

Explanatory Notes

TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 125

Westhoff ISD

BDAA(LOCAL) OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS: DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF BOARD OFFICERS

Revisions are recommended to this local policy on board officer duties and requirements. At Board Officers, the sentence indicating that the board may assign a district employee to provide clerical assistance is recommended for deletion since the superintendent, rather than the board, manages staff assignments, including providing support to the board. Under Terms and Duties — Vice President, the revised language clarifies that when the vice president automatically becomes president due to a vacancy, they then serve as president until the board reorganizes.

BDB(LOCAL) BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION: BOARD COMMITTEES

This policy has been revised in coordination with BDF(LOCAL) to clarify the difference between board committees and advisory committees. Accordingly, the subtopic of this code has been changed from Internal Committees to Board Committees, and new provisions are recommended to establish how board committees are formed and outline their purpose. Text addressing Dissolution of board committees is also recommended for inclusion. The language previously at Special Committees has been moved to BDF(LOCAL).

BDF(LOCAL) BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION: ADVISORY COMMITTEES

This new local policy is recommended for inclusion to coordinate with the changes at BDB. The subtopic of this code has been changed from Citizen Advisory Committees to Advisory Committees. Language has been moved here from BDB(LOCAL) and updated to clarify how advisory committees are formed and the parameters of their responsibilities. A section on Dissolution of the committees is also recommended for inclusion.

EI(LOCAL) ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Based on information obtained from the district, this policy addressing partial credit is recommended for inclusion in your manual. The policy permits a student who earns a passing grade in only one semester of a two-semester high school credit course to earn partial credit if the overall average for the course is below 70.

FDE(LOCAL) ADMISSIONS: SCHOOL SAFETY TRANSFERS

At Safe Schools Data, "bullying" is recommended for inclusion as an offense for which the district must collect and maintain data. The revision aligns with the Unsafe School Choice Option Guidance Handbook.

FEC(LOCAL) ATTENDANCE: ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

Revisions throughout this policy are recommended for clarity.

The information in the first sentence of the policy has been incorporated at Absences Considered for improved readability. Rather than directing the board to establish attendance committees, the policy now authorizes the establishment of those committees by the administration. At Methods for Regaining Credit or Awarding a Final Grade, specifics regarding petitions for credit are recommended for deletion in favor of a reference to administrative regulations.

Revisions at Imposing Conditions for Awarding Credit or a Final Grade are recommended to clarify requirements regarding "seat time." For more information, see the TASB.org article [TEKS Mastery, Not Seat Time, Required for Attendance for Credit](#).

The [Legal Tips for Policy Development](#), available in the Policy Online® Governance and Management Library (TASB login required), describe common legal concerns and best practices specific to this policy's topic.

Explanatory Notes

TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 125

Westhoff ISD

FFAC(LOCAL)

WELLNESS AND HEALTH SERVICES: MEDICAL TREATMENT

The revisions to the legal framework at this code reflect the new Department of State Health Services rules on unassigned medication for respiratory distress. If your district currently maintains medication that can be used when a person is experiencing respiratory distress, please contact your policy consultant for appropriate text to include in your local policy.

OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS
DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF BOARD OFFICERS

BDAA
(LOCAL)

Board Officers	The Board shall elect a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary who shall be members of the Board. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the members present and voting.
Vacancy	A vacancy among officers of the Board, other than the President, shall be filled by majority action of the Board.
Term and Duties	Board officers shall serve for a term of two years or until a successor is elected. Officers may succeed themselves in office. Each officer shall perform any legal duties of the office and other duties as required by action of the Board.
President	In addition to the duties required by law, the President of the Board shall: 1. Preside at all Board meetings unless unable to attend. 2. Have the right to discuss, make motions, propose resolutions, and vote on all matters coming before the Board.
Vice President	The Vice President of the Board shall: 1. Act in the capacity and perform the duties of the President of the Board in the event of the absence or incapacity of the President. 2. Automatically become President of the Board if a vacancy in that office occurs and serve in this role until the Board reorganizes.
Secretary	The Secretary of the Board shall: 1. Ensure that an accurate record is kept of the proceedings of each Board meeting. 2. Ensure that notices of Board meetings are posted and sent as required by law. 3. In the absence of the President and Vice President, call the meeting to order and act as presiding officer. 4. Sign or countersign documents as directed by action of the Board.

BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION
BOARD COMMITTEES

BDB
(LOCAL)

Note: For advisory committees that include staff, parents, community members, or students, see BDF.

Board Committees

For purposes of this policy, a Board committee is a committee composed only of current Board members.

Formation of a Board committee shall be by Board action. When establishing a Board committee, the Board action shall, at a minimum, specify the:

- Number of Board members on the committee;
- Process to appoint Board members to the committee;
- Term of committee membership; and
- Responsibilities of the committee.

A Board committee shall be fact-finding, deliberative, and advisory, and shall make recommendations in the areas of their responsibility. Board committees shall report their findings and recommendations to the Board and shall not assume administrative duties or responsibilities.

Transacting
Business

Unless specified by the Board, a Board committee shall not have final decision-making authority. Board committee recommendations must be reported to the Board at a regular or special meeting. The Board shall not accept a Board committee's recommendation without due consideration of the matter.

Dissolution

A Board committee shall be dissolved upon Board action.

BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEES

BDF
(LOCAL)

Note: For committees composed only of current Board members, see BDB.

**Advisory
Committees**

For purposes of this policy, an advisory committee is a committee composed primarily of District staff, parents, other community members, and/or students. An advisory committee may also include Board members in numbers less than a quorum of the Board.

Formation of an advisory committee shall be by Board action. When establishing an advisory committee, the Board action shall, at a minimum, specify the:

- Number of members on the committee;
- Process to appoint members to the committee;
- Term of committee membership; and
- Responsibilities of the committee.

An advisory committee shall be fact-finding, deliberative, and advisory and shall not assume administrative duties or responsibilities. Advisory committees shall report their findings and recommendations to the Board.

**Transacting
Business**

An advisory committee may transact business only within the specific authority granted by the Board. To be binding, all such committee recommendations must be reported to the Board at a regular or special meeting for approval and entry into the minutes as a public record.

Dissolution

An advisory committee shall be dissolved upon completion of the assigned task or Board action.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

EI
(LOCAL)

Partial Credit

When a student earns a passing grade in only half of a course for high school credit and the average of both halves is lower than 70, the District shall award the student credit for the half with the passing grade.

Safe Schools Data

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District complies with Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines for the collection and maintenance of data regarding:

1. Mandatory expellable offenses committed at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity, on or off school property [see FOD]; and
2. Any student who becomes a victim of one of the following violent criminal offenses while on the premises of the school the student attends or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity, on or off school property:
 - a. Attempted murder;
 - b. Indecency with a child;
 - c. Aggravated kidnapping;
 - d. Aggravated assault on someone other than a District employee or volunteer;
 - e. Sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against someone other than a District employee or volunteer;
 - f. Aggravated robbery;
 - g. Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual; or
 - h. Bullying.

**School Safety
Transfers**

The parent of a student who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense as described in the state guidance for unsafe school choice options or who is assigned to a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous shall be offered a transfer to a safe public or charter school within the District.

For each transfer requested, the District shall explore transfer options, as appropriate. Options may include a transfer agreement with another school district.

**From a Persistently
Dangerous School**

The parent of a student attending a school identified as persistently dangerous shall be provided notification of his or her right to request a transfer. Notification shall occur at least 14 days prior to the start of the school year or, for a student enrolling subsequently, upon the student's enrollment.

The parent must submit to the Superintendent an application for transfer. The Superintendent shall complete the transfer prior to the beginning of the school year, if applicable, or within 14 calendar days of the request for a subsequently enrolling student.

