

**IASB POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL  
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## **School Board**

### **School District Governance**

The District is governed by a School Board consisting of seven members. The Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt, enforce, and monitor all policies for the management and governance of the District's schools.

Official action by the Board may only occur at a duly called and legally conducted meeting. Except as otherwise provided by the Open Meetings Act, a quorum must be physically present at the meeting.

As stated in the Board member oath of office prescribed by the School Code, a Board member has no legal authority as an individual.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

105 ILCS 5/10-1, 5/10-10, 5/10-12, 5/10-16.5, 5/10-16.7, and 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (School District Legal Status), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)

ADOPTED: November 11, 2021

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## **School Board**

### **Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification**

The major powers and duties of the School Board include, but are not limited to:

1. Organizing the Board after each consolidated election by electing officers and establishing its regular meeting schedule and, thereafter, taking action during lawfully called meetings to faithfully fulfill the Board's responsibilities in accordance with State and federal law.
2. Formulating, adopting, and modifying Board policies, at its sole discretion, subject only to mandatory collective bargaining agreements and State and federal law.
3. Employing a Superintendent and other personnel, making employment decisions, dismissing personnel, including determining whether an employee has willfully or negligently failed to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by 325 ILCS 5/, and establishing an equal employment opportunity policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination.
4. Directing, through policy, the Superintendent, in his or her charge of the District's administration.
5. Approving the annual budget, tax levies, major expenditures, payment of obligations, annual audit, and other aspects of the District's financial operation; and making available a statement of financial affairs as provided in State law.
6. Entering contracts using the public bidding procedure when required.
7. Providing, constructing, controlling, and maintaining adequate physical facilities; making school buildings available for use as civil defense shelters; and establishing a resource conservation policy.
8. Establishing an equal educational opportunities policy that prohibits unlawful discrimination.
9. Approving the curriculum, textbooks, and educational services.
10. Evaluating the educational program and approving School Improvement and District Improvement Plans.
11. Presenting the District report card and School report card(s) to parents/guardians and the community; these documents report District, School, and student performance.
12. Establishing and supporting student behavior policies designed to maintain an environment conducive to learning, including deciding individual student suspension or expulsion cases brought before it.
13. Establishing attendance units within the District and assigning students to the schools.
14. Establishing the school year.
15. Requiring a moment of silence to recognize veterans during any type of school event held at a District school on November 11.
16. Providing student transportation services pursuant to State law.
17. Entering into joint agreements with other boards to establish cooperative educational programs or provide educational facilities.

18. Complying with requirements in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (ANCRA). Specifically, each individual Board member must, if an allegation is raised to the member during an open or closed Board meeting that a student is an abused child as defined in ANCRA, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with ANCRA's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.
19. Notifying the State Superintendent of Education promptly and in writing of the name of a licensed teacher who was convicted of a felony, along with the conviction and the name and location of the court where the conviction occurred.
20. Notifying the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) of the State of Ill. Board of Trustees promptly and in writing when it learns that a teacher as defined in the Ill. Pension Code was convicted of a felony, along with the name and location of the court where the conviction occurred, and the case number assigned by that court to the conviction.
21. Communicating the schools' activities and operations to the community and representing the needs and desires of the community in educational matters.

#### Indemnification

To the extent allowed by law, the Board shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless School Board members, employees, volunteer personnel (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/10-22.34, 10-22.34a and 10-22.34b), mentors of certified staff (pursuant to 105 ILCS 5/2-3.53a, 2-3.53b, and 105 ILCS 5/21A-5 et seq.), and student teachers who, in the course of discharging their official duties imposed or authorized by law, are sued as parties in a legal proceeding. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as obligating the Board to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless any person who engages in criminal activity, official misconduct, fraud, intentional or willful and wanton misconduct, or acts beyond the authority properly vested in the individual.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10, 5/17-1, 5/21B-85, and 5/27-1.  
115 ILCS 5/, Ill. Educational Labor Relations Act.  
325 ILCS 5/, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

