
MEETING CONDUCT

Meeting Procedures

All Board of Directors (Board) meetings shall begin on time and shall follow an agenda prepared in accordance with the Bylaws and posted and distributed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (open meeting requirements), the Charter Schools Act and other applicable laws.

The Board believes that late night meetings deter public participation, can affect the Board's decision-making ability, and can be a burden to staff. Regular board meetings shall be adjourned at 10:00 p.m. unless extended to a specific time determined by a majority of the Board. The meeting shall be extended no more than once and subsequently may be adjourned to a later date.

Role of the Board Chair

To ensure that board meetings are conducted in an efficient, transparent, and orderly manner, the Chair of the Board shall:

1. Call the meeting to order at the appointed time and preside over the meeting
2. Announce the business to come before the Board in its proper order
3. Enforce the Board's Bylaws related to the conduct of meetings and help ensure compliance with applicable requirements of the Brown Act
4. Recognize persons who desire to speak, and protect the speaker who has the floor from disturbance or interference
5. Facilitate the Board's effective deliberation, ensuring that each board member has an opportunity to participate in the deliberation and that the discussion remains focused
6. Rule on issues of parliamentary procedure
7. Put motions to a vote, and clearly state the results of the vote

When the Chair of the Board resigns or is absent, a Vice Chair, the Clerk or designee may perform the Chair's duties.

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.

In order to conduct non-profit corporation business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board

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requires that public presentations to the Board 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.
2. At a time so designated on the agenda at a regular meeting, members of the public may bring before the Board matters that are not listed on the agenda. The Board shall take no action or discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except as authorized by law.
3. Without taking action, Board members or non-profit corporation 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 their own activities.

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.

4. A person wishing to be heard by the Board shall first be recognized by the Chair and shall then proceed to comment as briefly as the subject permits.

Individual speakers shall 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 item to 20 minutes. The Chair of the Board may increase or decrease the time allowed for public presentation, depending on the topic and the number of persons wishing to be heard. The Chair 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.

In order to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the Board, any member of the public who utilizes a translator shall be provided at least twice the allotted time to address the Board, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used to allow the Board to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.

5. The Chair of the Board may rule on the appropriateness of a topic, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. If a topic would be suitably addressed at a later time, the Chair may indicate the time and place when it should be presented.

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- b. The Board shall not prohibit public criticism of its policies, procedures, programs, services, acts, or omissions.
 - c. The Board shall not prohibit public criticism of non-profit corporation employees. However, whenever a member of the public initiates specific complaints or charges against an individual employee, the Chair of the Board shall inform the complainant of the appropriate complaint procedure.
6. The Chair of the Board shall not permit any disturbance or willful interruption of board meetings. Persistent disruption by an individual or group or any conduct or statements that threaten the safety of any person(s) at the meeting 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 individuals 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 disruptive conduct occurs, the Executive Director or designee shall contact local law enforcement as necessary.

Recording by the Public

Members of the public may record Board meetings using an audio or video recorder, still or motion picture camera, cell phone, or other device, provided that the noise, illumination, or obstruction of view does not persistently disrupt the meeting. The Executive Director or designee may designate locations from which members of the public may make such recordings 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.