ADMISSIONS
SCHOOL SAFETY TRANSFERS

FDE
(LOCAL)

Any transfer arranged for a student from a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous shall be renewed so long as the campus from which the student transferred retains that designation.

The District shall maintain, in accordance with the District's record retention schedule, documentation of notification to parents of the transfer option, transfer applications submitted, and action taken.

**For a Victim of a
Violent Criminal
Offense**

Within 14 calendar days after a violent criminal offense described above occurs in or on the premises of the school the student attends or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity, on or off school property, the District shall notify the parent of a student who is a victim of the offense of the parent's right to request a transfer. The parent must submit to the Superintendent an application for transfer. The Superintendent shall approve or disapprove the request within 14 calendar days of its submission.

Any transfer arranged for a student who was a victim of a violent crime as described above shall be renewed so long as the threat to the student exists at the campus to which the student would typically be assigned.

For each offense, the District shall maintain for at least five years documentation of the nature and date of the offense, notification to the parent of the transfer option, transfer applications submitted, action taken, and other relevant information regarding the offense.

**Additional Transfer
Options**

In circumstances described by Education Code 25.0341, a parent of a student who has been the victim of a sexual assault, regardless of whether the offense occurred on or off school property, may request a transfer of the parent's child or the student assailant from the same campus.

[For other transfer provisions, see also FDA and FDB.]

**Absences
Considered**

Except as otherwise provided by law, all absences incurred while enrolled in the District shall be considered in determining whether a student has been in attendance for 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

**Attendance
Committees**

The Board authorizes the establishment of an attendance committee or as many attendance committees as necessary for efficient implementation of state law.

The Superintendent is authorized to make the specific appointments in accordance with legal requirements.

**Parental Notice of
Excessive Absences**

A student and the student's parent or guardian shall be given written notice prior to and at such time when a student's attendance in any class drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

**Methods for
Regaining Credit or
Awarding a Final
Grade**

When a student's attendance drops below 90 percent but remains at least at 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student may earn credit for the class or a final grade by completing a plan approved by the principal. This plan must provide for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class as determined by the principal.

If the student fails to successfully complete the plan, or when a student's attendance drops below 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student, parent, or representative may request award of credit or a final grade by submitting a written petition to the appropriate attendance committee.

A petition for credit or a final grade may be filed in accordance with administrative regulations. The attendance committee shall review the student's entire attendance record and the reasons for absences and shall determine whether to award credit or a final grade. [See Imposing Conditions for Awarding Credit or a Final Grade, below]

Regardless of whether a petition is filed, the attendance committee may also review the records of all students whose attendance drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

A student who has lost credit or has not received a final grade because of excessive absences may regain credit or be awarded a final grade by fulfilling the requirements established by the attendance committee.

Personal Illness

The principal or attendance committee may require verification from a health-care provider in accordance with administrative regulations as a condition of classifying an absence for personal illness as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

ATTENDANCE
ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC
(LOCAL)

**Best Interest
Standard**

In reaching consensus regarding a student's absences and how the student can be awarded credit or a final grade, the attendance committee shall attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student. The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to document the attendance committee's decision.

**Guidelines on
Extenuating
Circumstances**

The attendance committee shall consider whether a student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.

When makeup work is completed satisfactorily, the attendance committee shall consider extracurricular absences and other excused absences as days of attendance for award of credit or a final grade. [See FEA]

The attendance committee shall consider whether the reasons for the absences were out of the parent's or student's control and whether documentation for the absence is acceptable.

The student or parent shall be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to discuss ways to earn or regain credit or be awarded a final grade.

**Imposing Conditions
for Awarding Credit
or a Final Grade**

The attendance committee or principal, as applicable, is not required to assign a student to attend a specified program for an amount of time equivalent to the student's absences (i.e., "seat time").