CROSS REF.: 1:10 (School District Legal Status), 1:20 (District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements), 2:10 (School District Governance), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 4:70 (Resource Conservation), 4:100 (Insurance Management), 4:110 (Transportation), 4:150 (Facility Management and Building Programs), 4:165 (Awareness and Prevention of Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors), 4:175 (Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:150 (Personnel Records), 5:210 (Resignations), 5:290 (Employment Termination and Suspensions), 6:10 (Educational Philosophy and Objectives), 6:15 (School Accountability), 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:30 (Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer), 7:190 (Student Behavior), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2023

## School Board

### Exhibit - Waiver and Modification Request Resource Guide

| Waiver or Modification   | Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources   |
|--|--|
| <p>Exemptions from Unfunded Mandates, 105 ILCS 5/22-60.</p>  | <p><b>Explanation</b></p> <p>Applies to unfunded or under-funded: (1) mandates in the School Code enacted after 8-20-10, or (2) regulatory mandates promulgated by the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) and adopted by rule after 8-20-10, other than those promulgated with respect to 105 ILCS 5/22-60 or statutes already enacted on or before 8-20-10.</p> <p>Allows the District to petition its Regional Superintendent or a Suburban Cook County Intermediate Service Center, whichever is appropriate, to request exemption from implementing the mandate in school(s) in the next school year.</p> <p><b>Special Considerations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whether the significance of the unfunded or under-funded mandate justifies the effort needed to seek an exemption, and</li> <li>2. The advisability of simultaneously seeking a waiver or modification using Section 2-3.25g (see <i>Explanation</i> section in the row below).</li> </ol> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>ISBE Rules and Waivers division at:<br/> <a href="http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx">www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx</a>, (217) 782-5270, or <a href="mailto:waivers@isbe.net">waivers@isbe.net</a>.</p> |
| <p>School Code Mandates and ISBE Rules, 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g, amended by P.A. 100-465; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.100.</p> | <p><b>Explanation</b></p> <p>There are two options for the District (explanations are listed below each option):</p> <p><b>Option 1: Petition ISBE</b> for a <i>waiver</i> of School Code mandates; ISBE forwards the petition for waiver to the Ill. General Assembly for consideration in its next-scheduled report.</p> <p><b>Option 2: Petition ISBE</b> for one or more of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A <i>modification</i> of the mandates in the School Code (this is different than asking for a <i>waiver</i> of mandates in the School Code).</li> <li>2. A <i>waiver</i> of ISBE administrative rules.</li> <li>3. A <i>modification</i> of ISBE administrative rules.</li> </ol>   |

| Waiver or Modification | Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources   |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | <p>For <b>Option 1</b>, a <i>waiver of mandates in the School Code</i>, the District must demonstrate that the waiver is necessary to: (a) stimulate innovation; (b) improve student performance; or (c) it can address the intent of the mandate in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g, amended by P.A. 100-465, and 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.100, list and describe mandates from which school districts may not seek a <i>waiver or modification</i>.</p> <p>For <b>Option 2</b>, a <i>modification of the mandates in the School Code</i> and/or a <i>waiver or modification of administrative rules</i>, the District must demonstrate that: (1) it can address the intent of the rule or mandate in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner; or (2) the waiver or modification is necessary to stimulate innovation or improve student performance.</p> <p>The District must also provide certain notices as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the District of the time, date, place, and general subject matter of a public hearing on the proposed waiver or modification request. This notice must be published at least seven days before the hearing.</li> <li>2. If there is no newspaper published in the county, give notice in a secular newspaper published in an adjoining county having general circulation within the District. 715 ILCS 5/2, amended by P.A. 100-72, and 715 ILCS 5/5.</li> <li>3. Post the time, date, place, and general subject matter of the public hearing on the District's website at least 14 days before the hearing. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g.</li> </ol> <p>Check the ISBE website listed below in the <i>Special Considerations</i> section for changes in notice requirements.</p> <p><b>Special Considerations</b></p> <p>The District must develop a plan supporting a waiver or modification request that meets the criteria in 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g. See <a href="http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Overview-of-the-Waiver-Process.aspx">www.isbe.net/Pages/Overview-of-the-Waiver-Process.aspx</a>. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.100.</p> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>ISBE rules at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.100 (<i>Waiver and Modification of State Board Rules and School Code Mandates</i>)</li> <li>23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.110 (<i>Appeal Process Under Section 22-60 of the School Code</i>)</li> </ul> |



