgoing Election Chair shall call an initial meeting of the incoming Administrative Committee no earlier than May 15 but not later than June 30 of each year. The Election Chair, or the Election Vice Chair, if the Election Chair is unavailable, shall call succeeding meetings.**

Proposed Amendment No. 5	Yes	No
Clarify that Administrative Committee members serve for a two year term and Chairs and Vice Chairs hold their offices for one year.		

The Joint Committee recommends this clarification, which would conform with the intent of the current Resolution as well as current practice. Article II, Section A.4:

(a) Members of the Administrative Committee, ~~other than the Election Chair~~~~Administrative Chair~~, ~~Election Vice Chair~~~~Administrative Vice Chair~~ and the Treasurer, shall serve for a term commencing

upon the **initial** meeting of the Administrative Committee called by the outgoing **Election Chair**~~Administrative Chair~~, and ending for all members on January 31 of the following year, and ending upon the commencement of the first meeting of the incoming Administrative Committee two calendar years later.

(b) The **one year** terms of the **Election Chair**~~Administrative Chair~~, **Election Vice Chair**~~Administrative Vice Chair~~, and **Treasurer**, **Resolution Chair**, **Resolution Vice Chair**, and **Treasurer** shall end at the commencement of the first meeting of each incoming Administrative Committee.

Proposed Amendment No. 6	Yes	No
Reduce the term of the Administrative Committee nominees from SNAP and the Scarsdale Forum from three to two years and modify the procedure by which vacancies are filled.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to equalize the term lengths of appointed and elected members, in order that appointed members do not serve for longer terms than those elected by the community. This change also allows for greater time flexibility for making such appointments. Article II, Section A.5:

(a) The members appointed by **SNAP** ~~the Confederation~~ and TVCC (collectively, the “Civic Groups”) and by the **Election Chair**~~Administrative Chair~~ shall serve **two three** year terms and ~~initially the appointments shall be made so that the Civic Groups and the Election Chair~~ ~~Administrative Chair shall each appoint three (3) members to staggered terms with one such member serving one year, the second member serving two years and the third member serving three years.~~

~~(b) After the first year and in all ensuing years, each of the Civic Groups and the Election Chair~~ ~~Administrative Chair shall appoint one member each to a three year term.~~

~~(c) Each year the Civic Groups and the Election Chair~~ ~~Administrative Chair shall make the appointments required by Sections A. 2 (b) through A. 2 (d) by no later than April 30 and communicate them promptly in writing to the Joint Committee, but no later than May 15 (or the next business day if the 15th falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Holiday) of each year (the “Deadline Notification Day”).~~

~~(bd)~~ In the event any appointed member resigns his or her appointment, such appointed member may be replaced by the Civic Group that appointed such member within **fourteen seven (7)** calendar days.

~~(ce)~~ In the event any of the Civic Groups fails to appoint a member or fails to notify the **Administrative Joint** Committee by **June 30**, ~~the Deadline Notification Day~~, or if any appointed member resigns his or her appointment and such appointed member is not replaced by the Civic Group that appointed such member within **fourteen seven (7)** calendar days, **or if a member appointed by the Election Chair resigns**, the **Election Chair**~~Administrative Chair~~ shall be notified of the failure of appointment or resignation and may appoint a substitute member in his or her sole discretion to serve until the next appointment date.

Proposed Amendment No. 7	Yes	No
Permit contemporaneous Administrative Committee meetings to be held by conference call or electronic means wherein members can hear each others' votes.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change because, as currently written, the meetings may be held by phone, but participants must be able to “view” each others' votes, which is logistically confusing. Article II, Section B.2:

Meetings may be held in person, via conference telephone call, or via electronic means, provided that provisions are made to allow all participants to hear or communicate with each other contemporaneously and to view **or hear** the votes of the other members.

Proposed Amendment No. 8	Yes	No
Permit (but not require) the Administrative Committee to adopt rules of procedure.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to provide for flexibility in how meetings are conducted. Article II, Section B.3:

At its first meeting each year, the Administrative Committee may elect from among its members ~~such other officers as it may determine and shall~~ adopt rules of procedure.