The attendance committee or principal, as applicable, shall consider the student's unique circumstances and, if necessary, shall impose other conditions for awarding credit or a final grade that permit the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class. Conditions may include:

1. Maintaining attendance standards for the rest of the semester.
2. Completing additional assignments, as specified by the committee or teacher.
3. Attending tutorial sessions as scheduled.
4. Completing other instructional programs, as specified by the committee.
5. Taking an examination to earn credit. [See EHDB]

In all cases, the student must earn a passing grade in order to receive credit.

Appeal Process

A parent or student may appeal the decision of the attendance committee in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).



(LOCAL) Policy Comparisons

These documents are generated by an automated process that compares the updated policy to the current policy as found in TASB records.

In this packet, you will find:

- Policies being recommended for revision (annotated)
- New policies (not annotated)
- Policies recommended for deletion (annotated in PDF; not shown in Word)

Annotations are shown as follows:

- Deletions are in a red strike-through font: ~~deleted text~~.
- Additions are in a blue font: new text.
- Blocks of text that were moved without changes are shown in green, with double underline and double strike-through formatting to distinguish the text's new placement from its original location: ~~moved text~~ becomes moved text.
- Revision bars appear in the right margin to show sections with changes.

Note: While the annotation software competently identifies simple changes, large or complicated changes — as in an extensive rewrite — may be more difficult to follow. In addition, TASB's recent changes to the policy templates to facilitate accessibility sometimes make formatting changes appear tracked, even though the text remains the same.

For further assistance in understanding policy changes, please refer to the explanatory notes in your Localized Policy Manual update packet or contact your policy consultant.

Contact us:

School Districts and Education Service Centers, call 800-580-7529 or email policy.service@tasb.org.

Community Colleges, call 800-580-1488 or email colleges@tasb.org.

OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS
DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS OF BOARD OFFICERS

BDAA
(LOCAL)

Board Officers	The Board shall elect a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary who shall be members of the Board. The Board may assign a District employee to provide clerical assistance to the Board. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the members present and voting.
Vacancy	A vacancy among officers of the Board, other than the President, shall be filled by majority action of the Board.
Term and Duties	Board officers shall serve for a term of two years two years or until a successor is elected. Officers may succeed themselves in office. Each officer shall perform any legal duties of the office and other duties as required by action of the Board.
President	In addition to the duties required by law, the President of the Board shall: 1. Preside at all Board meetings unless unable to attend. 2. Have the right to discuss, make motions and, propose resolutions, and vote on all matters coming before the Board.
Vice President	The Vice President of the Board shall: 1. Act in the capacity and perform the duties of the President of the Board in the event of the absence or incapacity of the President. 2. Automatically become President of the Board if a vacancy in that office occurs and serve in this role until the Board reorganizes.
Secretary	The Secretary of the Board shall: 1. Ensure that an accurate record is kept of the proceedings of each Board meeting. 2. Ensure that notices of Board meetings are posted and sent as required by law. 3. In the absence of the President and Vice President, call the meeting to order and act as presiding officer. 4. Sign or countersign documents as directed by action of the Board.

BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION
~~INTERNAL~~BOARD COMMITTEES

BDB
(LOCAL)

Special Committees

~~The President shall appoint members to special~~**Note:** For ad-
~~visory committees created by the Board to fulfill specific~~
~~assignments, unless otherwise provided~~ that include
staff, parents, community members, or students, see
BDF.

Board Committees

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posed only of current Board members.

Formation of a Board committee shall be **by Board action. These**
~~committees may include District personnel~~When establishing a
Board committee, the Board action shall, at a minimum, specify
the:

- Number of Board members on the committee;
- Process to appoint Board members to the committee;
- Term of committee membership; **and citizens. The function of**
~~committees~~
- Responsibilities of the committee.

