

BYLAWS OF THE MCALLEN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS  
LOCAL 6329

ARTICLE I  
DUES

- Section 1 Dues for all members of McAllen AFT shall be determined by the executive board.
- Section 2 Each year, McAllen AFT shall place \$3.00 per member in a defense fund to be administered by the executive board.
- Section 3 All McAllen AFT members shall be given the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution to the McAllen AFT Committee on Political Education (COPE).
- Section 4 Whenever per capita or insurance to any McAllen AFT affiliated organizations are increased, local dues shall be increased accordingly at the beginning of the following school year.

ARTICLE II  
ELECTIONS

- Section 1 All McAllen AFT officers and executive board members shall be elected by a majority vote in a secret-ballot election. Election Day will be the first Monday in May every four years.
- Section 2 The term of office for all McAllen AFT officers and executive board members shall be four years and shall run from June 1 of the Election Year to May 31 of the next Election Year.
- Section 3 All McAllen AFT members in good standing who have been members for at least two consecutive years prior to the election shall be eligible to run for elected office, with the exception of Nominating/Election Committee members.
- Section 4 The Nominating/Election Committee will be comprised of five members elected by McAllen AFT members, who are in good standing, during a February general membership meeting. The Committee shall oversee the election timeline and process.
- Section 5 At the first-semester membership meeting in an Election Year, McAllen AFT members in good standing will be offered the opportunity to serve on the five-member Nominating/Election Committee. Any member interested in serving on the committee shall complete a form verifying interest. The executive board will review all completed forms and select five members to serve on the Nominating/Election Committee. Should fewer than five McAllen AFT members

in good standing submit this form, Committee members will be selected by the executive board. The McAllen AFT president shall not serve as a member of the Committee as an ex-officio or official member. No person running for an office shall serve on the Committee.

- Section 6 The Nominating/Election Committee will be appointed by December of the year prior to the election. The Committee will choose a chairperson.
- Section 7 Nominations for all elected positions shall be accepted from the February general membership meeting through March 1 of the Election Year, including but not limited to nominations offered from the floor at the February membership meeting preceding the election. McAllen AFT members in good standing may nominate themselves or others who are also in good standing. Those nominations will be accepted via email to the McAllen AFT office or in a written response to a McAllen AFT nomination mailing.
- Section 8 A designated email account will be established for the Nomination/Election Committee chair where all nominations will be sent. A record of all nominations will be maintained by the chair and presented to the Nominating/Election Committee, who will record all nominations.
- Section 9 The Committee shall then certify the eligibility of all nominees. In the event that there are no nominees for an office, the Committee shall select a McAllen AFT member to run for this office.
- Section 10 The chairman of the Nominating/Election Committee shall contact each nominee to confirm acceptance of the nomination.
- Section 11 All candidates shall draw for placement on the ballot one month prior to the election. The meeting date, place, and time will be determined by the Nominating/Election Committee. Candidates shall be notified at least one week prior to the ballot placement meeting.
- Section 12 The third Monday in April, ballots will be mailed to all McAllen AFT members in good standing. There shall be three separate ballots, one for each constituency group: certified, auxiliary, and retired. All three groups will vote for president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Certified members will vote for their four at-large representatives. Auxiliary members will vote for their two at-large representatives. Retired members in good standing (current dues-paying members of Texas AFT Retirees Plus who are also former McAllen AFT members in good standing) will vote for their retiree representative. Each ballot will be sent with a cover letter and an official, unstamped return envelope that has the mailing address of a P.O. box.
- Section 13 Ballots must be returned via mail or in person, in the official election envelope provided by McAllen AFT, during the two weeks prior to Election Day. Ballots

dropped off to the McAllen AFT office will be placed, by the member, into a locked box. The Nominating/Election Committee shall take appropriate measures to secure the ballots. The Nominating/Election Committee members shall pick up all ballots mailed to the designated P.O. box the first Tuesday in May at a designated time. The Committee will then pick up the locked ballot box at the McAllen AFT office. The Committee will count all ballots at the McAllen AFT office that day at the designated time. All McAllen AFT members will be notified, when the ballots are sent out, where and at what time the ballots will be counted in the event that any member chooses to be present. At the conclusion of ballot counting, the Nominating/Election Committee shall notify all members via email and on McAllen AFT's Facebook page the results of the election.

Section 14 In the event that an elected office is vacated, the executive board may make a temporary appointment for the unexpired term. Should the position of president be vacated, the vice president shall call, within seven working days, a special meeting of the executive board for the stated purpose of filling the vacancy. The vice president shall serve as the temporary presiding officer until the vacancy has been filled.

### ARTICLE III MCALLEN AFT COPE

Section 1 The McAllen AFT Committee on Political Education (COPE) is the political action arm of our organization. COPE funds cover the expenses of meeting with, and educating, local/state/national elected officials and helps elect officeholders who respect our members, support education, and work for McAllen AFT goals.

Section 2 McAllen AFT monthly dues, by law, cannot be used to support COPE. Therefore, funding of COPE depends on additional, voluntary contributions by McAllen AFT members. Members are encouraged to donate an additional \$1-\$5 per month to be allocated to COPE.

Section 3 McAllen AFT shall have a COPE Committee, which will be responsible for interviewing candidates for local/state/national offices that will have a direct impact on its members.

Section 4 The COPE Committee will have at least eight, and no more than 12, members, in addition to the McAllen AFT president, vice president, and parliamentarian. Any McAllen AFT member who makes a monthly contribution to COPE may be considered for Committee membership.

Section 5 At the beginning of each school year, a letter will be sent to all McAllen AFT members regarding COPE contributions and interest in serving on the COPE Committee, along with dates for submitting names of those interested. Should there be more than 12 McAllen AFT members interested in serving on COPE, a drawing will be held at the McAllen AFT office by the executive board, with

members welcome to attend. Members will be informed in advance of the drawing date and time.

Section 6 The COPE Committee will invite for an interview all candidates for local/state/national offices McAllen AFT has determined will have a direct impact on its members. Once the interviews are completed, the COPE Committee will vote on which candidates to endorse. Endorsement will be based on a simple majority. McAllen AFT members will be notified as to which candidates are being endorsed.

Section 7 McAllen AFT COPE funds will be used for all purposes permitted by law.

#### ARTICLE IV RULES FOR AMENDING

Amendments to the bylaws may be proposed at any regular or specially called general membership meeting. The proposed amendments shall be adopted by majority vote of approval by the members in good standing who are present and voting at the meeting.