

Molalla River School District

Code: BD/BDA
Adopted: 1/14/10
Revised/Readopted: 11/12/20; 3/21/24
Orig. Code: BD/BDA

Board Meetings/Regular Board Meetings

The Board has the authority to act only when a quorum is present at a duly called regular, special or emergency meeting. “Meeting” means the convening of a quorum of the Board as the district’s governing body to make a decision or to deliberate toward a decision on any matter. This includes meeting for the purpose of gathering information to serve as the basis for a subsequent decision or recommendation by the governing body, i.e. a work session. The affirmative vote of the majority of members of the Board is required to transact any business.

All regular, special and emergency meetings of the Board will be open to the public except as provided by law. All meetings will be conducted in compliance with state statutes. All Board meetings, including Board retreats and work sessions, will be held within the district boundaries. The Board may attend training sessions outside the district boundaries but cannot deliberate or discuss district business. No meeting will be held at any place where discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, or national origin is practiced.

The Board will give public notice reasonably calculated to give actual notice to interested persons, including the news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for all Board meetings and of the principal subjects to be considered. The Board may consider additional subjects at a meeting, even if they are not included in the notice.

If requested to do so at least 48 hours before a meeting held in public, the Board shall provide an interpreter for hearing impaired persons. If the meeting is being held upon less than 48 hours’ notice and a request for an interpreter is made, the Board shall make a reasonable effort to have an interpreter present. Such other appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request and appropriate advance notice. Communications with all qualified individuals with disabilities shall be as effective as communications with others.

All meetings held in public shall comply with the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act and the smoking provisions contained in the Public Meetings Law.

The possession of dangerous or deadly weapons and firearms, as defined in law and Board policy, is prohibited on district property.

1. Regular, Special and Emergency Meetings

Generally, one regular Board meeting will be held each month. The regular meeting schedule will be established at the organizational meeting in July and may be changed by the Board with proper notice. The purpose of each regular monthly meeting will be to conduct the regular Board business.

No later than the next regular meeting following July 1, the Board will hold an organizational meeting to elect Board officers for the coming year and to establish the year’s schedule of Board

meetings. In Board election years (odd numbered years), the first meeting will be held no later than July 31.

Special meetings can be convened by the Board chair, upon request of three Board members, or by common consent of the Board at any time to discuss any topic. A special meeting may also be scheduled if less than a quorum is present at a meeting, additional business still needs to be conducted at the ending time of a meeting, conducting business prior to the next meeting would be advantageous to the district, or for other reasons. At least 24 hours' notice must be provided to all Board members, the news media which have requested notice, and the general public for any special meeting.

Emergency meetings can be called by the Board in the case of an actual emergency upon appropriate notice under the circumstances. The minutes of the emergency meeting must describe the emergency. Only topics necessitated by the emergency may be discussed or acted upon at the emergency meeting.

2. Communications Outside of Board Meetings

Communications, to, by, and among a quorum of Board members outside of a legally called meeting, in their capacity as Board members, shall not be used for the purpose of discussing district business. This includes electronic video or telephonic communication, serial electronic communications among participants and using an intermediary to communicate among participants. Such communications among Board members shall be limited to messages not involving deliberation, debate, decision-making or gathering information on which to deliberate.

Communications outside of a Board meeting may contain:

- a. Communications to, between, or among members of a governing body that are:
 - (1) Purely factual or educational in nature and that convey no deliberation or decision on any matter that might reasonably come before the Board (including agendas and information concerning agenda items):
 - (2) Not related to any matter that, at any time, could reasonably be foreseen to come before the Board for deliberation and decision; or
 - (3) Nonsubstantive in nature, such as communication relating to scheduling, leaves of absence and other similar matters: or
- b. Individual responses to questions posed by community members, subject to other limitations in Board policy.

Emails sent to Board members will have the following notice:

Important: Please do not reply or forward this communication if this communication constitutes a decision or deliberation toward a decision between and among a quorum of governing body which could be considered a public meeting. Electronic communications on district business are governed by Public Records and Meetings Law.

3. Private or Social Meetings

Private or social meetings of a quorum of the Board for the purpose of making a decision or to deliberate toward a decision on any matter are prohibited by the Public Meetings Law.

4. Work Sessions

The Board may use regular or special meetings for the purpose of conducting work sessions to provide its members with opportunities for planning and thoughtful discussion. Work sessions will be conducted in accordance with the state law on public meetings, including notice and minutes. The Board may make, but is discouraged from making official decisions during a work session.

Generally, Boards do not take official action during work sessions, although there is no legal prohibition to do so.

5. Executive Sessions

Executive sessions may be held as an agenda item during regular, special or emergency meetings for a reason permitted by law. (See Board policy BDC - Executive Sessions).

Complaints regarding public meetings laws can be filed with the Board in accordance with Board Policy KL – Public Complaints. The Board will respond and provide a copy of the complaint and response to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission within 21 days in accordance with state law

Mandatory Training

Every member of the Board shall attend or view a training on public meetings law prepared or approved by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGE) at least once during the Board member's term of office and shall verify attendance in accordance with OGE procedures.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS Chapter 192](#)

[ORS 255.335](#)

[ORS 433.835 - 433.875](#)

[ORS 332.040 - 332.061](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2020); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2020).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018).

OR. ATTY. GEN. Public Records and Meetings Manual.

Cross Reference(s):

BDC - Executive Sessions