

Bylaws of the Board

Meeting Conduct

Meeting Procedures: All Governing Board meetings shall begin on time and shall be guided by an agenda prepared in accordance with Board bylaws and posted and distributed in accordance the Ralph M. Brown Act (open meeting requirements) and other applicable laws. The Board president shall conduct meetings in accordance with Board bylaws and Sturgis Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, which enable Board members to efficiently consider issues and carry out the will of the majority.

Quorum: A majority of the number of filled positions on the Board constitutes a quorum. (EC 5095, 35165) Unless otherwise provided by law, affirmative votes by a majority are required to approve any action under consideration, regardless of the number of members present. (EC 35164)

Abstentions:

The Board believes that when no conflict of interest requires abstention, its members have a duty to vote on issues before them. When a member abstains, his/her abstention shall not be counted for purposes of determining whether a majority of the membership of the Board has taken action.

Public Participation:

Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda or within the Board's jurisdiction. So as not to inhibit public participation, persons attending Board meetings shall not be requested to sign in, complete a questionnaire, or otherwise provide their name or other information as a condition of attending the meeting.

In order to conduct District business in an orderly and efficient way, the Board requires that public presentations comply with the following procedures:

1. The Board shall give members of the public an opportunity to address the Board on any item of interest to the public that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, either before or during the Board's consideration of the item. (Education Code [35145.5](#), Government Code [54954.3](#))
2. At a time so designated on the agenda, members of the public may bring before the Board, at a regular meeting, matters that are not listed on the agenda. The Board may refer such a matter to the Superintendent or designee or take it under advisement, but shall not take action at that time except as allowed by law. The matter may be placed on the agenda of a subsequent meeting for action or discussion by the Board. (EC 35145.5, GC 54954.2)
3. Without taking action, Board members or District staff members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by the public about items not appearing on the agenda. Additionally, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a Board or staff member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his/her own activities (Government Code 54954.2). Furthermore, the Board or a Board member may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, ask staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action directing staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code 54954.2).
4. The Board need not allow the public to speak on any item that has already been considered by a committee composed exclusively of Board members at a public meeting where the public had the opportunity to address the committee on that item. However, if the Board determines that the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard it, the Board shall provide an opportunity for the public to speak (Government Code 54954.3)
5. A person wishing to be heard by the Board shall first be recognized by the president and shall then proceed to comment as briefly as the subject permits.

Individual speakers will be allowed three minutes to address the Board on each agenda or non-agenda item. The Board shall limit the total time for public input on each agenda item to 20 minutes. With Board consent, the president may increase or decrease the time allowed for public presentation, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. The president may take a poll of speakers for or against a particular issue and may ask that additional persons speak only if they have something new to add.

6. The Board president may rule on the appropriateness of a topic. If the topic would be more suitably addressed at a later time, the president may indicate the time and place when it should be presented. The Board shall not prohibit public criticism of its policies, procedures, programs, services, acts, or omissions. In addition, the Board may not prohibit public criticism of District employees. Whenever a member of the public initiates specific complaints or charges against an employee, the Board president shall inform the complainant that in order to protect the employee's right to adequate notice before a hearing of such complaints and charges and also to preserve the ability of the Board to legally consider the complaints or charges in any subsequent evaluation of the employee, it is the policy of the Board to hear such complaints or charges in closed session unless otherwise requested by the employee pursuant to Government Code 54957.
7. The Board president shall not permit any disturbance or willful interruption of Board meetings. Persistent disruption by an individual or group, shall be grounds for the chair to terminate the privilege of addressing the Board. The Board may remove disruptive individuals and order the room cleared if necessary; in this case, members of the media not participating in the disturbance shall be allowed to remain, and individual(s) not participating in such disturbances may be allowed to remain at the discretion of the Board. When the room is ordered cleared due to a disturbance, further Board proceedings shall concern only matters appearing on the agenda. When such disruption occurs, The Superintendent or designee may contact local law enforcement.

Recording by the Public:

The Superintendent or designee shall designate locations from which members of the public may broadcast, photograph, or tape record open meetings without causing a distraction. If the Board finds that noise, illumination, or obstruction of view related to these activities would persistently disrupt the proceedings, these activities shall be discontinued or restricted as determined by the Board.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

[5095](#) Powers of remaining board members and new appointees

[32210](#) Willful disturbance of public school or meeting a misdemeanor

[35010](#) Prescription and enforcement of rules

[35145.5](#) Agenda; public participation; regulations

[35163](#) Official actions, minutes and journal

[35164](#) Vote requirements

[35165](#) Effect of vacancies upon majority and unanimous votes by seven member board

GOVERNMENT CODE

[54953.5](#) Audio or video tape recording of proceedings

[54953.6](#) Broadcasting of proceedings

[54954.2](#) Agenda; posting; action on other matters

[54954.3](#) Opportunity for public to address legislative body; regulations

[54957](#) Closed sessions

[54957.9](#) Disorderly conduct of general public during meeting; clearing of room