

New York State

PTA

everychild. onevoice.



Resolutions: What the Heck Do I Do With Them?

What Are They?
Where Do They Come From?
What is My Role With Them?

Lisa Christoffel
NYS PTA Resolutions Coordinator

NYS PTA Convention 2018

Framework: A Vision/Mission

Our PTA Vision

**Making every child's potential a reality by
establishing the New York State Congress
of Parents and Teachers, Inc.
(NYS PTA)**

**as the premier organization for parent involvement
and advocacy for all children.**

Our PTA Mission

- **A powerful voice for all children**
- **A relevant resource for families and communities**
- **A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child**

What is a Resolution?



Resolution= a **statement** on an issue, concern, or problem that:

- Establishes an official PTA **position**
- Formalizes our **research-based** position
- Proposes **action** in the form of an original main motion
- Comes before convention **delegates** for their consideration and adoption
- Upon adoption, becomes part of NYS PTA's "Where We Stand"

Where Do We Find Resolutions?

Upon adoption,
Resolutions become
part of the
official NYS PTA
Advocacy Document
“Where We Stand”

- Explanation-Key
- Table of Contents
- 14 Categories
- Position Papers
- Index-Keyword

WHERE WE STAND 2015

THE BASIS FOR ACTION

New York State
PTA
everychild.onevoice®

Where We Stand is the official *position* document of the New York State PTA. It is comprised of resolution *statements* adopted by convention delegates. These statements are intended to guide members as to what *action* to take on specific issues that affect the education, health and welfare of children and youth.

Resolutions that appear in this document are reconsidered within seven years of their original adoption or reaffirmation. At seven year increments, they are reintroduced to convention delegates. By majority vote, delegates determine whether to adopt positions that have been recommended for *retention* (reaffirmation) or *update*, or to be *rescinded*. A resolution may be rescinded from this document when the action(s) in the resolved clauses has been taken. Rescinded resolutions are entered into an ongoing record of retired resolutions. Action may be taken through legislation, regulation or program. Delegates may also be asked to adopt a position(s) in the form of a *new* resolution, one that has not been previously presented to the delegate body. Resolutions are arranged from the most recently adopted retention(s), update(s) and new resolution(s) to the oldest within one of 14 issue categories.

The PTA is effective only through the support and action of its members. Once positions are adopted, the NYS PTA relies on local units, councils and regions to educate members and the public on the issues and to encourage grassroots advocacy.

KEY:

(R-) Retention – convention delegates voted to retain a position after seven years, and wording remains as originally submitted.

(U-) Update – convention delegates voted to retain after seven years, but wording has been changed or removed from the original position.

SED State Education Department

NYS New York State

HOW TO READ DATES:

Most recent year of adoption, followed by (“R-” or “U-” plus the year(s) submitted).

Examples – Retention: 2013 (R-06); Update: 2013 (U-06); New: 2013

The statements for *Action* that appear in this document are the “resolved” clauses of resolutions, numbered and written as adopted by convention delegates. Since NYS PTA is a branch of the National PTA, it is important to refer to National PTA’s **Legislative Program** as an additional action guide.

RESOLUTIONS

Can Be Divided Into
4 CATEGORIES



RESOLUTIONS

#1: Retention

A resolution that:

- Is previously adopted
- Is reviewed every **SEVEN** years
- Can be retained or rejected
- Can **NOT** be amended

RESOLUTIONS

Retention

RETENTION #3:

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM – 2011 (R-'04, R-'97, R-'90);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourage development and support of the Community Schools Program in areas where needed and appropriate, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. promote continued allocation of the resources necessary for the continuance and expansion of the Community Schools Program.

STATEMENT: Community Schools continue to be an important program designed to help underresourced schools address the physical health and emotional issues which can impede student learning. It emphasizes family engagement, community partnerships, and additional support for students and families.

RESOLUTIONS

#2: Update

A resolution that:

- Is previously adopted
- Has been changed in its wording
- **Revises** an original resolve
- **Deletes** an original resolve
- **Can** be adopted, rejected, amended
(only revised clause may be amended)

RESOLUTIONS

UPDATE #6

SAFETY ITEMS ON SCHOOL BUSES – 2011 (U-'04, R-'97, R-'90, R-'83);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urge school districts to purchase and/or contract for school buses with optional safety equipment such as video cameras, two-way radios, (remove: and) external strobe lights, and Child Safety Alarm Systems.

STATEMENT: This resolution is being updated to add Child Safety Alarm Systems. These safety devices require that a driver check the bus at the end of a run to ensure no child remains on the bus.

