

MESQUITE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

To further common purposes, the members agree to organize under these Articles of Association (herein referred to as "Articles"):

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the Association shall be Mesquite Education Association (herein referred to as "MEA"), affiliated with the Association of Texas Professional Educators.

ARTICLE II - PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of MEA shall be located at 2133 North Beltline Road (L.A. Berry Support Complex), Mesquite, Dallas County, Texas. The MEA may have additional offices as may be designated by the members of its Executive Committee.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSES

The MEA is organized for the following purposes:

- (a) To promote within MEA exemplary professional practices; to encourage the active participation of all members in the solution of school problems; and to engage every member as a genuine student of professional ethics.
- (b) To foster higher qualifications for entrance into the teaching profession; to guide young people to select teaching as a life work; to improve the social and economic status of teachers; and, to form a representative body able to speak with authority for them.
- (c) To work with other educational organizations and to promote cooperation among such organizations and their members.
- (d) To develop public opinion in support of education.
- (e) To encourage teachers to exercise their rights and privileges as citizens and to willingly accept leadership in civic affairs.

ARTICLE IV - POWERS

In an effort to further the purposes described in Article III of these Articles, but not to create a limitation thereof, MEA shall have the authority to collect and disseminate information regarding topics that impact MEA and/or the educational profession, engage in funding and fund-raising activities, and to conduct reasonable and responsible marketing and advertising strategies.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Professional Members

Upon payment of dues, as herein provided, all full-time employees of the Mesquite Independent School District (herein referred to as "M.I.S.D."), whose job requires certification by the Texas Education Agency as a teacher, administrator, public school nurse, vocational counselor, librarian, special education teacher, or speech, hearing and language therapist, shall become professional members of MEA. This membership classification shall also include persons employed as directors, facilitators and administrative officers.

Section 2. Associate Members

Upon payment of dues, as herein provided, all other full-time persons and part-time persons employed in any capacity by the M.I.S.D., for a continuous period exceeding sixty (60) days, with the exception of high school students, shall become associate members of MEA. Associate members shall receive all benefits and services of MEA, with the exception of any voting rights. Associate members will serve in an advisory capacity on all standing and appointed committees.

Section 3. Active-Retired Members

Upon payment of dues, as herein provided, all retired members of the M.I.S.D., as defined by Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, shall become active-retired members of the MEA. Active-retired members may attend the general meetings of MEA and shall receive the MEA calendar and directory of personnel. Active-retired members may also serve in an advisory capacity on an appointed committee(s). Membership in this category does not include any life insurance benefits.

Section 4. Membership Year

The membership year of the MEA shall be defined as the school calendar year approved by the M.I.S.D. Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VI - DUES

Dues may be varied from year to year via ballot vote of the members of MEA in accordance with the procedures established in the MEA Bylaws (herein referred to as "Bylaws").

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

The officers of MEA shall consist of a President, a President-Elect, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and the Chairperson of the Facilities Representatives Committee.

Said officers shall be professional members of the MEA.

Should any vacancies occur among the officers, said vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the procedures established in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of MEA President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairpersons of the standing committees, Facility Representatives Chairperson, Immediate Past President, past MEA Presidents and members of the Professional Consultation Committee (herein referred to as "Executive Committee").

The President shall serve as Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS

MEA meetings shall be held at least two (2) times a year, at such date and time set by the President and the Executive Committee, provided that notice of the meetings shall be perfected in accordance with the Bylaws. Executive Committee meetings shall be held at any time agreed upon by the President and the Executive Committee, or at any time called by a simple majority of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Passage Requirements

These Articles may be amended by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of MEA members voting via ballot or at any regular or special meeting of MEA, provided notice of such amendment(s) and the nature thereof have been provided to the members as further specified in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 2. Notice Requirements

Proper notice can be perfected by providing the proposed amendment(s) and all supporting information to the Secretary at least sixty (60) days prior to the vote on said proposed amendment(s). The Secretary shall immediately notify the Executive Committee of said proposed amendment(s) and shall have twenty-five (25) days from the date in which the proposed amendment(s) was submitted to said Secretary in order to provide notice to MEA regarding said proposed amendment and supporting information. Once notice of the proposed amendment(s) and supporting information have been provided to MEA membership by the Secretary, said MEA membership shall have at least thirty-five (35) days prior to an MEA vote on said proposed amendment(s) to review said amendment(s) and supporting information.

Section 3. Voting Procedure

The President shall serve as the Amendment Voting Chairperson. The President shall oversee the preparation, delivery, and collection of the ballots from the Facility Representatives (herein referred to as "F.R."). No marked ballots may be sent through school mail.

F.R.(s) of each building shall conduct the vote, and return the ballots to the President in a sealed envelope at the first Facilities Representatives Committee (herein referred to as "F.R. Committee"), meeting following said vote. During the week following said F.R. Committee meeting, the sealed ballot envelopes shall be opened and the ballots counted in the presence of the Executive Committee.

Should an MEA member contest the balloting results, said member must submit a formal written request to the Secretary for a recount within one (1) week from the day the ballot count is released.

Section 4. Articles Binding on All Members

All duly adopted amendments to the Articles shall be binding on all members.

ARTICLE XI: OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY

Membership in this organization shall not vest any member with any rights, titles or interests in or to the funds, properties or other assets of MEA now owned and possessed, or that may hereafter be acquired, and each member hereby expressly waves any rights, titles, or interests in or to the property of MEA.

The title to all properties, funds and other assets of MEA shall at all times be vested in the Executive Committee in trust for the joint use of MEA membership, but no member shall have any severable property rights, titles or interests therein.

In the event of MEA dissolution, all MEA property shall be distributed in accordance with the procedures established in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII: STRIKES AND ORGANIZED WORK STOPPAGES

No member of MEA shall participate in, engage in, or support in any manner, strikes or organized work stoppages against the State of Texas or any political subdivision thereof, including, but not limited to, the Mesquite Independent School District. Any MEA member violating the Articles shall be subject to immediate suspension and expulsion.

ARTICLE XII: VOTING

All voting and quorum requirements shall be followed in accordance with the procedures established in the Bylaws.