

# **POLICY 104: BOARD OF EDUCATION - MEETINGS**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

### *General Operating Procedures for Board Meetings*

#### **Notice of Meeting**

Notice of all meetings shall be posted on the School District website. Except for meetings called with less than 24 hours' notice, the notice shall be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

#### **Time and Place of Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Board of Education shall be held in the Board Room and shall begin at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise decided by the Board of Education. No regular or special meeting, nor combination thereof, shall remain in session longer than three (3) hours, except by resolution of the Board of Education.

#### **Meeting Agendas**

The Secretary Treasurer in consultation with the Board Chair and Vice Chair and the Superintendent of Schools shall prepare an agenda for each Board of Education meeting. The Secretary Treasurer shall endeavour to provide the agenda and supporting materials to each Trustee 120 hours (Thursday) in advance of the meeting and no later than 24 hours prior to each regular meeting. Delivery of an agenda shall constitute notice of meeting. The agenda package shall be made available to the public on the School District website once the package has been delivered to Trustees.

Trustees who wish to have items included on the Public Board agenda may make a Notice of Motion at the Public Board meeting or may request the addition of the item to the Board Chair or Secretary Treasurer at least one (1) week in advance of the meeting.

#### **Order of Business for Regular Meetings**

The order in which the Board of Education transacts its business at regular meetings shall be substantially as follows:

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes
- Public Comment Period
- Stakeholder Comment Period
- Action Items
- Information and Proposals
- Field Trips
- Superintendent's Report
- Trustee Reports
- Future Meetings
- Public Question and Comment Period
- Adjournment.

A change to the order of business may be proposed by any Trustee and shall require consent of those present without debate.

### **Quorum**

A quorum for all Public, Special and In-Camera Board meetings shall be a majority of Trustees holding office at that time. At the appointed time for commencement of a meeting, the Chair shall ascertain that a quorum is present before proceeding to the business of the meeting. No business of the Board of Education shall be conducted unless a quorum is present.

### **Public Comment Period**

After approval of the minutes, the Board of Education will provide a twenty (20) minute public comment period restricted to items on the Board of Education agenda. Speakers will be allocated a maximum of two (2) minutes each. Each speaker is to provide their name, address and topic in writing on a form provided. Ten (10) spaces will be available on a first come first served basis. A waitlist will be created should there be more than ten (10) members of the public who wish to speak. In the circumstance where multiple members of the public have spoken on the same issue and if there are more members of the public who wish to speak on a different issue, the Chair, with approval of the Board of Education, may add ten (10) minutes for members of the public who wish to speak on a different topic(s). The same procedure will apply. The Board of Education will not respond to comments made during the Public Comment Period but may direct questions to staff related to the public comments. Members of the public wishing to discuss their concerns with Trustees should contact them before and/or after the meeting, by telephone or e-mail.

### **Stakeholder Comment Period:**

After Public Comment Period, the Board of Education will provide a twenty-five (25) minute Stakeholder Comment Period restricted to items on the Board of Education agenda (B and C items). Each stakeholder group will have five (5) minutes to speak to one (1) or multiple agenda items within their allotted time. The Board of Education will not respond to comments made during the Stakeholder Comment Period but will have five (5) minutes allotted to ask clarifying questions. During regular Board discussion of B and C agenda items, the Board of Education may direct questions to staff related to the Stakeholder comments.

The Stakeholder groups recognized by the Board of Education are: CUPE, NVTA, NOVA, NVPAC, and DSLC.

### **Rules of Order at Regular Meetings**

It is the intention of the Board of Education that its meetings be conducted in a dignified and efficient manner. Rules of order will be applied as a means of assisting the conduct of Board of Education business without providing undue formality or hindering useful discussion.

Except where otherwise provided in the *School Act* or in Board of Education policy, the procedures included in *Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)* shall govern the conduct of meetings. The Secretary Treasurer will serve as parliamentarian, providing procedural advice to the Board.

### **Time Limits on Speech**

Trustees speaking at a Board meeting shall adhere to the following rules:

- a) A Trustee may ask questions of clarification about the matter under consideration. Questions of clarification will not be counted in the time allotted for speaking to the question;

- b) A Trustee may speak to a question, or may speak in reply, for a maximum of three (3) minutes;
- c) After all other Trustees have had an opportunity to speak, Trustees may speak to a question, or may speak in reply for a second time for a further three (3) minutes;
- d) Trustees may only speak for a third time with the permission of the Chair of the meeting.

### **Attendance**

Trustees are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of the Board of Education. Meeting attendance for Public Board Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings will be taken and made public by September of each year. Attendance will be recorded as:

- Present
- Absent
- Absent – Illness
- Absent – Personal
- Absent – Leave of the Board of Education

### **Telephone and Electronic Participation**

In accordance with Section 67 (6) of the *School Act*, the Board of Education shall allow Trustees to participate in or attend a meeting of the Board of Education by telephone or other means of communication if all Trustees and other persons participating in or attending the meeting are able to clearly communicate with each other. The Board of Education believes that Trustees must be publicly accessible and accountable to the electorate. Therefore, this form of participation should be used sparingly and only under extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, illness, family emergency, unavoidable travel, and extreme weather conditions. A Trustee participating in this way will be counted for the purposes of establishing a quorum.