| Waiver or Modification   | Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources  |
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|  | <p>ISBE waivers at: <a href="http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx">www.isbe.net/Pages/Waivers.aspx</a></p> <p>Waiver overview at: <a href="http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Overview-of-the-Waiver-Process.aspx">www.isbe.net/Pages/Overview-of-the-Waiver-Process.aspx</a></p> <p>Instructions at: <a href="http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Waiver-Application.aspx">www.isbe.net/Pages/Waiver-Application.aspx</a></p> <p>Application form at: <a href="http://www.isbe.net/documents/33-77_waiver_application.pdf">www.isbe.net/documents/33-77_waiver_application.pdf</a></p>  |
| <p>Physical Education, 105 ILCS 5/27-6, amended by P.A. 100-465.</p> <p>Driver Education, 105 ILCS 5/24.2 and 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g, amended by P.A. 100-465.</p> | <p><b>Explanation</b></p> <p>See the <i>Explanation</i> section in the row above.</p> <p><b>Special Considerations</b></p> <p>In addition to the <i>Explanation</i> section above:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Physical education</b> is managed as a <i>waiver</i> of School Code mandates discussed in the <i>Explanation</i> section above. A waiver of this School Code mandate may be in effect for up to five years. Recent legislative changes removed any cap applicable to renewal of waivers related to physical education.</li> <li>2. <b>Driver education fee increases</b> require the District to include the proposed amount of the fee increase: (a) in the public notice; and (b) on the District's website. 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g(c-5). <b>Note:</b> For a sample school district resolution to increase driver education fees, see 4:140-E3, <i>Resolution to Increase Driver Education Fees</i>.</li> </ol> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>See the <i>Resources</i> section in the row above.</p> |
| <p>Holidays, 105 ILCS 5/24-2(b).</p>   | <p><b>Explanation</b></p> <p>Allows the District to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes, parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on certain holidays without submitting a modification request to and obtaining approval from ISBE.</p> <p>After a public hearing, the District may hold school or schedule teachers' institutes, parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The third Monday in January (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday);</li> <li>2. February 12 (President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday);</li> <li>3. The first Monday in March (Casimir Pulaski Day);</li> <li>4. The second Monday in October (Columbus Day); and/or</li> </ol>  |

| Waiver or Modification  | Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources  |
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|   | <p>5. November 11 (Veterans Day).</p> <p><b>Special Considerations</b></p> <p>The Board must provide notice before the public hearing to both educators and parents/guardians with: (1) the time, date, and place of the hearing; (2) a description of the proposal; and (3) information that testimony from educators and parents/guardians will be taken about the proposal during the hearing.</p> <p>The District must prepare a proposal for recognizing the person(s) honored by the holiday through instructional activities conducted on that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance, on the first school day preceding or following that day. The District may also consider aligning the proposal with Board policies 5:200, <i>Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal</i>; 5:330, <i>Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves</i>; and 6:20, <i>School Year Calendar and Day</i>.</p> <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>See the tab labeled <i>Waivers and modifications no longer needed for legal school holiday requests, most parent-teacher conference schedules</i> on ISBE's website at: <a href="http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Modifications-of-the-School-Codes-and-Rules-of-the-State-Board.aspx">www.isbe.net/Pages/Modifications-of-the-School-Codes-and-Rules-of-the-State-Board.aspx</a>.</p> |
| <p>Parent-Teacher Conferences (Attendance Calculation), 105 ILCS 5/10-19.05(d), added by P.A. 101-12.</p> | <p>The District is allowed to count a parent-teacher conference as a full day of attendance under any of the following configurations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A minimum of five clock-hours of parent-teacher conferences;</li> <li>2. Both a minimum of two clock-hours of parent-teacher conferences held in the evening following a full day of student attendance, and a minimum of three clock-hours of parent-teacher conferences held on the day immediately following evening parent-teacher conferences; or</li> <li>3. Multiple parent-teacher conferences held in the evenings following full days of student attendance, in which the time used for the parent-teacher conferences is equivalent to a minimum of five clock-hours.</li> </ol> <p><b>Special Considerations</b></p> <p>Any other options for counting a parent-teacher conference as a full day of attendance not covered by the language above will require a waiver request to the General Assembly for its consideration.</p>  |

