

Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum

The board will schedule its meetings in compliance with the law, and as deemed by the board to be in the best interests of the district and community. The board will function through (1) regular meetings, (2) special meetings and (3) emergency meetings.

Meetings

A. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings are held in accordance with the annual board meeting calendar approved by the board, or at other times and places as determined by the presiding officer or by majority vote of the board. An agenda of the business the board will transact must be posted on the district website not less than twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the published start time of the meeting, unless the district does not have a website or employs fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees.

If the board will hold regular meetings at places other than the locations published in the approved meeting calendar, or are convened to times other than a regular meeting time, the board will provide notice of the meeting in the same manner as provided for special meetings. All regular meetings of the board will be held within the district boundaries. A regular business meeting will include the opportunity for patron and staff testimony on issues before the board or issues important to the individual.

B. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the president or at the request of a majority of the board members. A written notice of a special meeting, stating the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted, will be delivered to each board member. Written notice will also be delivered to each newspaper and radio or television station that has filed a written request for such notices. Written notice may be delivered personally, by mail, facsimile, or electronic mail. The notice must be posted on the district's website.

The district must also prominently display the notice at the main entrance of the district's headquarters as well as at the location of the meeting if the meeting is held at a location other than the headquarters.

All required notices must be delivered or posted not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting.

A board member waives the written notice requirement if he or she:

1. Submits a written waiver of notice to the board secretary at or prior to the time the meeting convenes. The waiver may be given by telegram, fax, or electronic mail; or
2. Is actually present at the time the meeting convenes.

The board will not take final disposition on any matter other than those items stated in the meeting notice.

C. Emergency Meetings

In the event of an emergency involving fire, flood, earthquake, possible personal injury, or property damage, the board may meet immediately and take official action without prior notification.

Public Notice

The board will give proper public notice for any special meeting; whenever a regular meeting is adjourned to another time; or when a regular meeting is to be held at a place other than the location published in the approved board meeting calendar.

All meetings will be open to the public with the exception of executive or closed sessions authorized by law. The board will take final action resulting from executive session discussions during a meeting open to the public as required by law.

Individuals with disabilities who may need a modification to participate in a meeting should contact the superintendent's office no later than three days before a regular meeting and as soon as possible in advance of a special meeting so that accommodations can be made.

During the interim between meetings, the office of the superintendent, as board secretary, will be the office of the board. The district's public records will be open for inspection in the manner provided by and subject to the limitation of the law.

Quorum and Voting

A quorum consists of the majority of all board members. For school boards with five members, three board members constitute a quorum. A quorum is required for the transaction of business, including voting. Board members are not required to be physically present to attend a board meeting. Any or all board members may attend a board meeting and vote via any communication platform that provides simultaneous aural communication with those in attendance. Additionally, any meeting held via a communication platform must: 1) include proper notice with any required passwords or authorization codes; 2) be known and accessible to the public; and 3) accommodate any member of the public who wishes to participate.

The board will take no action by secret ballot at any meeting required to be open to the public. Generally, the board votes on motions and resolutions by "voice" vote, unless a board member requests to vote by oral roll call, in which case the board will do so. A motion passes when a majority of those board members present and voting vote in favor. However, a majority vote of *all* board members is required to elect or select a superintendent or board officer and the board must vote on these matters by an oral roll call. The board will vote by an oral roll call whenever required by law.

Meeting Conduct and Order of Business

The board will conduct all board meetings in a civil, orderly, and business-like manner. The board uses *Roberts Rules of Order (Revised)* as a guide, except when board bylaws or policies supersede such rules. During board meetings, board members will refrain from communicating electronically (e.g., by e-mail, text, social media) with their fellow board members.

The board will use the agenda to establish its regular order of business. However, either the superintendent or a board member may request additions or changes to the prepared agenda, and the board may adopt a revised agenda or order of business by a majority vote of the board members present. At a special meeting, the board may take final action only on that business contained in the notice of the special meeting.

Public Attendance and Comment

Any member of the public may attend board meetings, including individuals who do not live within district boundaries. The board will not require people to sign in, complete questionnaires, or establish other conditions for attendance.

The board recognizes the value of public comment on educational issues and the importance of involving members of the public in its meetings. In order to permit fair and orderly expression of public comment, the board business meeting agenda will provide a period at the beginning of the meeting during which visitors may address the board on any topic within the scope of the board's responsibility. The board may structure the public comment period, including determining the total time allotted for public comment and equally apportioning the minutes for each speaker. The board has determined to allocate a period of up to thirty (30) minutes for this purpose, with each speaker allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes. The board may, but is not obligated to, provide additional public comment time to accommodate everyone in attendance who wishes to speak. Any structure the board imposes will be content neutral.

The board may require those who wish to speak (but not all attendees) to sign in so that the board has a tally of individuals who wish to speak and can call them forward. When called forward, individuals will identify themselves and proceed to make comments within the time limits established by the board.

