

# The Constitution of the Future Problem Solving Club At TJHSST

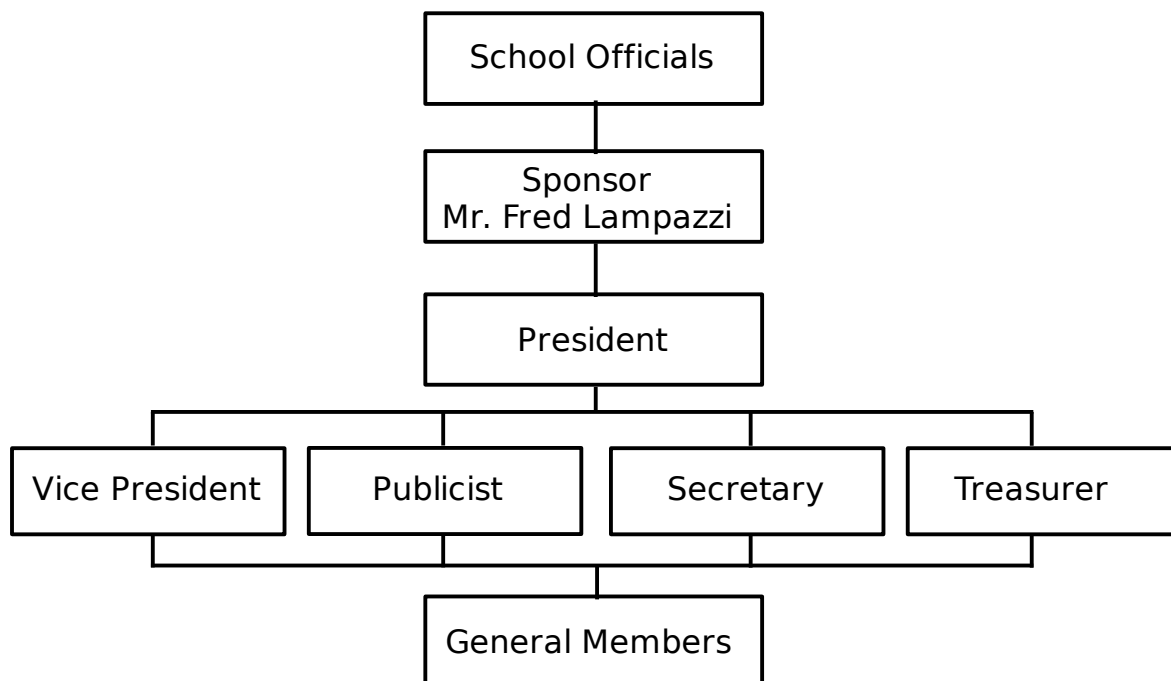
## Article I – Name

The name of the organization will be Future Problem Solving of TJHSST. The club shall also be referred to as Future Problem Solving or FPS in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the international Future Solving Problem Program (FPSP).

## Article II – Purposes

Future Problem Solving is a club consisting of students from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology concerned about societal issues who want to use and develop their own creative and problem solving skills to better understand the problems these issues present, as well as to develop their own solutions. The students shall compete on teams consisting of four members each by participating in the annual statewide Future Problem Solving competition. The students may also compete in the individual competition and the scenario writing competition.

## Article III – Leadership Structure



*Document I: Elected position descriptions*

**PRESIDENT** – The president has the task of running the regular meetings and assisting the sponsor in planning club activities. He or she is in charge of making general club decisions that are not important enough to warrant a vote, with the help of the other officers. The president is also responsible for making sure that at least one club member represents TJHSST FPS at the annual state bowl.

**VICE PRESIDENT** – The vice president is responsible for running the club in the absence of the president. The vice president shall assist the president in all of his or her duties as may be required. The vice president is also responsible for the attendance records.

**PUBLICIST** – The publicist shall be responsible for documenting important events of the club. The publicist will use photography as the main source of club documentation. He or she will also update the FPS bulletin board.

**SECRETARY** – The secretary has the responsibility of keeping notes at officers' meetings. He or she shall act as the club's organizational manager. The secretary needs to keep track of all club achievements and files, storing them in an easily retrievable manner.

**TREASURER** – The treasurer shall act as the club's financial monitor. The treasurer will be responsible for collecting payments for the club's activities. In addition, the treasurer shall be responsible for working with the other leaders to organize fundraisers.

*Document II: Voting*

Section A: Who is entitled to vote

All TJHSST students who have completed the FPS qualifying problem are allowed to vote for that year. Voting may be extended to anyone at the sponsor's discretion.

Section B: Voting process

The general membership shall be responsible for electing the leaders through voting. The voting will be held during a regular eighth period meeting. Absentee ballots will be available the day before the elections for members who will be attending a mandatory activity, a contest, or will not be in school. All other FPS members who are not at the meeting waive their right to vote. Voting will be conducted using confidential ballots or a ballot box. Voters will be allowed to vote for one and only one candidate in each of the election categories. Candidates only need to receive the most number of votes in order to win their election, but constitutional changes require at least a two-thirds approval from the voting members. Club members running for office must have completed the qualifying problem for that year and have attended at least five 8th period meetings prior to the elections.

*Document III: In case of a tie*

If there is a tie in the election of a candidate into office, all the members present at the election meeting shall vote between the tied candidates in order to select the winner. If a tie still exists, the people shall share the responsibilities and become co-officers. All co-officers will still be expected to attend leadership meetings.

*Document IV: In case there are no candidates for a position*

If no one runs for one of the leadership positions of FPS, a candidate may be appointed by the president and approved by the rest of the elected leaders of FPS.

*Document V: In case of resignation or removal from office*

If an officer leaves his or her office at any point in time, the officer will be replaced by the following protocol. If the president leaves, the vice president shall become the president. Then any other gaps will be filled through presidential appointment, as described in article IV.

*Document VI: Transfer of positions*

Once the elections are over, the old officers still possess their titles until the start of the next school year. However, the newly elected officers shall be expected to act as officers immediately following their election.

*Document VII: Impeachment*

An officer may be removed from office only due to a failure in duty. Club members can file complaints about an officer with the sponsor or other officers. A unanimous agreement of the remaining officers is required for removal from office.

#### **Article IV – Membership Dues**

The cost that a person must pay in order to join FPS at TJHSST will be at least the same as the cost to register for the qualifying problem. The club, at the treasurer's discretion, may charge up to one hundred and fifty percent of the cost for an individual to register in order to cover the costs of club activities and supplies. Members who do not pay their dues will not be allowed to compete in FPS competitions.

#### **Article V – Amending the Constitution**

The most current copy of the club constitution shall be on file in the activities office. In order to amend the constitution, the club leadership must contact the assistant director of student activities in order to obtain the most current copy of the club constitution. The leadership shall then be responsible for amending the constitution and presenting it to the club for a two-thirds vote of approval. If the constitution is approved, a copy shall be filed with the activities office and another copy should be placed in the FPS file drawer so that the leadership and the members of FPS can easily access the constitution.

*Last amended on May 18, 2007.*