| Waiver or Modification | Explanation, Special Considerations, and Resources   |
|------------------------|--|
|                        | <p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>See the tab labeled <i>Waivers and modifications no longer needed for legal school holiday requests, most parent-teacher conference schedules</i> on ISBE's website at: <a href="http://www.isbe.net/Pages/Modifications-of-the-School-Codes-and-Rules-of-the-State-Board.aspx">www.isbe.net/Pages/Modifications-of-the-School-Codes-and-Rules-of-the-State-Board.aspx</a>.</p> |

ADOPTED: December 12, 2019



## **School Board**

### **School District Elections**

School District elections are non-partisan, governed by the general election laws of the State, and include the election of School Board members, various public policy propositions, and advisory questions. Board members are elected at the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years. If, however, that date conflicts with the celebration of Passover, the consolidated election is postponed to the first Tuesday following the last day of Passover. The canvass of votes is conducted by the election authority within 21 days after the election.

The Board, by proper resolution, may cause to be placed on the ballot: (a) public policy referendum according to Article 28 of the Election Code, or (b) advisory questions of public policy according to Section 9-1.5 of the School Code.

The Board Secretary serves as the local election official. He or she receives petitions for the submission of a public question to referenda and forwards them to the proper election officer and otherwise provides information to the community concerning District elections.

LEGAL REF.: 10 ILCS 5/1-3, 5/2A, 5/9, 5/10-9, 5/22-17, 5/22-18, and 5/28.  
105 ILCS 5/9.

CROSS REF.: 2:40 (Board Member Qualifications), 2:50 (Board Member Term of Office),  
2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2023



## **School Board**

### **Board Member Qualifications**

A School Board member must be, on the date of election or appointment, a United States citizen, at least 18 years of age, a resident of Illinois and the District for at least one year immediately preceding the election, and a registered voter.

Reasons making an individual ineligible for Board membership include holding an incompatible office and certain types of State or federal employment. A child sex offender, as defined in State law, is ineligible for School Board membership.

LEGAL REF.: Ill. Constitution, Art. 2, ¶ 1; Art. 4, ¶ 2(e); Art. 6, ¶ 13(b).  
105 ILCS 5/10-3 and 5/10-10.

CROSS REF.: 2:30 (School Board Elections), 2:70 (Vacancies on the School Board - Filling Vacancies)

Adopted: December 10, 2009





## **School Board**

### **Board Member Term of Office**

The term of office for a School Board member begins immediately after both of the following occur:

1. The election authority canvasses the votes and declares the winner(s); this occurs within 21 days after the consolidated election held on the first Tuesday in April in odd-numbered years.
2. The successful candidate takes the oath of office as provided in Board policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*.

The term ends 4 years later when the successor assumes office.