Proposed Amendment No. 9	Yes	No
Remove the requirement for a supermajority vote of the Administrative Committee should a quorum of six or fewer members be present at a meeting.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change to ensure that the Committee does not find itself in a position where it is unable to take any action even though a quorum is present. Article II, Section B.4:

A quorum of the Administrative Committee shall consist of one more than half of the **current voting membership**. Any Committee action shall require the vote of a majority of those voting members present, ~~or if six or fewer than six people are present, at least four of those present.~~

Proposed Amendment No. 10	Yes	No
Eliminate the Election subcommittee and charge the entire Administrative Committee with conducting the election of Nominating Committee members.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to share the substantial workload of running the SBNC election with all Administrative Committee members, and thereby conform the Resolution with current practice. Article II, Section C.1:

Under the leadership of the Election Chair and Vice Chair, ~~the Administrative Committee shall appoint an Election Committee (including the Chair thereof) composed of members of Village organizations and members of the Administrative Committee sufficient to conduct the elections.~~

~~The Election Committee shall~~ be responsible for all voting arrangements, such as the furnishing of supervisory and administrative personnel, preparation of secret ballots (including mail-in ballots), the tabulating of ballots, and ruling on any disputed matters (including the validity of ballots). Only members of the Administrative Committee shall count ballots for Nominating Committee members. ~~The Election Committee shall be responsible to the Administrative Committee.~~

Proposed Amendment No. 11	Yes	No
Allow all elected Nominating Committee voting members to serve a three year term on the Nominating Committee, regardless of whether a vacancy was previously created in their Election Unit.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to eliminate instances in which a Nominating Committee member must serve less than a full term in order to preserve an election “stagger.” This change would allow the Committee to benefit from the full tenure and experience of all members. Article II, Sections C.3(a) (Article III, Section A.4.d was eliminated; refer to Proposed Amended Resolution for full deleted text):

There shall be five (5) Election Units. The Election Units shall correspond with the elementary school districts, ~~as the same may be redetermined from time to time.~~ **A sufficient number of Two** persons shall be elected to the Nominating Committee each year from each Election Unit **in order to ensure six voting members elected from each Election Unit are on the Nominating Committee.**

Proposed Amendment No. 12	Yes	No
Eliminate the requirement that the Administrative Committee add names of candidates to the ballot to ensure that every Nominating Committee election is contested, and expressly permit the recruitment of Nominating Committee candidates after petitions are due in order to ensure full Committee membership.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to bring the Resolution in conformity with current practice, to reflect the difficulty of recruiting double the number of Nominating Committee applicants than there are seats, and to ensure that the Nominating Committee operates with complete representation from all Election Units. Article II, Section C.3.c:

If there ~~are fewer than two~~ **are no** candidates nominated by petition for ~~any~~ vacancy in any ~~Election Unit~~, the Administrative Committee shall, at a meeting held after the petition deadline date, add name(s) of candidate(s) **to ensure that there is at least one candidate per vacancy but only as necessary to assure that there is** ~~are at least one two~~ candidates for each vacancy.

Proposed Amendment No. 13	Yes	No
Allow the public notice of Nominating Committee candidates to refer voters to biographical information, rather than contain such information in the notice itself.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to be able to distribute a less-expensive, more environmentally-friendly election mailer. Article II, Section C.3.e:

The Administrative Committee shall notify all qualified voters residing in each Election Unit of the names of the candidates for each vacancy on the Nominating Committee from their Election Unit and shall include every eligible name properly submitted by a petition. ~~In addition, t~~The notice shall contain **or refer recipients to brief** biographical information about each candidate, including his or her record of civic activities and other qualifications.

