

Board Reference Documents

Hays CISD

Board of Trustees Operating Procedures



Board Meetings

While Board Meetings are for the purpose of the Board conducting the business of the District in public, they are not public forums for the purpose of securing interaction with the public.

Developing the Board Meeting Agenda (Ref Policy BE)

- ▶ Agendas
 - The Superintendent will develop all Board Meeting agendas in collaboration with the Board President.
 - Items discussed at previous Board Meetings which are proposed for inclusion by more than one board member at a future meeting will also be added when appropriate.
 - Board Members must request to the Board President and Superintendent in writing, any item(s) they wish to have considered for placement on the agenda.
 - Items may be placed on the agenda by the Superintendent, the Board President, any Board Member with approval of the President, or through a request by any two Board Members.
 - No item can be placed on the agenda less than ten days in advance of the meeting without the Board President's approval.
 - No item can be placed on the agenda less than three work days in advance of the meeting unless an emergency or public necessity exists.
 - An annual agenda content calendar will be maintained by the Superintendent's office. This will be used to determine the minimum routine items that need to be on each regular meeting agenda. Other items can be added as requested following the procedures above and as noted in the minutes of previous Board Meetings.
 - Board Members will adhere to deadlines and parameters of the Board agenda/event calendar.
 - Every agenda should contain an item for discussing district progress towards strategic plan goals and objectives.

- ▶ Timely Notification and Information
 - Board Members shall be notified of a meeting at least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting, workshop or special meeting, and at least two hours prior to an emergency meeting
 - Typically, the Superintendent will release the agenda and any agenda supporting materials for each meeting to Board Members at least four days preceding such meeting, and for each other non-emergency meeting approximately four days prior to the meeting.

- Typically, information will be provided to each Board Member via electronic or hard copy delivery. Questions regarding supporting documents should be directed to the Superintendent.
- ▶ Open and Closed Session Format
 - Every Board Meeting will begin at the designated posted time and reconvene at the posted time.
 - Closed Session items for which there is a corresponding action item to be considered during the Open Session of the meeting will be scheduled prior to the beginning of the Open Session. The Board President and Superintendent shall, to the extent possible, allocate sufficient time to complete Closed Session discussion prior to the beginning of the Open Session.
 - If more Closed Session discussion is needed, the Presiding Officer shall announce that it is necessary for the Board to reconvene in Closed Session.
 - The Presiding Officer shall state publicly that any action, if taken, will be conducted in Open Session at the conclusion of Closed Session; or, if appropriate, that no action will then be taken.
- ▶ Consent Agenda
 - The consent agenda includes items of routine and/or recurring nature, grouped together under one action item.
 - The consent agenda shall be limited to:
 - > Routine Personnel
 - > Minutes
 - > Finance Report
 - > Budget Amendments
 - > Routine Contracts/Agreements
 - > Routine Procurements
 - > Acceptance of Gifts
 - > Acceptance of Grants
 - > Other items agreed to by the Board
 - Background material for each consent agenda item shall be furnished to the Board in the meeting's supporting documents.
 - All consent agenda items shall be acted upon by one vote without separate discussion.
 - A Board Member may request that an item be withdrawn for individual consideration.
- ▶ Meeting Dates
 - The Superintendent will develop a Board calendar that will include regular and workshop meeting dates of the Board of Trustees.
 - Generally, unless otherwise scheduled by a consensus of the Board, regular Board Business Meetings will be held on the fourth Monday of every month except July. An agenda review session in the form of a workshop may be held the week prior to the regular business meeting. Additional board workshops will be scheduled as deemed necessary.

- The calendar will include those items that are cyclical and/or recurring for consideration at regular or workshop meetings.

Conducting Board Meetings

▶ Quorum

- Any time four or more Board Members are gathered to discuss school district business, it is considered a meeting, and must be posted as such according to Board legal policy.

▶ Closed Sessions

- The Board may meet in Closed Session as provided for in the Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapters D and E.
- Before any Closed Session is convened, the Presiding Officer will announce publicly, as appropriate, that matters before the Board exist that necessitate convening into Closed Session to serve and protect the interests of the District, and that any action, if necessary, resulting from duly posted Closed Session items shall be conducted in Open Session.
- The posted agenda shall identify the section or sections of the Act authorizing the Closed Session and the general topics or subjects to be discussed. The Presiding Officer of the Board shall publicly identify such section or sections and such topics and subjects.
- The Superintendent shall attend all sessions of the Board, both Open and Closed, except when the Board desires to meet without the Superintendent to consider the Superintendent's contract, evaluation or performance, or to resolve conflicts between individual Board Members, or to act as a tribunal.
- In the event of the Superintendent's illness or Board approved absence, the Superintendent's designee shall attend such meetings.