LEGAL REF.: 10 ILCS 5/2A-1.1, 5/22-17, and 5/22-18.  
105 ILCS 5/10-10, 5/10-16, and 5/10-16.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:30 (School District Elections), 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:210  
(Organizational School Board Meeting)

ADOPTED: January 20, 2023



## **Board of Education**

### **Board Member Removal from Office**

If a majority of the Board determines that a Board member has willfully failed to perform his or her official duties, it may request the Regional Superintendent to remove such member from office.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/3-15.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:70 (Vacancies on Board of Education - Filling Vacancies)

ADOPTED: May 4, 2009

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## **School Board**

### **Vacancies on the School Board - Filling Vacancies**

#### **Vacancy**

Elective office of a School Board member becomes vacant before the term's expiration when any of the following occurs:

1. Death of the incumbent,
2. Resignation in writing filed with the Secretary of the Board,
3. Legal disability,
4. Conviction of a felony, bribery, perjury, or other infamous crime or of any offense involving a violation of official oath or of a violent crime against a child,
5. Removal from office,
6. The decision of a competent tribunal declaring his or her election void,
7. Ceasing to be an inhabitant of the District or a particular area from which he or she was elected, if the residential requirements contained in the School Code are violated,
8. An illegal conflict of interest, or
9. Acceptance of a second public office that is incompatible with Board membership.

#### **Filling Vacancies**

Whenever a vacancy occurs, the remaining members shall notify the Regional Superintendent of Schools of that vacancy within five days after its occurrence and shall fill the vacancy until the next regular board election, at which election a successor shall be elected to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. However, if the vacancy occurs with less than 868 days remaining in the term or less than 88 days before the next regularly scheduled election, the person so appointed shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term, and no election to fill the vacancy shall be held. Members appointed by the remaining members of the Board to fill vacancies shall meet any residential requirements as specified in the School Code. The Board shall fill the vacancy within 60 days after it occurred by a public vote at a meeting of the Board.

Immediately following a vacancy on the Board, the Board will publicize it and accept résumés from District residents who are interested in filling the vacancy. After reviewing the applications, the Board may invite the prospective candidates for personal interviews to be conducted during duly scheduled closed meetings.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-10 and 5/10-11.

CROSS REF.: 2:40 (Board Member Qualifications), 2:60 (Board Member Removal from Office), 2:120 (Board Member Development)

ADOPTED: December 12, 2019

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## **School Board**

### **Board Member Oath and Conduct**

Each School Board member, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the following oath of office:

**I, (name), do solemnly swear** (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of member of the Board of Education of *(name of School District)*, in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability.

**I further swear** (or affirm) that:

**I shall respect** taxpayer interests by serving as a faithful protector of the School District's assets;

**I shall encourage** and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and others who seek a hearing before the Board, while respecting the privacy of students and employees;

**I shall recognize** that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a public Board meeting;

**I shall abide** by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels;

**As part of the Board of Education**, I shall accept the responsibility for my role in the equitable and quality education of every student in the School District;

**I shall foster** with the Board extensive participation of the community, formulate goals, define outcomes, and set the course for *(name of School District)*;

**I shall assist** in establishing a structure and an environment designed to ensure all students have the opportunity to attain their maximum potential through a sound organizational framework;

**I shall strive** to ensure a continuous assessment of student achievement and all conditions affecting the education of our children, in compliance with State law;

**I shall serve** as education's key advocate on behalf of students and our community's school (or schools) to advance the vision for *(name of School District)*; and

**I shall strive** to work together with the District Superintendent to lead the School District toward fulfilling the vision the Board has created, fostering excellence for every student in the areas of academic skills, knowledge, citizenship, and personal development.

The Board President will administer the oath in an open Board meeting; in the absence of the President, the Vice President will administer the oath. If neither is available, the Board member with the longest service on the Board will administer the oath.

The Board adopts the Illinois Association of School Boards' *Code of Conduct for Members of School Boards*. A copy of the *Code* shall be displayed in the regular Board meeting room.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.5.