RESOLUTIONS

#3: New



A resolution that:

- Was never presented to convention delegates
- Has been recommended for consideration by NYS PTA Resolutions Committee & Executive Committee
- Can be **amended, adopted, rejected**

RESOLUTIONS

2018 New Resolutions

NEW RESOLUTION #1:

**RAISING THE MINIMUM SALES AGE OF
TOBACCO AND OTHER NICOTINE DELIVERY
SYSTEMS TO 21**



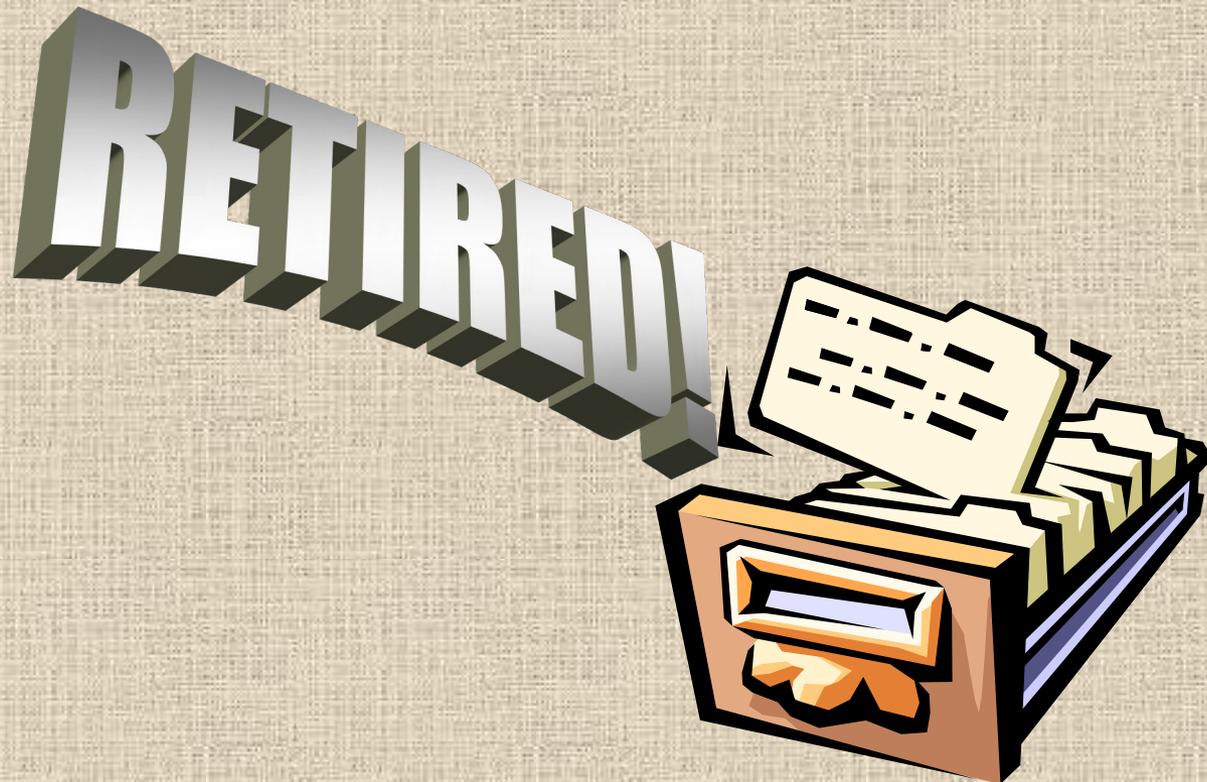
**During the caucus that follows the opening session of convention you
can meet the writers of any new resolution.**

Occasionally there is need for an Emergency Resolution

Regents Examination Schedules - 2008

Resolved: that the NYS Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. strongly urges the NYS Education Department to maintain the current practice of administering Regents Examinations only during designated Regents Exam periods.

#4: Resolutions Can be Rescinded, Then...



When Do We Rescind Resolutions?

1. When action has taken place to carry out resolution resolves

- **State/federal/local legislation enacted**
- **Policy/program implementation**
- **Federal/state regulations adopted:
NYSED/Commissioner's
Regulations**

2. When the issue has become obsolete



How Do We Retire a Resolution?

- In 2006, National PTA began rescinding all resolutions that either have been enacted into legislation, regulation, or program, or have become obsolete since 1897.
- Based on Robert's Rules of Order, revised 10th Edition,
- "a resolution must be 'rescinded' by the body that originally adopted it in order for that resolution to be legally retired."
- Convention delegates will be presented with a list of resolutions that have been enacted or have been superseded by current resolutions to rescind (by vote) "en bloc."
- Retired resolutions will be entered into historical record.



Rescissions

RESCISSION #1:

MULTIPLE DAY TEST ADMINISTRATION FOR ALL STUDENTS WITH EXTENDED TIME AND TWO REGENTS ON THE SAME DAY – 2011 (R-'04);

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek to have the New York State Education Department revise its policy so all students, who have extended test time of any duration as determined by the Committee on Special Education or 504 Committee, be permitted to use multiple day test accommodation when scheduled for two Regents exams on the same day, regardless of the student's particular disability or management needs, and be it further

RESOLVED that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. seek to have the New York State Education Department revise its procedure that will grant the local school district CSE or 504 Committee the authority to make the decision to allow the use of multiple day test accommodation with an obligation to inform the NYS Education Department, through its building principal, but not require the New York State Education Department's approval for accommodation.

