

School Board Meeting Procedure

Agenda

The agenda for any Board meeting shall be prepared by the Superintendent in consultation with the Chair. Items submitted by Board members and citizens may be placed on the agenda in the discretion of the Chair and Superintendent. Individuals who wish to be placed on the Board agenda must also notify the Superintendent, in writing, of the request. The request must include the reason for the appearance. If the reason for the appearance is a complaint against any District employee, the individual filing the complaint must demonstrate the Uniform Complaint Procedure has been followed. Citizens wishing to make brief comments about school programs or procedures or items on the agenda need not request placement on the agenda, and they may ask for recognition by the Chair at the appropriate time.

The agenda also must include a “public comment” portion to allow members of the general public to comment on any public matter under the jurisdiction of the District which is not specifically listed on the agenda, except that no member of the public will be allowed to comment on contested cases or other adjudicative proceedings. The Board Chair may place reasonable time limits on any “public comment” period to maintain and ensure effective and efficient operations of the Board. The Board shall not take any action on any matter discussed in the public comment section at that time.

With consent of a majority of members present, the order of business at any meeting may be changed. Copies of the agenda for the current Board meeting, minutes of the previous Board meeting, and relevant supplementary information will be prepared and distributed to each trustee. As determined by the Superintendent and Chair, items may be added to the agenda at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of a Board meeting. The agenda packet will be available to any interested citizen at the Superintendent’s office forty-eight (48) hours before a Board meeting.

Recording of Meetings

The District shall record in an audio and video format all public meetings at which the Board is acting on a matter over which the Board has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power. The audio and video recordings shall be made publicly available within five (5) business days of the meeting through a link to the recording on the District’s website or social media page if no District website is maintained.

The audio and video recording shall not be the official record of the meeting except as otherwise designated by the Board of Trustees. Unless designated by the Board as the official record of the meeting, the audio and video recording may be destroyed after being retained online for one (1) year and is not subject to a public records request.

The Board is not required to disrupt or reschedule a meeting if there is a technological failure of the meeting recording. If the recording is not able to be made available online, the Board shall prominently post a notice in the same manner as it posts notices of its meetings and all locations where meeting recording links are available. Such notice shall explain the reason(s) the meeting was not recording and describe the steps taken to remedy the failure prior to the next meeting.

Minutes

The Clerk or the Clerk's designee shall keep written minutes of all meetings that must be open to the public. The approved minutes must be signed by the Chair and the Clerk. The minutes must include:

- The date, time and place of the meeting;
- The name of the presiding officer;
- A record of Board members present and absent;
- Summary of discussion on all matters discussed, proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken;
- Detailed statement of all expenditures;
- Purpose of recessing to closed session; and
- Time of adjournment.

The Board shall keep minutes during all closed sessions. Minutes taken during closed sessions shall be sealed, and will not be released except by court order.

A file of permanent minutes of all meetings shall be maintained by the Clerk. A written copy of the minutes shall be made available to the public within five (5) days following approval by the Board. Sealed minutes taken during any closed session of the Board shall not be made available to the public without a court order.

The Board may direct that an audio recording of a meeting serve as the official record of the meeting. In that case, a written record of the meeting must also be made and must include the information specified above. In addition, a log or time stamp for each agenda item is required for the purpose of providing assistance to the public in accessing that portion of the meeting.

Quorum

No business shall be transacted at any meeting of the Board unless a quorum of its members is present. A majority of the full membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum, whether the individuals are present physically or electronically. A majority of the quorum may pass a resolution, except as provided in § 20-4-203(1), MCA, and § 20-4-401(4), MCA.

Meeting Conduct and Order of Business

General rules of parliamentary procedure are used for every Board meeting. *Robert's Rules of Order* may be used as a guide at any meeting. The order of business shall be reflected on the agenda. The use of proxy votes shall not be permitted. Voting rights are reserved to those trustees in attendance. Voting shall be by acclamation or show of hands.

Cross Reference: 1441 Audience Participation and Public Comment

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| Legal References: | § 2-3-103, MCA | Public participation - governor to ensure guidelines adopted |
| | § 2-3-202, MCA | Meeting defined |
| | § 2-3-212, MCA | Minutes of meetings – public inspection |
| | § 2-3-214, MCA | Recording of meetings for certain boards (Eff. July 1, 2024) |
| | § 20-1-212, MCA | Destruction of records by school officer |
| | § 20-3-322, MCA | Meetings and quorum |
| | § 20-3-323, MCA | District policy and record of acts |

Policy History:

First reading on: 4/15/24

Second reading/Approved on: 5/15/24