The board is not obligated to respond to questions or challenges made during the public comment period and the board's silence will not signal agreement or endorsement of the speaker's remarks. The board may control the time, place, and manner of public comment. The chair/president may terminate an individual's statement when the allotted time has passed and may interrupt a speaker to require the same standard of civility that the board imposes on itself. Examples of uncivil comments include comments that:

- Are libelous or slanderous;
- Are an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
- Are obscene or indecent pursuant to the Federal Communications Act or any rule or regulation of the Federal Communications Commission;
- Violate school district policy or procedure related to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or discrimination;
- Incite an unlawful act on school premises or violate a lawful school regulation; or
- Create a material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the board meeting.

The board as a whole has the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings and can maintain order by removing those who are disruptive. However, the board recognizes the distinction between uncivil discourse, which it will not tolerate, and comments about the board, district, and/or staff that are negative yet still civil in nature, and will exercise its authority to maintain order in a content neutral manner.

In addition to the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting, the board will identify the agenda items that require or would benefit from opportunity for public comment and provide those opportunities as part of the meeting agenda before taking final action. The board has determined to allocate a period of up to thirty (30) minutes for this purpose, with each speaker allowed a maximum of three (3) minutes. Individuals or groups who wish to present to the board on an agenda item are encouraged to request and schedule such presentations in advance. Opportunity for public comment—both oral and written—is required before the board adopts or amends a policy that is not expressly or by implication authorized under state or federal law, but which will promote the education of K-12 students, or will promote the effective, efficient, or safe management and operation of the district. Additionally, the board will provide an opportunity for a representative of a firm eligible to bid on materials or services solicited by the board to present about his or her firm.

Policy Governance: GP-2-E3 Board Meetings
GP-2-E4 Quorum

Cross Reference: Policy 1220 Board Officers and Duties of Board Members
Policy 1410 Executive or Closed Sessions
Policy 1420 Proposed Agenda and Consent Agenda

Legal References: RCW 28A.330.020 Certain board elections, manner and vote required
RCW 28A.320.040 Directors — Bylaws for board and school government
RCW 28A.330.070 Office of board — Records available for public inspection
RCW 28A.343.370 Directors — Vacancies
RCW 28A.343.380 Directors — Meetings
RCW 28A.343.390 Directors — Quorum — Failure to attend meetings
RCW 42.30.030 Meetings declared open and public
RCW 42.30.050 Interruptions — Procedure
RCW 42.30.060 Open Public Meetings — Voting by secret ballot prohibited
RCW 42.30.070 Time and places for meetings-Emergencies-Exception
RCW 42.30.080 Special meetings
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act

Management Resources:

2018 – August Issue

Policy & Legal News, June 2014

Policy & Legal News, April 2013

Policy News, June 2012

Policy News, June 2005

Meeting conduct policy revised

Special Meetings Requirements

Special Meeting Notice Requirement

Adoption Date: 09.14.10
Washougal School District
Revised: 05.27.14; 11.04.14; 04.09.19
Annual Review: 10.11.22

Meeting Conduct, Order of Business and Quorum

The district must advertise all meetings, including study sessions and retreats, as meetings that are open to the public. If a board wishes to devote all or most of a special meeting to an issue(s) to be discussed in executive session (Policy 1410), the special meeting should be called to order and recessed to an executive session. The purpose of the executive session should be announced at the meeting and recorded in the minutes (e.g., real estate matters, litigation).

All regular meetings must be held within the district boundaries. Special meetings may be held outside the district with proper notice of the time and location.

Meeting Notices

All public notices of board meetings should inform persons with disabilities that they may contact the superintendent's office, so that the district can arrange for them to participate in board meetings. A regular meeting does not require a public notice if held at the time and place provided by board policy. If the board does not meet at the meeting location identified in the adopted annual calendar, the meeting should be treated as a special meeting with proper notice to the press stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting. The proposed agenda for regular and special meetings will be posted to the district website not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the start time of the meeting.

For special meetings, a district is required to notify those newspapers and radio and television stations that have filed a request for such notification. The district must also provide written notice and a printed or electronic copy of the agenda to each school director 24 hours prior to the meeting. Notice to a director is deemed waived if the director files a written notice of waiver with the board secretary before or at the time of the commencement of the meeting or by the director's actual attendance at the meeting.

The district must also post notice of the meeting on the district's website, the door of the main district offices and the door at the location of the meeting if it is different than the district's offices. The district does not have to post on its website if it: (1) doesn't have one; (2) employs fewer than ten full-time equivalent employees; or (3) does not have an employee whose job description or employment contract provides a duty to maintain or update the website.

At a special meeting, the board may discuss items that were not on the original agenda, but the board cannot take final action on any topics that were not identified on the original agenda. If the board is to discuss an item in executive session in accordance with Policy 1410, the item of business must also appear on the agenda if final action is to be taken following the executive session.

No meeting notice is required when the board is acting as a quasi-judicial body in a matter between named parties (e.g., hearing on discharge, non-renewal or discipline of an employee, unless the employee requests a public meeting; hearing regarding suspension or expulsion of a student); or for the purpose of planning or adopting strategy or positions to be taken in collective bargaining, grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing such proposals made by a bargaining unit.

Meeting Recess and Continuation

The board may recess a regular, special or recessed meeting to a specific future time. The district must post notice of such a recess and continuation at or near the door of the meeting room. Notification to the press is not required.