

OSBA Model Sample Policy

Code: BD/BDA
Adopted:

Board Meetings

{School boards must follow public meeting law regardless of whether the board adopts this policy. This policy reflects public meeting law as amended by House Bill 2805 (2023).}

The Board has the authority to act only when a quorum is present at a duly called regular, special or emergency meeting. “Meeting” means the convening¹ of a quorum of the Board as the district’s governing body to make a decision² or to deliberate³ toward a decision on any matter. This includes meeting for the purpose of gathering information to serve as the basis for a subsequent decision or recommendation by the Board, i.e. a work session. “Meeting” does not include any on-site inspection of any project or program or the attendance of members of the Board at any national, regional or state association to which the Board or its members belong.

The affirmative vote of the majority of members of the Board is required to transact any business.

All regular, special and emergency meetings of the Board will be open to the public except as provided by law. Access to and the ability to attend all meetings (excluding executive sessions) by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means will be made available when reasonably possible. All meetings will be conducted in compliance with state and federal statutes. [For information how to give or submit public comment [it is outlined in Board policy BDDH - Public Comment at Board Meetings⁴] [and/or] [posted on the district’s website].]

All Board meetings, including Board retreats and work sessions, will be held within district boundaries, except as allowed by law⁵. The Board may attend training sessions outside the district boundaries but cannot deliberate or discuss district business. No meeting will be held at any place where discrimination

¹ “Convening” means: (a) Gathering in a physical location; (b) Using electronic, video or telephonic technology to be able to communicate contemporaneously among participants; (c) Using serial electronic written communications among participants; or (d) Using an intermediary to communicate among participants.

² “Decision” means any determination, action, vote or final disposition upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, ordinance or measure on which a vote of a governing body is required, at any meeting at which a quorum is present.

³ “Deliberation” means discussion or communication that is part of a decision-making process.

[⁴ When telephone or other electronic means of communication is used during a meeting open to the public, the Board shall make at least one place available to the public where, or at least one electronic means by which, the public can listen during the meeting. At all meetings of the Board open to the public, the public will be provided an opportunity, to the extent reasonably possible, to access and attend the meeting by telephone, video or other electronic or virtual means. If in-person oral testimony (or public comment) is allowed, the public will be provided, to the extent reasonably possible, an opportunity to submit oral testimony during the meeting[, at the designated portion of the agenda,] by telephone, video or other electronic or other means. If in-person written testimony is allowed, the public will be provided, to the extent reasonably possible, an opportunity to submit written testimony including by email or other electronic means, so that the Board is able to consider the submitted testimony in a timely manner.]

⁵ ORS 192.630(4). Meetings of the governing body of a public body shall be held within the geographic boundaries over which the public body has jurisdiction, or at the administrative headquarters of the public body or at the other nearest practical location. Training sessions may be held outside the jurisdiction if no deliberations toward a decision are involved.

on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or national origin is practiced.

The Board will give public notice reasonably calculated to give actual notice to interested persons, including the news media which have requested notice, of the time and place for all Board meetings and of the principal subjects to be considered. The Board may consider additional subjects at a meeting, even if they are not included in the notice.

If requested to do so at least 48 hours before a meeting held in public, the Board shall make a good faith effort to provide an interpreter for hearing-impaired persons. If the meeting is being held upon less than 48 hours' notice and a request for an interpreter is made, the Board shall make a reasonable effort to have an interpreter present. Other appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request and appropriate advance notice.

[⁶] If requested to do so at least [72] hours before a meeting held in public, the Board will make a reasonable effort to provide translation services.]

All meetings held in public shall comply with the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act.

[The possession of dangerous or deadly weapons and firearms, as defined in law and Board policy, is prohibited on district property.]

1. Regular, Special and Emergency Meetings

Generally, a regular Board meeting will be held each month. The regular meeting schedule will be established at the annual organizational meeting and may be changed by the Board with proper notice. The purpose of each regular monthly meeting will be to conduct the regular Board business.

