

Executive Summary

The proposed BCE policy substantially expands and modernizes the Board committee framework. The new version:

- Provides formal definitions and classifications for Board committees.
- Distinguishes between Board subcommittees and advisory committees.
- Adds detailed governance expectations for committee creation and operation.
- Aligns committee operations more explicitly with Oregon Public Meetings Law.
- Clarifies that administrative committees are generally exempt from Public Meetings Law.
- Adds statutory language regarding local advisory committees upon petition from component school districts.

Overall, the revised policy moves from a short procedural policy to a more comprehensive governance and compliance framework for committee operations.

Major Changes by Section

1. Expanded Definition of Committees

Current

The policy simply states:

“The Board may agree to have standing committees.”

New

The proposed version defines a committee as:

“A group of Board members, staff, students and/or community members tasked by the Board...”

Change

- Broadens committee membership possibilities.

- Formalizes the role and purpose of committees.

Impact

- Creates greater flexibility in committee composition.
 - Encourages broader stakeholder participation.
 - Provides clearer governance structure.
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2. New Committee Classifications

Entirely New Section

The proposed policy introduces two committee types:

Board Subcommittees

Examples:

- Superintendent evaluation
- Long-range planning
- Policy committee

Advisory Committees

Examples:

- Steering committees
- Primarily non-Board member groups

Impact

- Clarifies distinctions between governance-focused and community/staff advisory groups.
 - Helps determine applicable procedures and expectations.
 - Provides stronger organizational clarity.
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3. Explicit Inclusion of Non-Board Members

New Language

“Regardless of classification, the Board can include Board members and non-Board members on committees.”

Impact

- Expands flexibility for collaborative governance.
 - Encourages community and stakeholder engagement.
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Significant New Governance Requirements

4. New Local Advisory Committee Requirement

Entirely New

The proposed policy adds:

“On the petition of two component school districts, the Board shall establish local advisory committees...”

Impact

- Adds a statutory compliance provision not previously included.
- Creates a mechanism for regional/local representation.
- Gives component districts a formal avenue for input.

Additional Note

The bracketed placeholder language suggests:

- MESD may still need to customize:
 - membership structure
 - terms
 - appointment procedures
 - responsibilities

This appears to be template language awaiting local revision.

5. Committee Authority Clarified

Current

Committees are:

“fact-finding, deliberative and advisory rather than legislative or administrative.”

New

Simplifies to:

“Board committees will not have the power to act for the Board except as the Board has specifically authorized.”

Change

- Removes descriptive distinctions.
- Focuses directly on authority limitations.

Impact

- Cleaner governance language.
 - Easier to administer and interpret.
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6. Removal of “Committee-of-the-Whole” / Work Sessions

Current

Contains detailed provisions for:

- committee-of-the-whole meetings
- work sessions
- meeting call procedures

New

These concepts are removed entirely.

Impact

- Likely shifts work session governance to another policy or Board procedures.

- Simplifies this policy considerably.
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Public Meetings Law Changes

7. Public Meetings Law Compliance Expanded

Current

Only requires:

- meetings be publicly posted
- public attendance permitted

New

Adds:

- meetings must comply with Public Meetings Law
- requirement to:
 - record meetings OR
 - take meeting minutes

Impact

- Stronger legal compliance expectations.
 - More explicit transparency/accountability standards.
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8. Executive Session Language Modernized

Current

Executive sessions allowed:

“when such sessions are required or permitted by law.”

New

Adds:

“when such meeting is in accordance with the committee’s assigned purpose...”

Impact

- Narrows executive session use to committee-authorized scope.
 - Better aligns with modern governance/legal standards.
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9. Administrative Committees Exempted

Entirely New

“Administrative committees, including superintendent committees, are generally not subject to Public Meetings Law.”

Impact

- Clarifies distinction between Board committees and staff/administrative committees.
 - Helps avoid confusion regarding legal requirements.
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New Board Responsibilities When Creating Committees

10. Formal Committee Establishment Criteria

Entirely New Section

The Board must now determine:

- membership/appointments
- committee task
- resources
- duration
- expectations for actions/recommendations

Impact

- Creates a more intentional governance process.
 - Improves accountability and operational clarity.
 - Helps avoid vague committee charges or scope confusion.
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Structural and Procedural Changes

11. Removal of Committee Meeting Call Procedures

Current

Specifies:

- who may call committee meetings
- who may call work sessions

New

Removes these specifics and instead states:

“Committee meetings may be called by the committee...”

Impact

- More flexible.
 - Less procedurally rigid.
 - Allows committees to develop operating procedures.
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12. Committee Reports/Recommendations Simplified

Current

States:

“Committee recommendations and reports shall become an official part of Board minutes.”

New

States only:

“Committee recommendations and reports will be provided to the Board.”

Impact

- Less formal documentation requirement.
 - More administrative flexibility.
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Legal Reference Changes

Updated References

Added

- ORS 334.025
- OAR 199-040
- OAR 199-050

Expanded

- Public Meetings Law references updated through ORS 192.705

Removed

- OAR references tied to older standards/rules.

Impact

- Better alignment with current Oregon public meetings regulations and ESD governance statutes.
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Overall Governance Shift

The proposed BCE policy reflects a clear shift toward:

- Formal governance structure

- Public meetings compliance
- Committee accountability
- Stakeholder participation
- Operational flexibility
- Clear differentiation between Board and administrative functions

The current policy is relatively simple and procedural. The proposed version is broader, more legally aligned, and more governance-oriented.

Most Significant Practical Changes

The most meaningful operational changes are likely:

1. Formal classification of committees.
2. Expanded use of non-Board/community members.
3. Explicit Public Meetings Law compliance requirements.
4. Clarification that administrative committees are usually exempt.
5. Required Board planning when establishing committees.
6. Addition of local advisory committee requirements.
7. Elimination of “committee-of-the-whole/work session” language from this policy.

These revisions collectively create a more modern, structured, and compliance-focused committee governance framework.