▶ Citizen Participation-Audience Comments

- At regular meetings of the Board, the Presiding Officer may allot time to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board. (Ref Policy BED)
- Prior to the beginning of the Public Forum, the Presiding Officer will announce the rules for audience comments.
- A citizen must sign up on the appropriate form prior to the public forum portion of the agenda. The topic described on the form shall be complete and in sufficient detail as to determine appropriateness of the topic prior to addressing the Board.
- Public comments may be on items listed on the agenda or other areas of school district operations, but shall not include complaints or comments about individual students, employees or officials of the District. Likewise, the complainant shall refrain from naming individuals in his or her complaint.
- Questions asked by the public on topics on the posted agenda may be answered during the discussion of that agenda item. Comments or questions on topics not on the posted agenda may be referred to the Superintendent for consideration and a later response, if appropriate.

- The Presiding Officer shall determine the time limitation for each speaker. Each speaker will be limited to five minutes, unless the time is decreased prior to the beginning of the public comments portion of the agenda. Groups of five or more people wishing to speak on a single subject may be asked to appoint a spokesperson to express the views of the group. A speaker may not defer his/her allotted time to another speaker. The Board may allot a total of 30 minutes to hear persons who desire to make comments to the Board during the public comment portion of the Board Meetings, both business and agenda workshop.
 - The Board vests in its Presiding Officer authority to terminate the remarks of any individual when such individual does not adhere to the established rules.
 - The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience. If any person disrupts the meeting by his or her words or actions, the Presiding Officer may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have the person removed from the meeting.
- ▶ Board Meeting Parliamentary Procedure (Ref Policy BE)
 - The Board President serves as the Presiding Officer at Board Meetings. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will preside.
 - The Board shall be guided by parliamentary procedure as detailed in Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, or as spelled out in adopted procedure.
 - The Board President has the responsibility to keep the discussion to the motion at hand and shall halt discussion that does not apply to the business before the Board.
 - ▶ Transacting Business (Ref Policy BBE)
 - When an agenda item is presented, a discussion shall be held and a decision reached through voting in accordance with prescribed procedures.
 - Whenever possible, the Board should work toward a consensus model of decision-making. There may be dissenting votes which are a matter of record. However, once a decision has been made, all Board Members should support the majority vote of the Board, recognize that it carries the full authority of the Board, and individually respect that vote.
 - ▶ Hearings (Ref Policy FNG, FOD, DGBA, GF)
 - Employee, community and/or student/parent grievances will be handled according to Board policy FNG, FOD, DGBA, GF.

Board Workshops

The Board will conduct Special Meetings/Board Workshops as needed.

- ▶ The workshop format is intended to allow the Administration to present information to the Board that is:
 - Time sensitive and/or discussion intensive
 - Required by law, rule or policy, and
 - Is necessary for the efficient and effective operation of the District

- ▶ Board workshops are not intended to substitute for regular monthly Board Business Meetings, although a quorum of the Board may take action, as necessary.
- ▶ The workshops are intended to allow an opportunity for presentation, questions, discussion and an assessment of the Board's perspective.
- ▶ The Board President serves as the Presiding Officer at Board Workshops; however, it is understood that the intended nature and format of workshops allows for the Superintendent to substantially facilitate the presentation and ordering of items under consideration. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President will preside.

Board Committees (Ref Policy BDB)

- ▶ The Board may, from time to time as it deems necessary, create committees to facilitate the efficient and necessary operation of the Board.
- ▶ The President shall appoint members to special Board committees, and the Board President and the Superintendent shall be ex officio members of all Board committees unless otherwise provided by Board action.

District- and Campus-Level Committees

- ▶ District- and campus-level planning and decision-making committees serve in an advisory capacity to the Board and make recommendations to the Board for final Board action; therefore, Board Members shall not serve on such committees, unless otherwise provided by federal or state law, or approved by the Board.

Electing Board Officers (Ref Policy BDAA)

- ▶ At the first meeting after each election and qualification of Board members, the members of the Board shall organize by selecting:
 1. A president, who shall be a member of the Board
 2. A secretary, who may or may not be a member of the Board
 3. Such other officers and committees as the Board may deem necessary
Education Code 11.061(c)
- ▶ A vacancy among officers of the Board shall be filled by majority action of the Board.

