

Summary of major changes between the current BDDC-MESD Board Meeting Agenda policy and the proposed replacement.

Executive Summary

The proposed revision significantly streamlines the Board agenda policy while modernizing it to align with current Public Meetings Law requirements. The new version:

- Centralizes agenda authority with the Board Chair.
- Establishes clearer standards for agenda content and public notice.
- Adds provisions for executive session agenda disclosures.
- Introduces the use of consent agendas.
- Clarifies the Board's authority to amend agendas before and during meetings.
- Removes extensive accessibility and ADA-related procedural language that is likely addressed elsewhere in Board policy.

Overall, the revised policy shifts from a detailed administrative and accessibility-focused document to a more concise governance and meeting-management policy.

Major Changes by Section

1. Agenda Preparation Authority Simplified

Current

The agenda is prepared jointly by:

"The Board Chair, Vice Chair and the Superintendent"

New

The proposed policy states:

"The Board chair will direct the preparation of an agenda..."

and may seek assistance from:

- the superintendent

- another Board member

Impact

- Centralizes agenda authority with the Board Chair.
 - Creates clearer accountability for agenda development.
 - Reduces the formal role of the Vice Chair.
-

2. Agenda Submission Process Simplified

Current

Different submission timelines exist:

- Staff, students, citizens: 5 working days
- Board members: 10 working days

Additionally:

- Any Board member request must be placed on the agenda.
- Board Chair may decide whether late requests are included.

New

All requests are treated similarly:

"Items of business may be suggested by any Board member, staff member, student or patron..."

with a common deadline of:

"[five] working days"

Impact

- Simplifies the process.
- Removes Board members' guaranteed right to agenda placement.
- Gives greater agenda management authority to the Board Chair.

This is one of the more significant governance changes.

Public Meetings Law and Transparency Changes

3. Agenda Content Requirements Expanded

Entirely New

The agenda must:

"include the principal subjects anticipated to be considered"

and be:

"specific enough to permit the public to recognize the matters in which they are interested."

Impact

- Aligns directly with Oregon Public Meetings Law.
 - Establishes a stronger transparency standard.
 - Provides clearer expectations for agenda preparation.
-

4. Executive Session Disclosure Requirements Added

Entirely New

When executive sessions appear on an agenda, the agenda must include:

- statutory citation
- subsection and paragraph
- general description of purpose

Impact

- Stronger legal compliance.
 - Greater public transparency.
 - Aligns with recent Public Meetings Law revisions.
-

Agenda Amendment Changes

5. Agenda Amendment Authority Expanded

Current

The Board may discuss and act on items not on the agenda if a majority agrees.

New

Provides two levels of authority:

Before Posting

The Board Chair may:

- add items
- remove items
- amend the agenda

During Meetings

The Board may:

- amend the agenda
- add items
- remove items
by majority vote.

Impact

- More clearly defines amendment authority.
 - Provides procedural flexibility.
 - Better reflects actual Board practice.
-

New Consent Agenda Provision

6. Consent Agenda Process Added

Entirely New

The proposed policy authorizes:

"A consent agenda may be used..."

Routine items may:

- be grouped together
- be approved with a single vote

Board members may:

- remove any item
- move it to the regular agenda

Impact

- Significant efficiency improvement.
- Common governance best practice.
- Reduces meeting length.
- Preserves Board member oversight.

This is one of the most meaningful operational additions.

Distribution and Posting Changes

7. Board Packet Distribution Timeline Modified

Current

Materials distributed:

at least two full working days prior

New

Materials distributed:

at least three full working days prior

Impact

- Provides Board members additional review time.
 - Improves meeting preparation.
-

8. Website Posting Requirements Clarified

Current

Agenda posted when provided to Board members.

New

Requires:

- 48 hours prior to regular meetings
- 24 hours prior to special meetings

Impact

- Better alignment with Public Meetings Law notice requirements.
 - More predictable public access.
-

Confidential Information Section

9. Confidentiality Language Retained

Current

Confidential Board packet information excluded from public agendas.

New

Retains essentially the same requirement.

Impact

- No substantive change.

- Continues protection of confidential information.
-

Removed Provisions

10. Public Comment Language Removed

Current

References:

- Board Policy BDDH
- Public participation requirements

New

Removed.

Impact

- Likely addressed in separate public participation policy.
 - Simplifies this policy's focus.
-

11. Agenda Order-of-Business Language Removed

Current

Provides:

"The Board will follow the order of business..."

unless altered by consensus.

New

Removed.

Impact

- More procedural flexibility.
 - Less prescriptive.
-

12. Agenda Posting at MESD Office Removed

Current

Requires physical posting in the office building.

New

Removed.

Impact

- Reflects shift toward digital notice practices.
 - Reduces administrative requirements.
-

13. Public Requests for Agendas and Minutes Removed

Current

Includes:

- public requests for agendas
- public requests for minutes

New

Removed.

Impact

- Likely addressed through public records procedures and website posting.
 - Simplifies the policy.
-

Accessibility and ADA Changes

14. Extensive ADA Language Removed

Current

Contains detailed provisions regarding:

- alternative formats
- Braille
- audio recordings
- readers
- auxiliary aids
- equally effective communication
- undue burden standards

New

These provisions are removed entirely.

Impact

- This is a substantial deletion.
- Most likely moved to:
 - ADA policy (ACA)
 - district accessibility procedures
 - broader Public Meetings Law policy

If not addressed elsewhere, this removal could reduce policy-level guidance regarding accommodations.

15. Visual Impairment Accommodation Language Removed

Current

Requires:

agendas and supporting materials in alternative formats upon request.

New

Removed.

Impact

- Likely consolidated into broader ADA procedures elsewhere.
 - Worth verifying during policy review.
-

Legal Reference Changes

Added

- ORS 192.630
- ORS 192.640
- OAR 199-050-0040

Reflects:

- Public Meetings Law requirements
- agenda notice requirements

Removed

- ORS 334.100
- Older OAR references
- IDEA references
- Detailed ADA citations

Impact

- Legal references are now more narrowly focused on meeting notice and agenda requirements.
-

Overall Governance Shift

The proposed policy reflects a shift toward:

- Agenda management and governance efficiency
- Public Meetings Law compliance
- Streamlined procedures
- Increased Board Chair authority
- Digital publication practices
- Consent agenda usage

The current policy combines agenda preparation, public access, ADA accommodations, and meeting procedures. The revised policy narrows its focus to agenda governance and meeting administration.

Most Significant Practical Changes

The most meaningful operational changes are likely:

1. Board Chair becomes the primary authority for agenda preparation.
2. Board members lose the automatic right to place items on the agenda.
3. Introduction of consent agendas for routine business.
4. Increased Board packet review time (2 days → 3 days).
5. Formal executive session disclosure requirements.
6. Clear authority to amend agendas before and during meetings.
7. More explicit Public Meetings Law compliance language.
8. Removal of extensive ADA/accessibility provisions from this policy.

Collectively, these revisions create a more streamlined, governance-focused agenda policy while emphasizing transparency, flexibility, and efficient Board operations.