

## *Document Status: Draft Update*

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **2:220 Board of Education Meeting Procedure**

##### Agenda

The Board of Education President is responsible for focusing the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content. The Superintendent shall prepare agendas in consultation with the Board President. The President shall designate a portion of the agenda as a consent agenda for those items that usually do not require extensive discussion before Board action. Upon the request of any Board member, an item will be withdrawn from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for independent consideration.

Each Board meeting agenda shall contain the general subject matter of any item that will be the subject of final action at the meeting. Any Board member may submit suggested agenda items to the Board President for his or her consideration for an upcoming meeting. District residents may suggest inclusions for the agenda. The Board will take final action only on items contained in the posted agenda; items not on the agenda may still be discussed.

The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the agenda, with adequate data and background information, to each Board member at least 48 hours before each meeting, except a meeting held in the event of an emergency. The meeting agenda shall be posted in accordance with Board policy 2:200, *Types of Board of Education Meetings*.

The Board President shall determine the order of business at regular Board meetings. Upon consent of a majority of members present, the order of business at any meeting may be changed.

##### Voting Method

Unless otherwise provided by law, when a vote is taken upon any measure before the Board, with a quorum being present, a majority of the votes cast shall determine its outcome. A vote of *abstain* or *present*, or a vote other than *yea* or *nay*, or a failure to vote, is counted for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. A vote of *abstain* or *present*, or a vote other than *yea* or *nay*, or a failure to vote, however, is not counted in determining whether a measure has been passed by the Board, unless otherwise stated in law.

The sequence for casting votes is as follows. The Board member that made the motion to vote will cast the first vote. The Board Member that seconded the motion to vote will cast the second vote. Remaining votes will then be cast in alphabetical order with the Board President always casting the final vote.

On all questions involving the expenditure of money and on all questions involving the closing of a meeting to the public, a roll call vote shall be taken and entered in the Board's minutes.

Any Board member may include a written explanation of his or her vote in the District file containing individual Board member statements; the explanation will not be part of the minutes.

##### Minutes

The Board Secretary shall keep written minutes of all Board meetings (whether open or closed), which shall be signed by the President and the Secretary. The minutes include:

1. The meeting's date, time, and place;
2. Board members recorded as either present or absent;
3. A summary of the discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken;
4. On all matters requiring a roll call vote, a record of who voted *yea* and *nay*;
5. If the meeting is adjourned to another date, the time and place of the adjourned meeting;
6. The vote of each member present when a vote is taken to hold a closed meeting or portion of a meeting, and the reason for the closed meeting with a citation to the specific exception contained in the Open Meetings Act (OMA) authorizing the closed meeting;
7. A record of all motions, including individuals making and seconding motions;
8. Upon request by a Board member, a record of how he or she voted on a particular motion; and
9. The type of meeting, including any notices and, if a reconvened meeting, the original meeting's date.

The minutes shall be submitted to the Board for approval or modification at its next regularly scheduled open meeting. Minutes for open meetings must be approved within 30 days after the meeting or at the second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later.

At least semi-annually in an open meeting, the Board: (1) reviews minutes from all closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, and (2) decides which, if any, no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. The Board may meet in a prior closed session to review the minutes from closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release.

The Board's meeting minutes must be submitted to the Board Treasurer at such times as the Treasurer may require.

The official minutes are in the custody of the Board Secretary. Open meeting minutes are available for inspection during regular office hours within 10 days after the Board's approval; they may be inspected in the District's main office, in the presence of the Secretary, the Superintendent or designee, or any Board member.

Minutes from closed meetings are likewise available, but only if the Board has released them for public inspection, except that Board members may access closed session minutes not yet released for public inspection (1) in the District's administrative offices or their official storage location, and (2) in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Superintendent or designated administrator, or any elected Board member. The minutes, whether reviewed by members of the public or the Board, shall not be removed from the District's administrative offices or their official storage location except by vote of the Board or by court order.

The Board's open meeting minutes shall be posted on the District website within 10 days after the Board approves them; the minutes will remain posted for at least 60 days.

#### Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings

The Superintendent, or the Board Secretary when the Superintendent is absent, shall audio record all closed meetings. If neither is present, the Board President or presiding officer shall assume this responsibility. After the closed meeting, the person making the audio recording shall label the recording with the date and store it in a secure location. The Superintendent shall ensure that: (1) an

audio recording device and all necessary accompanying items are available to the Board for every closed meeting, and (2) a secure location for storing closed meeting audio recordings is maintained close to the Board's regular meeting location.

After 18 months have passed since being made, the audio recording of a closed meeting is destroyed provided the Board approved: (1) its destruction, and (2) minutes of the particular closed meeting.

Individual Board members may access verbatim recordings in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Superintendent or designated administrator, or any elected Board member. Access to the verbatim recordings is available at the District's administrative offices or the verbatim recording's official storage location. Requests shall be made to the Superintendent or Board President. While a Board member is listening to a verbatim recording, it shall not be re-recorded or removed from the District's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the Board or by court order.

Before making such requests, Board members should consider whether such requests are germane to their responsibilities, service to District, and/or Oath of Office in policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*. In the interest of encouraging free and open expression by Board members during closed meetings, the recordings of closed meetings should not be used by Board members to confirm or dispute the accuracy of recollections.

