GURNEE COUNCIL

A COUNCIL OF THE
LAKE COUNTY FEDERATION OF TEACHERS
LOCAL 504, IFT-AFT/AFL-CIO

BY-LAWS

Amended: April 1988
Revised: October 1996
Amended: August 2005
Amended: August 2008

ARTICLE I - NAME

This organization shall be known as the Gurnee Council, a Council of the Lake County Federation of Teachers (LCFT), Local 504, IFT-AFT/AFL-CIO, hereinafter referred to as the “Union.”

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility for membership shall conform to the Lake County Federation of Teachers, Local 504, Constitution.

ARTICLE III - MEETINGS

Section 1

The general membership of the Union shall meet September, February and October during election years at a time and place designated by the President or as the occasion arises at the call of the President, or by petition of at least five (5) of the members.

Section 2

Business meetings will be conducted by a majority vote of the members present.
ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1

The officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a number of LCFT Executive Board Delegates equal to the allotted number as prescribed for in the Local 504 Constitution.

Section 2

The President shall preside over all meetings of the general membership. He/she shall be a member of all committees, function as a representative during all contract negotiations, and perform such other duties as devolve upon the President.

Section 3

The duties of the Vice-President shall be designated by the President. One of these duties shall be to preside at the call of the President or in the absence of the President and to discharge all duties of the office of President. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the Executive Board Delegate to Local 504.

Section 4

The Secretary shall attend to all correspondence of the Union and maintain on file a record of said correspondence. He/she shall be responsible for all publicity and notification of meetings.

Section 5

The Treasurer shall receive all money, receipts for same, deposit same with the Treasurer of the LCFT, and pay such financial obligations of the Union as directed by the membership. He/she shall prepare an annual report to be read at a time and place set by the membership. He/she shall forward all dues and current membership lists to the LCFT office. He/she shall keep the financial books of the Union which shall be audited annually in the month of January by an Audit Committee comprised of two (2) members appointed by the President, who shall serve as Chairperson of that committee.

Section 6

The Building Representatives will be responsible for the building elections and the distribution of Union literature. The Building Representatives will also serve on the Negotiating Team and the Grievance Committee.
Section 7

The LCFT Executive Board Delegates shall perform such duties as outlined in the Local 504 Constitution and make timely reports of their activities to the membership.

Section 8

The officers shall receive stipends as follows: President shall receive complete Union dues reimbursement as a stipend; Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and the New Member Coordinator shall receive one-half (1/2) Union dues reimbursement as a stipend.

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS

Section 1

In the September meeting following a negotiating year, a Nominating Committee will be appointed from the membership. In a fall meeting the Nominating Committee will present the slate of officers. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Section 2

The election of officers shall be by secret ballot within five (5) school days after the October meeting. The Building Representatives will be responsible for the distribution, collection, and the counting of the ballots. Each Building Representative will initial the ballots prior to the distribution. The ballots will be returned to the Building Representative within three (3) days of the distribution. At that time, the ballots will be counted by the Building Representatives and the results will be given to the past Secretary. The ballots will be kept for one (1) year after the election.

Section 3

The officers’ term shall begin immediately following the elections and shall continue until the conclusion of a fall election.

Section 4

The Building Representative will be elected three (3) days after the conclusion of the officer’s election and will serve the term equivalent to that of the officers.
Section 5

Within five (5) school days after an officer vacates his/her office, the President will call a general meeting of the membership to nominate from the floor new candidates for that office. The election will be held within two (2) school days of the nominations by secret ballot in the buildings by the Building Representatives. Ballots will be returned to the Building Representatives within two (2) school days for counting.

Section 6

If a Building Representative vacates his/her office, the President will hold an election in that building five (5) school days after the President’s knowledge of this vacancy.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Section 1

All committees shall be appointed by the President.

Section 2

The Executive Board and Building Representatives will comprise the Standing Committees of Grievance and Negotiations.

Section 3

Any other committees shall be considered Special Committees.

ARTICLE VII - RULES OF ORDER

The rule of parliamentary practice comprised in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of this organization, subject to the specific and special rules which have been or may be adopted.
ARTICLE VIII - AFFILIATIONS

Section 1

This Union shall maintain affiliation with the American Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, Illinois Federation of Teachers, Illinois Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, the Lake County Central Trades and Labor Council, the Lake County Federation of Teachers, Local 504, and any Council of IFT Locals within Lake County which may be formed to better the status of teachers and education through the resolution of mutual problems.

Section 2

Any member sent as a Union Delegate to an affiliate meeting or convention shall submit a written report on such meeting attended to the Treasurer. Included in this report shall be an expense report itemizing expenses for reimbursement subject to membership approval.

ARTICLE IX - DUES

Section 1

Each member of the Union shall pay dues as determined in Section 4 of this Article. The dues are to maintain affiliations of this organization, under the conditions that these affiliations are acceptable to the general membership, and to support various activities in support of the purposes of the Union.

Section 2

The fiscal year of this organization shall begin January 1 and end December 31 of each year.

Section 3

Dues shall be collected and forwarded to the Treasurer of the LCFT to be maintained in one (1) treasury. Said funds shall be disbursed by the LCFT Treasurer in a manner which best serves the needs of all members of the Union.

Section 4

Starting with the 2009-2010 school year, Council dues shall be fixed at one-tenth of one percent (0.001) of a beginning teacher’s salary (far upper left cell of the current year's salary schedule) above the then current affiliate dues payable to the Treasurer before October 1, or through regular payroll deduction.
ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote cast by members of the general membership present at a meeting of the Union.

ARTICLE XI - AVAILABILITY OF BY-LAWS

Section 1

Three (3) copies of these By-Laws and all future amendments shall be submitted to the LCFT office.

Section 2

A copy of these By-Laws shall be made available to each active member of the Union.

ARTICLE XII - CONTRACT RATIFICATION

Section 1

The ratification of a new contract shall be no less than three (3) days after the presentation of the new tentative contract.

Section 2

Ratification shall be by secret yes/no ballot.