ANNUAL EVALUATIONS

Superintendent Evaluation (Ref Policy BJCD, BJCF, BJA)

- ▶ The Superintendent evaluation instrument will be updated and approved annually after the Board goal setting workshop session.

- ▶ Three formative evaluations will be conducted annually in closed sessions at the Board Agenda Workshops, in February, August and November. New Board members will receive training on how to evaluate the superintendent prior to the first formative dialogue session.
- ▶ A summative evaluation will be conducted in closed session annually in May.
 - This closed session shall be on a date separate from the regular monthly Board Agenda Workshop or Board Meeting.
 - This session may include a discussion of the Superintendent's contract.
- ▶ The Board will use the approved evaluation instrument for the summative evaluation. A copy of the evaluation document will be completed in advance by each Board Member and brought with the Board Member to a special closed session meeting. After coming to a consensus on each evaluated item, the Board shall prepare a single composite Summative Evaluation Document to be given to the Superintendent for discussion during that closed meeting.
- ▶ The Board shall strive to accomplish the following objectives during each evaluation.
 - Develop and sustain a harmonious working relationship between the Board and the Superintendent.
 - Ensure administrative leadership for excellence in the District.
 - Formulate Board consensus about the Superintendent's performance and the District's progress toward achieving its goals and objectives.

Board Evaluation/Team Building

- ▶ There will be a routine assessment of the status of the Board/Superintendent team annually.
- ▶ To the extent that the meeting does not violate the Texas Open Meetings Act, the evaluation may include:
 - Board operating procedures
 - Board Member training
 - Conflict resolution
 - Working relationships with the Superintendent
 - Conduct of Board Meetings
 - Long-range planning and goal setting
 - Relationship with the community

INDIVIDUAL BOARD MEMBERS

Access to Information (Ref Policy BBE)

- ▶ An individual Board Member, acting in his or her official capacity, shall have the right to seek information pertaining to District fiscal affairs, business transactions, governance, and personnel matters, including information that properly may be

withheld from members of the general public in accordance with the Public Information Chapter of the Government Code.

- ▶ Individual Board Members shall not have access to confidential student records, unless there is a legitimate educational interest in the records in accordance with policies FL (LEGAL) and (LOCAL).
- ▶ A Board Member may request existing information and reports from the Superintendent's office. If the information is not available or a new report must be generated, it shall be requested through the Board President. If the Board President does not agree to the request, it may be resubmitted to the Board President by two or more Trustees. In case of emergency, the Board President may request information or reports.
- ▶ Board Member inquiries of staff shall be limited to Superintendent's Cabinet and responses will be distributed to all Board Members.

Communication with Other Board Members

- ▶ Board electronic and written communications regarding District issues should be routed through the Superintendent's office so that information can be disseminated and/or questions can be addressed in this manner, rather than among and between Board Members.
- ▶ A Board Member may discuss a District issue with no more than two other Board Members unless in a duly posted Board Meeting.

Communication with the Media

- ▶ The Board President serves as the official spokesperson for the Board team to the media/press on issues of media attention.
- ▶ Media calls should be directed to Superintendent and the Public Information Officer as the district spokesperson.
- ▶ Board Members asked for individual comments or opinions by the media/press are to qualify those statements as being the opinion of the individual Board Member and not representative of the Board as a whole or the District.

Complaints to Board Members (Ref Policy BBE)

- ▶ Employees, students, parents or other members of the public who bring concerns or complaints to an individual Board Member for the purpose of seeking remedy or perspective shall receive guidance that reflects:
 - An understanding by each Board Member that information provided to a Board Member, in some specific situations, could cause the Board Member receiving the information to be disqualified from participating in future hearing(s) or action by the Board specific to the issue;

- Adherence to the Board's policies (DGBA, FNG, FOD and GF) regarding complaints and grievances.
- ▶ Board Members may notify the Superintendent's office of any complaint.
- ▶ As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall guide the complainant to the appropriate staff member.
- ▶ When the concern or complaint directly pertains to the Board's own actions or policy, for which there is no administrative remedy, the Trustee may request that the issue be placed on the agenda.

Visits to Campuses

- ▶ Board Members are encouraged to attend any and all school events as their time permits, and to show support of school activities.
- ▶ Board Members must notify the Superintendent or designee prior to visiting a campus in an official capacity.
- ▶ Board Members shall not visit a campus in an attempt to evaluate personnel on a campus.