### Quorum

A quorum of the Board must be physically present at all Board meetings. A majority of the full membership of the Board constitutes a quorum.

### No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video; Disaster Declaration<sup>PRESSPlus1</sup>

The ability of the Board to meet in person with a quorum physically present at its meeting location may be affected by the Governor or the Director of the Ill. Dept. of Public Health issuing a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency.<sup>PRESSPlus2</sup> The Board President or, if the office is vacant or the President is absent or unable to perform the office's duties, the Vice President determines that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the **Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means** subhead above, is not practical or prudent because of the disaster declaration. If neither the President nor Vice President are present or able to perform this determination, the Superintendent shall serve as the duly authorized designee for purposes of making this determination.<sup>PRESSPlus3</sup>

The individual who makes this determination for the Board shall put it in writing, include it on the Board's published notice and agenda for the audio or video meeting and in the meeting minutes.<sup>PRESSPlus4</sup> and ensure that the Board meets every OMA requirement for the Board to meet by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum.<sup>PRESSPlus5</sup>

### Rules of Order

Unless State law or Board-adopted rules apply, the Board President, as the presiding officer, will use Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as a guide when a question arises concerning procedure.

### Broadcasting and Recording Board Meetings

Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open Board meeting, such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting, and access to electrical power, should be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. The Board President may designate a location for recording equipment, may restrict the movements of individuals who are using recording equipment, or may take such other steps as are deemed necessary to preserve decorum and facilitate the meeting.

#### LEGAL REF.:

5 ILCS 120/2a, 120/2.02, 120/2.05, ~~and 120/2.06,~~ and 120/7.

[105 ILCS 5/10-6](#), [5/10-7](#), [5/10-12](#), and [5/10-16](#).

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), [2:150 \(Committees\)](#), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), ~~[2:150 \(Committees\)](#)~~, 2:210 (Organizational Board of Education Meeting), 2:230 (Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

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#### PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. 5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e)(1)-(10), amended by P.A. 101-640. See also 105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-12. During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, Ill. Gov. Pritzker issued Executive Order (EO) 2020-07 pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/7 (disaster proclamation due to public health emergency) that temporarily suspended OMA's physical quorum requirement. The Governor extended this OMA relief through subsequent Executive Orders as the crisis continued. See EOs 2020-18, 2020-33, and 2020-39. During the period covered by EO 2020-39, 5 ILCS 120/7(e), amended by P.A. 101-640 was enacted, immediately requiring public bodies to meet a number of conditions before suspending the physical quorum requirement.

Boards must remember that public comment is still required when a quorum is not physically present at the meeting location. See Public Comment section of the Ill. Atty. Gen.'s guidance entitled *Guidance to Public Bodies on the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act During the COVID-19 Pandemic* on p. 5 at:

[www.foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/pdf/OMA\\_FOIA\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/pdf/OMA_FOIA_Guide.pdf). **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 2. The phrase "due to public health emergency" aligns with Ill. Emergency Act (IEMA), 20 ILCS 3305/4 and 7, which provides the governor with the power to declare a disaster. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(1), amended by P.A. 101-640, uses the phrase "related to public health concerns because [the governor has declared] a disaster" and while not aligning with IEMA text, means "public health emergency." For ease of understanding and alignment with IEMA, this policy uses "public health emergency."

To avoid confusion, note that the triggers under 5 ILCS 120/7(e), amended by P.A. 101-640, for when a school board may conduct its meetings by audio or video conference without the physical presence of a quorum are a bit more broad than the School Code's triggers to implement remote and/or blended remote learning days (RLD/BRLDs). OMA states (1) the "governor **or the director of IDPH** has issued a disaster declaration of a disaster as defined in 20 ILCS 3305/ ... ." This means that it is possible for the board to meet remotely if the director of IDPH declares a disaster under OMA, but that may not mean a district must implement RLD/BLRDs because the School Code

states that the governor must declare the disaster. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 3. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2), amended by P.A. 101-640 states “the head of the public body as defined in [the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/2(e), FOIA].” FOIA defines *head of the public body* to mean the *president* or “such person’s duly authorized designee.” 5 ILCS 140/2(e). Policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*, designates the vice president to perform the duties of the president if that office is vacant or he or she is absent or unable to perform the office’s duties.

For practical purposes if a disaster is declared due to a public health concern, this policy designates the superintendent as “[the president or vice president’s] duly authorized designee” pursuant to the authority of 5 ILCS 140/2(e) for the board to move forward with the required determination to meet by audio or video with no physical presence of a quorum. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 4. While this phrase of the sentence is not required in OMA, many attorneys agree that transparency best practices in this situation include the individual making the determination to: (1) put it in writing referring to the specific disaster declaration applicable to the board’s jurisdiction and the public health concern/public health emergency that applies to not having an in-person meeting; and (2) include that written determination (a) on the board’s published notice and agenda for the audio or video meeting, and (b) in the meeting minutes. **Issue 104, June 2020**

PRESSPlus 5. See 2:220-E9, *Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration*. Find this sample Board exhibit at your PRESS Plus dashboard under the Status **Draft Update - New. Issue 104, June 2020**