No later than the next regular meeting following July 1, the Board will hold the annual organizational meeting to elect Board officers for the coming year and to establish the year's schedule of Board meetings. In Board election years (odd numbered years), the first meeting will be held no later than July 31.

Special meetings can be convened by the Board chair, upon request of three Board members, or by common consent of the Board at any time to discuss any topic. [A special meeting may be scheduled if less than a quorum is present at a meeting, additional business still needs to be conducted at the ending time of a meeting, conducting business prior to the next regular meeting would be advantageous to the district or other reasons.] At least 24 hours' notice must be provided to all Board members, the news media which have requested notice, and the general public for any special meeting.

Emergency meetings can be called by the Board in the case of an actual emergency upon appropriate notice under the circumstances. The minutes of the emergency meeting must describe the emergency. Only topics necessitated by the emergency may be discussed or acted upon at the emergency meeting.

⁶ {Districts are encouraged to evaluate translation needs and resources prior to adding this language. A district may decide that translating the agenda, minutes or other documents, or public comment is sufficient.}

2. Communications Outside of Board Meetings

Communications, to, by and among a quorum of Board members outside of a legally called Board meeting, in their capacity as Board members, shall not be used for the purpose of discussing district business. This includes electronic, video or telephonic communications, serial electronic communications among participants and using an intermediary to communicate among participants. Such communications among Board members shall be limited to messages not involving deliberation, debate, decision-making or gathering of information on which to deliberate.

Communications outside of a Board meeting may contain:

- a. Communications to, between or among members of a governing body that are:
 - (1) Purely factual or educational in nature and that convey no deliberation or decision on any matter that might reasonably come before the Board (including agendas and information concerning agenda items);
 - (2) Not related to any matter that, at any time, could reasonably be foreseen to come before the Board for deliberation and decision; or
 - (3) Nonsubstantive in nature, such as communication relating to scheduling, leaves of absence and other similar matters; or
- b. Individual responses to questions posed by community members, subject to other limitations in Board policy.

[E-mails sent to other Board members will have the following notice:

Important: Please do not reply or forward this communication if this communication constitutes a decision or deliberation toward a decision between and among a quorum of a governing body which could be considered a public meeting. Electronic communications on district business are governed by public meetings law.]

3. Private or Social Meetings

Private or social meetings of a quorum of the Board for the purpose of making a decision or to deliberate toward a decision on any matter are prohibited by public meetings law.

4. Work Sessions

The Board may use regular or special meetings for the purpose of conducting work sessions to provide its members with opportunities for planning and thoughtful discussion. Work sessions will be conducted in accordance with state law on public meetings, including notice and minutes. [The Board [may make] [is discouraged from making] official decisions during a work session.] [Generally, Boards do not take official action during work sessions, although there is no legal prohibition to do so.]

5. Executive Sessions

Executive sessions may be held [as an agenda item] during regular, special or emergency meetings for a reason permitted by law. [(See Board policy BDC - Executive Sessions)]

Complaints regarding public meetings laws can be filed with the Board in accordance with Board policy KL – Public Complaints. The Board will respond and provide a copy of the complaint and response to the Oregon Government Ethics Commission within 21 days in accordance with state law.⁷

[⁸]Mandatory Training

Every member of the Board shall attend or view a training on public meetings law prepared or approved by the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGE) at least once during the Board member’s term of office and shall verify attendance in accordance with OGE procedures.]

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS Chapter 192](#)

[ORS 255.335](#)

[ORS 433.835 - 433.875](#)

[ORS 332.040 - 332.061](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2020); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2020).

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018).

OR. ATTY. GEN. Public Records and Meetings Manual.

⁷ See House Bill 2805 (2023) Section 5(2) for requirements of the response.

⁸ {This is required for Board members in districts with total expenditures for a fiscal year of \$1 million or more. This number will be reviewed by OGE at least once every five years. If the district has total expenditures of less than \$1 million, this language can be kept, but “shall” should be replaced with “is encouraged to.”}