Proposed Amendment No. 14	Yes	No
Change the recordkeeping requirements in that public access should be provided for Resolution changes, but not all Administrative Committee records.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to avoid the mandatory public distribution of all records, which may cause breaches of confidentiality. Article II, Section C.5:

The Administrative Committee shall keep a permanent record of its activities, **and shall provide reasonable public access to Resolution changes.** ~~– Such records shall be maintained on an online electronic site accessible via the Internet and in a permanent place to which the public shall have reasonable access.–~~The **Election ChairAdministrative Chair** shall **keep the records or** appoint a member to serve as custodian of records ~~and Committee historian.~~ Annual reports from the outgoing **Election ChairAdministrative Chair** and Treasurer shall be given to the new **Election ChairAdministrative Chair** at the first meeting of the incoming Administrative Committee.

Proposed Amendment No. 15	Yes	No
Allow elected Nominating Committee members who move to another Election Unit to complete their terms.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to retain experienced members on the Nominating Committee. Article III, Section A.4.b:

If an elected member moves to another Election Unit during his or her term, or if the Election Unit boundaries are changed so that an elected member no longer lives in the **Election**Unit from which he or she was elected, that person **shall complete their term and shall continue to sit for the Election Unit from which they were elected.** ~~–shall serve until the next election and then a successor shall be chosen. The Administrative Committee shall have the authority to declare that a vacancy exists.–~~

Proposed Amendment No. 16	Yes	No
Remove language that purports to dictate that the Citizens' Nominating Committee take an action that the SBNC cannot require it to do,		

The Joint Committee recommends this change because it does not have the power to force the Citizens' Nominating Committee, an unaffiliated group, to take a specific action. The Administrative Committee will, however, continue to disallow any concurrent service. Article III, Section A.5.b:

~~Members of the Citizens' Nominating Committee may not serve on the Nominating Committee and members of the Nominating Committee shall not be eligible to be candidates for the Citizens' Nominating Committee.~~

Proposed Amendment No. 17	Yes	No
Expressly authorize the Nominating Committee to adopt rules of voting procedure and providing for questions of compliance with such procedures.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change to expressly allow the adoption of separate rules of voting procedure, which had previously been implicitly allowed under the authorization of rules of procedure. Article III, Section B.3:

The Nominating Committee shall adopt rules of voting procedure to govern its selection of nominees ~~2.~~ Any questions of compliance with the rules of procedure shall be ruled on by the Chair whose decision can be overruled only by a two thirds vote of the voting members present.

Proposed Amendment No. 18	Yes	No
Allow the Nominating Committee to ask additional differentiated questions to candidates seeking nomination to the Board of Education.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to enhance the Nominating Committee's fact finding abilities, and to assist School Board nomination candidates by providing additional individualized prompts for them to address their experience and qualifications. Article III, Section C.2:

The Nominating Committee shall interview all candidates. Candidates shall be questioned only on their experience and qualifications. Candidates shall be interviewed individually, shall respond to the same **initial** questions, **may be asked by the Committee additional differentiated questions at the interview**, and shall be afforded the same length of time to respond to ~~such~~ questions. *[section continues with no other changes]*

Proposed Amendment No. 19	Yes	No
Allow the selection of School Board nominees by April 7 and publication of the names of the nominees by April 14.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change in order to provide for flexibility in setting meeting dates, and to avoid deadline problems related to snow-related meeting cancellations, the school calendar, or exigencies requiring additional meetings. Article III, Sections C.4, C.5 & C.8.

Proposed Amendment No. 20	Yes	No
Update the acronym of the Scarsdale Neighborhood Association Presidents (“SNAP”).		

The Joint Committee recommends this technical change to change the acronym, but not the duties or responsibilities of representatives from, the Scarsdale Neighborhood Association Presidents. This is a global change that necessitates a reading of the entire Proposed Amended Resolution to identify every instance.

Proposed Amendment No. 21	Yes	No
Eliminate ambiguous or inconsistent terms, correct punctuation, grammar and numbering, and relocate or combine sections without functional change to the Resolution.		

The Joint Committee recommends this change to correct and clarify the Resolution without making any functional changes. This is a global change that necessitates a reading of the entire Proposed Amended Resolution to identify every instance.