

ASCD Board FAQs: Proposed Constitution and Bylaw Change

Q: Why did the Board propose the Constitution and Bylaw Change?

A: The ASCD Board of Directors is charged with periodically reviewing and making recommendations for changes to the ASCD Constitution and Bylaws. This current recommendation is very timely because ASCD has also been developing a new strategic framework, which affords the Board the opportunity to align the framework with the Constitution and Bylaws.

Q: What is the proposed Bylaw change?

A: The number of Board members designated by the Constitution and Bylaws is 11, excluding the CEO/Executive Director. Eight Board members are elected by the membership and “up to 3” are appointed by the Board. The proposed change is to increase the number of appointed seats “up to 5.”

Q: What is the rationale for the proposed Bylaw change?

A: The Board of Directors is in a unique position to assess firsthand the skills, talents, and abilities of a candidate in relation to the competencies needed on the Board and to address any shortcomings in its composition by filling seats with individuals who possess diverse and desirable credentials. The proposal seeks to leverage the expertise of individuals who can strengthen the Board, while placing emphasis on filling gaps in Board competencies. The Board believes these changes will keep the organization governance structure strong and vibrant by affording a streamlined process for the Board to assess its needs and address competency gaps.

With ASCD needing to evolve to better meet the needs of educators, we must look for ways to remain strong, while continuing to position the organization as a relevant and powerful resource for its members. These measures will help bring additional talent to the Board as we begin to implement a new strategic plan.

Q: What is the size of the current and new Board?

A: Currently, the Board is a total of 11 Board members (not including the CEO), 8 elected and 3 appointed. The Board is recommending increasing the number of Board appointed seats “up to five” that could bring the total to 13 Board members.

Q: What does the change mean for the eight elected Board members?

A: The change to the Bylaw will not affect the 8 Board seats currently elected by the membership. If the Constitution and Bylaw change is approved, the Board would consist of 8 members elected by the general membership and “up to five” appointed by the Board. The maximum Board size would be 13 members (excluding the Executive Director/CEO).

Q: Are there any other changes?

A: No, that is the only change to the ASCD Constitution and Bylaws.

Q: How will the proposed Bylaw change be voted?

A: The proposed change will be voted on by the membership during the General Election between April 1-May 15, 2021.

Q: When was the proposed Bylaw change made public to the ASCD membership?

A: The proposed Bylaw change was sent out via an email to the ASCD membership on December 22, 2020, three months prior to the General Elections that open on April 1, 2021 – May 15, 2021.

Q: When will the proposed Bylaw change be effective?

A: If the proposed Bylaw change is approved, it will be effective on June 1, 2021.

Q: If I have further questions, who can I contact about the proposed Bylaw change?

A: You can visit the ASCD website/Governance for information on the proposed Bylaw change or contact ASCD's Governance Manager, Barbara Woolley with your questions. Her email is barbara.woolley@ascd.org.