

**BYLAWS FOR
THE ORGANIZATION
FRIENDS OF DIFFERENT LEARNERS
(FRIENDS)**

Article I: NAME

Section 1. The name of the organization is **Friends of Different Learners** (Friends). It is a district-wide, independent organization of parents, ~~students~~, staff, and community members of the Birmingham Public Schools District (BPS).

Section 2. Friends of Different Learners is a 501(c) 3 organization registered in Birmingham, Michigan.

Article II: PURPOSE

~~The purpose of Friends of Different Learners is to enhance the education of Birmingham Public School students who have different learning styles, strengths, abilities, and opportunities.~~ **Friends of Different Learners is an independent organization of parents, staff, and community members dedicated to maximizing the potential of Birmingham Public School students with different abilities.** In particular, Friends will:

1. Build productive relationships between the general education community and the special education community of the school district.
2. Assist in the integration of students who learn differently and their families into the school community of the building that the students attend.
3. Strengthen relations between staff and families of students who learn differently.
4. Provide information and educate parents, BPS's staff, and the community, regarding current legal, medical, **academic** and social developments, that impact students ~~who are~~ **with different abilities learners or the subjects of the Individual Education Plans (IEP's).**
5. Facilitate the exchange of ideas, programs and services regarding students who learn differently ~~or who are the subject of IEP's~~ throughout the school district and **in** the larger community.
6. Establish a presence in each BPS school facility, and participate in the building's Parent Teacher Association (PTA).
7. Liaison with the **Birmingham Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)**, Oakland County **Special Education** Parent Advisory Committees (PAC's) and other organizations with similar purposes on the local, state and national level.
- ~~8.~~ Advocate for legislation and funding which benefit students **with different abilities.** ~~who learn differently and students who are subjects of IEP's.~~
9. Engage in other activities that will benefit students **with different abilities and** ~~who learn differently, students who are the subject of IEP's, or~~ their families.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

Section 1. The membership of the Friends is open to those who are interested in furthering the purposes of the organization as stated in Article II and who pay the membership fee. (Amended March 4, 2004)

Section 2. Each member present and in good standing shall be entitled to one vote on any question or matter that is voted upon by members. There shall be no voting by proxy.

Article IV: FINANCES

Section 1. ~~The individual and the family membership fee shall be \$20.00 per year (effective 2007-2008 school year), payable~~ **The membership dues shall be reviewed annually. Dues may be increased or decreased by the Executive Committee and are due** at the beginning of the school ~~fiscal~~ year.

Section 2. Authorized expenditures shall be those deemed necessary to let the organization function with ease and efficiency and must be approved by a majority of the executive committee.

Section 3. The authority to withdraw funds shall be vested in the President and Treasurer. All expenditures shall be made entirely by check and will require the signature of both the President and Treasurer.

Section 4. Any member having in his/her possession money belonging to the organization shall remit immediately after completion of a project.

Article V: OFFICERS, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNMENT

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall serve as the administrative unit of the organization and will consist of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Past President. (Amended 12/04/08)

Section 2. The Executive Committee may transact necessary business in the intervals between the organization's meeting and such other business as may be referred to it by the organization. A business meeting may be utilized for this purpose and the chairs of various committees may be invited to attend such meeting.

Section 3. The officers shall be elected by ballot vote of the general membership at the June meeting. However, if there is only one nominee for any office, the election for that office may be held by voice vote.

Section 4. Officers shall assume their official duties at the close of the June meeting, and shall serve for a term of one year. Officers shall remain in office until their successors assume office.

Section 5. A person shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 6. There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of two to four members, selected at the April meeting. The Secretary will chair the Nominating Committee. The committee shall nominate one or more eligible persons for each office. The Committee will report its nominations at the May meeting. After the report, there will be an opportunity for additional nominations from the floor.

Notice of the election and of the candidates for each office will be mailed to the members of the Friends with the May minutes.

Section 7. A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled for the remaining term of the unavailable office by a person appointed by the President. A vacancy occurring in the office of the President shall be filled for the remainder of term by the Vice President.

Section 8. Co-officers may be elected to any office and the responsibilities of that office may be shared.

Section 9. The President or the Executive Committee may appoint such standing or ad hoc committees as necessary for the functioning of the organization.

Section 10. There shall be an Advisory Committee consisting of Past Presidents of the organization and others as **annually** appointed by the Executive Committee.

Article VI: DUTIES

The duties of the officers of the Friends shall be:

Section 1. The President shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Friends.
2. Be a member, or designate a representative, to the PTSA Council.
3. Envision, organize, conduct, and conclude the work of the Friends, with the assistance of the Vice President.
4. Assign duties and responsibilities as necessary.
5. Liaison with the PTSA Council President, the BPS Director of Special Education, the Birmingham Public School PAC, the Oakland County PAC, the BPS Board of Education, and other persons or organizations of significance to students who are different learners.

Section 2. The Vice President shall:

1. Perform the duties of the President when the president is unavailable, absent or unable to act.
2. Aid the president.
3. ~~Keep minutes at Executive Committee meetings.~~

Section 3. The Secretary shall:

1. Keep minutes and take attendance at all meetings. The Secretary will mail the agenda and minutes of the prior meeting to all members prior to the next scheduled meeting.
2. Mail all necessary notices.
3. Conduct the correspondence of the Friends.
4. Chair the annual Nominating Committee.
5. Maintain all **current** organization records ~~—past and present.~~

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

1. Maintain the membership list and directory.
2. Take all steps necessary to manage the funds and budget of the Friends in a fiduciary manner.
3. Collect dues.
4. Keep an accurate record of receipts and disbursements.
5. Report at each meeting.
6. Collect mail from P.O. Box and annually renew rental.

Section 5. The Past President ~~will~~ **shall:**

1. Automatically become a member of the Executive Committee.
2. **Maintain historical organization records.**

Article VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. The Friends shall hold regularly scheduled monthly meetings during the school year, and shall hold additional meetings as appropriate.

Section 2. A special meeting of the organization may be called by the President or by ten members of the organization. Ten days written notice to the membership must be given for a special meeting.

Section 3. The June meeting of the Friends shall be at the organization's annual meeting.

Section 4. The members of the Friends present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5. The Friend's organizational meeting shall be held on March 30, 2000, at 7:00 P.M., at the Birmingham Covington School, Bloomfield Township, MI. At that meeting the persons present who adopt these bylaws may select officers for the Friends. Those selected officers will serve until the June meeting of 2001. Any dues collected during the 1999-2000 school year will be attributed to dues for the 2000-2001 school year

Article VIII: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Friends by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided that (a) notice of the proposed amendment was announced at a previous meeting; (b) copies of the proposed amendment were mailed to each member of the Friends with the minutes of the meeting during which the amendment was announced; and (c) written notice of the scheduled vote is provided with the copy of the amendment.

Article IX: MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Oleck's Parliamentary Law for Nonprofit Organizations (1979) shall govern the proceedings of this organization in all cases not expressly governed by these bylaws.

Section 2. The fiscal year of the organization shall be the same as the BPS fiscal year.

Section 3. For the purposes of these bylaws, the term mail includes the service of the United States Postal Service and all forms of electronic mail.

Article X: DISSOLUTION

In event of dissolution, all assets will be distributed according to Federal and State laws and regulations for non-profit organizations.

Amended: 12/07/06

Proposed Revisions 8/17/10