A Board committee **shall be fact-finding, deliberative, and advisory,**
~~but not administrative. Special~~and shall make recommendations in
the areas of their responsibility. Board **committees shall report their**
findings and recommendations **to the Board and shall be dissolved**
~~upon completion of the assigned task or vote of the Board~~not as-
sume administrative duties or responsibilities.

~~The President of the Board and the Superintendent shall be ex offi-~~
~~cio members of all Board committees, unless otherwise provided~~
~~by Board action.~~

**Transacting
Business**

~~Committees may transact business only within the specific author-~~
~~ity granted~~Unless specified **by the Board. To be binding, all such**
~~business,~~ a Board committee shall not have final decision-making
authority. Board committee recommendations **must be reported to**
the Board at the next regular or special meeting for approval and
~~entry into the minutes as a public record.~~ The Board shall not ac-
cept a Board committee's recommendation without due considera-
tion of the matter.

Dissolution

A Board committee shall be dissolved upon Board action.

BOARD INTERNAL ORGANIZATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEES

BDF
(LOCAL)

Note: For committees composed only of current Board members, see BDB.

**Advisory
Committees**

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Business**

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An advisory committee shall be dissolved upon completion of the assigned task or Board action.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

EI
(LOCAL)

Partial Credit

When a student earns a passing grade in only half of a course for high school credit and the average of both halves is lower than 70, the District shall award the student credit for the half with the passing grade.

Safe Schools Data

The Superintendent shall ensure that the District complies with Texas Education Agency (TEA) guidelines for the collection and maintenance of data regarding:

1. Mandatory expellable offenses committed at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored activity, on or off school property [see FOD]; and
2. Any student who becomes a victim of one of the following violent criminal offenses, ~~as defined by the Penal Code~~, while on the premises of the school the student attends or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity, on or off school property:
 - a. Attempted murder;
 - b. Indecency with a child;
 - c. Aggravated kidnapping;
 - d. Aggravated assault on someone other than a District employee or volunteer;
 - e. Sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault against someone other than a District employee or volunteer;
 - f. Aggravated robbery; or
 - g. Continuous sexual abuse of a young child or disabled individual; or
 - g.h. Bullying.

**School Safety
Transfers**

The parent of a student who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense as described in the state guidance for unsafe school choice options or who is assigned to a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous shall be offered a transfer to a safe public or charter school within the District.

For each transfer requested, the District shall explore transfer options, as appropriate. Options may include a transfer agreement with another school district.

**From a Persistently
Dangerous School**

The parent of a student attending a school identified as persistently dangerous shall be provided notification of his or her right to request a transfer. Notification shall occur at least 14 days prior to the start of the school year or, for a student enrolling subsequently, upon the student's enrollment.

The parent must submit to the Superintendent an application for transfer. The Superintendent shall complete the transfer prior to the

beginning of the school year, if applicable, or within 14 calendar days of the request for a subsequently enrolling student.

Any transfer arranged for a student from a campus identified by TEA as persistently dangerous shall be renewed so long as the campus from which the student transferred retains that designation.

The District shall maintain, in accordance with the District's record retention schedule, documentation of notification to parents of the transfer option, transfer applications submitted, and action taken.

**For a Victim of a
Violent Criminal
Offense**

Within 14 calendar days after a violent criminal offense described above occurs in or on the premises of the school the student attends or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity, on or off school property, the District shall notify the parent of a student who is a victim of the offense of the parent's right to request a transfer. The parent must submit to the Superintendent an application for transfer. The Superintendent shall approve or disapprove the request within 14 calendar days of its submission.

Any transfer arranged for a student who was a victim of a violent crime as described above shall be renewed so long as the threat to the student exists at the campus to which the student would typically be assigned.

For each offense, the District shall maintain for at least five years documentation of the nature and date of the offense, notification to the parent of the transfer option, transfer applications submitted, action taken, and other relevant information regarding the offense.