How Do Resolutions Fit Into PTA Advocacy:

THEY:

- **Unify and EMPOWER** members
- Tell others **what PTA stands for**: concrete positions on specific issues
- Provide the basis to **promote and influence**

EDUCATION

LEGISLATION

POLICY

PROGRAM



Resolutions + Action => Power

Now... What the heck do I do with them?

Well....What does the resolution say needs to be done?

- To *educate* or *raise awareness*
- To create or change *policy* or *program*
- To support or encourage *legislation*

MEANS:

Discuss at your unit meetings

Write a letter to your lawmaker

Present to your school board

Meet with school administrators

Email or Call law or policy makers

*Dialogue with school boards,
administrators, legislators,*

and policy makers!



Need to Write a New Resolution?

Step #1: IDENTIFY YOUR ISSUE

- Something that bothers or energizes you
- Something that needs to be done
- Need to create new or change existing law, regulation or policy
- Check: *What you want done agrees with PTA mission and policies*
- *Position is not already in "Where We Stand"*
- *Proposed action has statewide application or broader relevance*

YOU HAVE DECIDED A RESOLUTION IS NECESSARY AND YOU ARE READY

Writing a Resolution

Step # 2: RESEARCH THE ISSUE

- Set up schedule: allow enough time
 - Check existing laws and regulations
 - Use a variety of resources
 - Research thoroughly
 - Keep a record of research and sources
 - Review/check information collected
- ...and if you still think action is necessary,



YOU ARE READY TO WRITE YOUR RESOLUTION!

Writing a Resolution (cont'd)

Step #3: DRAFT YOUR TEXT

- Clearly set forth what you want done and by whom
- Decide what specific actions PTA should take to address issue
- Each *ACTION statement becomes* a *RESOLVED CLAUSE*
- Use a logical sequence of statements to explain rationale (reasons) for your resolved clauses
- List reasons from general to specific
- Each reason needs three (3) pieces of evidence to support
- **RATIONALE = *WHY* = *WHEREAS CLAUSES***

Writing the Final Draft



Now put the steps together...
But first, *reverse the order!*

the *Why (Whereas)* goes first
the *Action (Resolved)* follows

**** You are now ready to present your
resolution to your unit, council, region FOR
APPROVAL***

Submit Your Resolution

The Final Steps...

- **Be adopted by sponsor PTA**
- **Be received (not postmarked) in NYS PTA office no later than APRIL 1st**
- **Be accompanied by:**
 - **Cover sheet**
 - **Narrative Summary**
 - **Table of contents**
 - **References**
 - **Pertinent background information**
 - *Signatures!*

What's the Next Step?

You attend convention.
By adopting resolutions you
RETAIN previous positions,
UPDATE others,
add **NEW positions** to
NYS PTA's advocacy document:
"Where We Stand"

...and **Retire** some to Historical Record
Now is the time to act.

How Do Resolutions Fit into Advocacy?



Establishing PTA positions
Guiding members to
Take ACTION!

Where can you find them?

"Where We Stand"

provides members current PTA positions
and the recommended actions

Exercise

Putting Theory into Practice



The Issue:

- What do you want to happen?
- Who can help you, and how?
- Why?

Research – Do enough background work to build a case for support

Narrative Summary includes:

- Statement about the issue/situation that the resolution will address
- Statement that cites the cause of the problem
- Statement that describes the severity of the issue: need to solve
- Statement that explains how the proposed resolution will help solve the issue

So, when we talk about how to carry out the PTA vision and mission, resolutions are the first step...

- towards effective advocacy.
- In advocacy, we lend our "**voices**" on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.
- In advocacy, we **mobilize** for action.
- *Resolutions are the foundations that **inform and guide our words and actions** on behalf of all children and youth.*

Any questions?



Contact Information

Lisa Christoffel

NYS PTA Resolutions Coordinator

resolutions@nyspta.org

**The NYS PTA Resolutions Committee
thanks you for taking time to attend this workshop
and wishes you an outstanding Convention weekend.**

**By learning and working together,
We *will* make a difference!**

2018 Resolutions Committee

Lisa Christoffel, Resolutions Coordinator

Pat Assortato, Field Support Coordinator

Candy Ditkowski, Western Region Director

Patrice Rachlin, Special Education Specialist

Sarah Henris, Environmental Specialist

Dana Platin, NYS PTA Vice President for Advocacy

Susanne Smoller, Juvenile Protection Specialist

Kim Blasiak, Family Engagement Coordinator

Amy Hysick, Education Coordinator

Lucille Vitale, Legislation Coordinator

Amany Dgheim, Wellness Coordinator

PowerPoint based on The Resolutions Puzzle by L. Ajemian