### **Public Question and Comment Period**

A twenty-minute question period will be provided at the end of a regular Board of Education meeting during which attendees may provide comments or ask questions of the Board of Education on business conducted during that meeting or on any matter pertaining to the School District. The Chair may defer a response if a question cannot be answered at that time.

While the Board of Education believes that communication with the public is extremely important, the regular Board of Education meeting is the formally designated means of transacting Board of Education business and is not the appropriate setting for general discussion. The question and comment period is provided as a means for ensuring that residents present in the audience have an opportunity to obtain clarification concerning the meeting's proceedings, ask brief questions, or provide comments on other School District matters.

Residents who have more in-depth concerns or complex issues than cannot be suitably addressed during the comment and question period are encouraged to contact Trustees or staff individually or, if desired, to arrange a formal presentation on the Board agenda. In general, Board of Education policy indicates that questions or concerns are best handled as near the location of the issue as possible. Matters currently under negotiation, litigation, or related to personnel, will not be discussed in public session.

### **Delegations at Meetings**

As a vehicle for affirming its policy of open Board-community relations and the rights of citizens to make their views known to the Board of Education, delegations are welcome to express such views at regular

Board of Education meetings or a Standing Committee meeting. Since issues can be considered and deliberated in more detail at the Committee level, whenever possible, the delegation may be requested to present at a Standing Committee meeting that relates to the topic.

Requests for delegations at a regular Board of Education meeting should be made in writing at least two (2) weeks in advance to either the Board Chair or the Secretary Treasurer. Requests to Standing Committees should be sent to the attention of the Secretary Treasurer at least two (2) weeks in advance.

A written statement outlining the issues should be presented at the time of the request for an appointment. Each delegation will be requested to name a spokesperson that will present the information to the Board of Education or Standing Committee and act as a contact person to whom the Board of Education may direct a reply at a later date. The delegation will be expected to limit any presentation to ten (10) minutes, followed by questions and comments. The Board of Education will ordinarily take the presentation under advisement and may take action after due deliberation, usually at a subsequent meeting. If circumstances warrant, the Board of Education may receive such delegation "in-camera".

If a delegation has already presented its brief at a Board of Education and/or Standing Committee meeting, its request to appear again before the Board of Education and or Standing Committee may be denied unless the delegation has new information that is significantly different from the information already presented. Such information must be provided in writing to the Secretary Treasurer.

### **Minutes of Board Meetings**

The Secretary Treasurer shall record proceedings of all Board of Education meetings and keep on file the official copy of the minutes as well as necessary associated background materials. The minutes will contain a record of official actions taken and the general nature of the discussions for background purposes only but will not contain an account of comments or opinions expressed by individual Trustees. Wherever reasonable, Board of Education resolutions should include a complete record of recommendations acted upon or actions intended. A draft summary of motions will be posted on the School District website within three (3) days of the Board of Education meeting, whenever possible. Minutes of regular meetings will be available on the School District's website after they have been approved by the Board of Education (after the next Board of Education meeting). Copies may be obtained for an appropriate fee, in compliance with the *School Act*.

### ***Audiovisual Recording of Regular and Special Meetings***

- a) Public meetings of the Board of Education may be recorded by any member of the public, provided that notice is given by the Board of Education in advance of the meeting. This notice must be included as a notation to the Board of Education agenda and announced at the beginning of the meeting.
- b) Audiovisual recording (including live-streaming) is strictly limited to the Board of Education's proceedings.
- c) The filming of minors is not permitted unless prior consent, in accordance with the School District's procedures for student image release permissions and the protection of student personal information, has been secured.
- d) Personal recordings of board meetings are not the property or responsibility of the Board of Education. Any resulting audiovisual recording is not considered an official record of the meeting and the Board of Education is under no obligation to accept personal recordings as such.
- e) At no time may recording disrupt the view or hearing of attendees.

- f) At no time may recording disrupt the proceedings of the meeting.
- g) Requests made by an individual member of the public, who is not a Trustee, not to be recorded should be directed to the Chair in advance of the meeting. The Chair will communicate to the gallery accordingly. Where an advance request is not possible, the Chair will accommodate the request with appropriate direction as necessary.
- h) Staff of the North Vancouver School District who are invited to speak or present at a meeting do so with the understanding that they may be recorded.
- i) There shall be no recording of tablet screens or digital resources used at the Board of Education table, excluding public presentation materials.
- j) The Board of Education reserves the right to request that any recording that disrupts its proceedings or contravenes this, or any other Board of Education policy, be stopped immediately. The minutes of the meeting will record that such direction was given.
- k) Where a concern arises involving inappropriate recording or sharing of personally recorded audiovisual material, the Board of Education will review the use and may take action to request that the recording be deleted/destroyed.
- l) Any violations of these procedures are the sole responsibility of the individuals who make and distribute the recording and the Board of Education accepts no responsibility for the quality, completeness misuse, distortion, distribution, maintenance, access, preservation or destruction of such recordings.