**Additional Transfer
Options**

In circumstances described by Education Code 25.0341, a parent of a student who has been the victim of a sexual assault, regardless of whether the offense occurred on or off school property, may request a transfer of the parent's child or the student assailant from the same campus.

[For other transfer provisions, see also FDA and FDB.]

ATTENDANCE
ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC
(LOCAL)

**Absences
Considered**

~~This policy shall apply to a student who has not been in attendance for 90 percent of the days the class is offered.~~

Except as otherwise provided by law, all absences incurred while enrolled in the District shall be considered in determining whether a student has ~~attended~~ been in attendance for 90 percent of the ~~required percentage of days under this policy~~ the class is offered.

**Attendance
Committees**

The Board ~~shall establish~~ authorizes the establishment of an attendance committee or as many attendance committees as necessary for efficient implementation of ~~Education Code 25.092~~ state law.

The Superintendent ~~shall~~ is authorized to make the specific appointments in accordance with legal requirements.

**Parental Notice of
Excessive Absences**

A student and the student's parent or guardian shall be given written notice prior to and at such time when a student's attendance in any class drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

**Methods for
Regaining Credit or
Awarding a Final
Grade**

When a student's attendance drops below 90 percent but remains at least at 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student may earn credit for the class or a final grade by completing a plan approved by the principal. This plan must provide for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class as determined by the principal.

If the student fails to successfully complete the plan, or when a student's attendance drops below 75 percent of the days the class is offered, the student, parent, or representative may request award of credit or a final grade by submitting a written petition to the appropriate attendance committee.

~~Petitions~~ A petition for credit or a final grade may be filed at any time the student receives notice but, in any event, no later than 30 days after the last day of classes.

in accordance with administrative regulations. The attendance committee shall review the student's entire attendance record and the reasons for absences and shall determine whether to award credit or a final grade. ~~The~~ [See Imposing Conditions for Awarding Credit or a Final Grade, below]

Regardless of whether a petition is filed, the attendance committee may also, ~~whether a petition is filed or not~~, review the records of all students whose attendance drops below 90 percent of the days the class is offered.

A student who has lost credit or has not received a final grade because of excessive absences may regain credit or be awarded a final grade by fulfilling the requirements established by the attendance committee.

Personal Illness

The principal or attendance committee may require verification from a health-care provider in accordance with administrative regulations as a condition of classifying an absence for personal illness as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

Best Interest Standard

In reaching consensus regarding a student's absences and how the student can be awarded credit or a final grade, the attendance committee shall attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student. The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to document the attendance committee's decision.

Guidelines on Extenuating Circumstances

The attendance committee shall consider whether a student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.

When makeup work is completed satisfactorily, the attendance committee shall consider extracurricular absences and other excused absences as days of attendance for award of credit or a final grade. [See FEA]

The attendance committee shall consider whether the reasons for the absences were out of the parent's or student's control and whether documentation for the absence is acceptable.

The student or parent shall be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to discuss ways to earn or regain credit or be awarded a final grade.

Imposing Conditions for Awarding Credit or a Final Grade

The attendance committee or principal, as applicable, is not required to assign a student to attend a specified program for an amount of time equivalent to the student's absences (i.e., "seat time").

The attendance committee or principal, as applicable, shall consider the student's unique circumstances and, if necessary, shall impose other conditions for awarding credit or a final grade that permit the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class rather than assigning a student to attend a specified program for an amount of time equivalent to the student's absences. Conditions may include:

1. Maintaining attendance standards for the rest of the semester.
2. Completing additional assignments, as specified by the committee or teacher.

ATTENDANCE
ATTENDANCE FOR CREDIT

FEC
(LOCAL)

3. Attending tutorial sessions as scheduled.
4. Completing other instructional programs, as specified by the committee.
5. Taking an examination to earn credit. [See EHDB]

In all cases, the student must earn a passing grade in order to receive credit.

Appeal Process

A parent or student may appeal the decision of the attendance committee in accordance with FNG(LOCAL).