CROSS REF.: 1:30 (School District Philosophy), 2:20 (Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification), 2:50 (Board Member Term of Office), 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), A2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting)

ADOPTED: August 10, 2023





## **School Board**

### **Exhibit - Board Member Code of Conduct**

As a member of my local School Board, I will do my utmost to represent the public interest in education by adhering to the following standards and principles:

1. I will represent all School District constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
2. I will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and will not use my Board membership for personal gain or publicity.
3. I will recognize that a Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a Board meeting.
4. I will take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration and will respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
5. I will abide by majority decisions of the Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
6. I will encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow Board members and will participate in Board discussions in an open, honest and respectful manner, honoring differences of opinion or perspective.
7. I will prepare for, attend and actively participate in School Board meetings.
8. I will be sufficiently informed about and prepared to act on the specific issues before the Board, and remain reasonably knowledgeable about local, State, national, and global education issues.
9. I will respectfully listen to those who communicate with the Board, seeking to understand their views, while recognizing my responsibility to represent the interests of the entire community.
10. I will strive for a positive working relationship with the Superintendent, respecting the Superintendent's authority to advise the Board, implement Board policy, and administer the District.
11. I will model continuous learning and work to ensure good governance by taking advantage of Board member development opportunities, such as those sponsored by my State and national school board associations, and encourage my fellow Board members to do the same.
12. I will strive to keep my Board focused on its primary work of clarifying the District purpose, direction and goals, and monitoring District performance.

ADOPTED: August 10, 2023



## **School Board**

### **Board Member Conflict of Interest**

No School Board member shall: (1) have a beneficial interest directly or indirectly in any contract, work, or business of the District unless permitted by State or federal law; or (2) solicit or accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors, potential contractors, or parties to agreements or contracts with the District. Situations in which the interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value must comply with State law and Board policy 2:105, *Ethics and Gift Ban*.

Board members must annually file a *Statement of Economic Interests* as required by the Illinois Governmental Ethics Act. Each Board member is responsible for filing the statement with the county clerk of the county in which the District's main office is located by May 1.

### **Federal and State Grant Awards**

No Board member shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award or State award governed by the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA) (30 ILCS 708/) if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. A conflict of interest arises when a Board member or any of the following individuals has a financial or other interest in or a tangible benefit from the entity selected for the contract:

1. A member of the Board member's immediate family;
2. The Board member's partner; or
3. An entity that employs or is about to employ the Board member or one of the individuals listed in one or two above.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-9.  
5 ILCS 420/, Ill. Governmental Ethics Act.  
30 ILCS 708/, Grant Accountability and Transparency Act.  
50 ILCS 105/3, Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act.  
2 C.F.R. §200.318(c)(1).

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2023



## **School Board**

### **Ethics and Gift Ban**

#### **Prohibited Political Activity**

The following precepts govern political activities being conducted by District employees and School Board members:

1. No employee shall intentionally perform any *political activity* during any *compensated time*, as those terms are defined herein.
2. No Board member or employee shall intentionally use any District property or resources in connection with any political activity.
3. At no time shall any Board member or employee intentionally require any other Board member or employee to perform any political activity: (a) as part of that Board member's or employee's duties, (b) as a condition of employment, or (c) during any compensated time off, such as, holidays, vacation, or personal time off.
4. No Board member or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any political activity in consideration for that Board member or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise; nor shall any Board member or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any political activity.

A Board member or employee may engage in any activity that: (1) is otherwise appropriate as part of his or her official duties, or (2) is undertaken by the individual on a voluntary basis that is not prohibited by this policy.

#### **Limitations on Receiving Gifts**

Except as permitted by this policy, no Board member or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with a Board member or employee, shall intentionally solicit or accept any *gift* from any *prohibited source*, as those terms are defined herein, or that is otherwise prohibited by law or policy. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this policy.

The following are exceptions to the ban on accepting gifts from a prohibited source:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.
2. Anything for which the Board member or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.
3. Any: (a) contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code, or (b) activities associated with a fundraising event in support of a political organization or candidate.
4. Educational materials and missions.
5. Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss business.
6. A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-

law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.

7. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as: (a) the history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals; (b) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and (c) whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other Board members or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.
8. Food or refreshments not exceeding \$75 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are: (a) consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared; or (b) catered. *Catered* means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume, which are delivered by any means.
9. Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of a Board member or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the Board member or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.
10. Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. *Intra-governmental gift* means any gift given to a Board member or employee from another Board member or employee, and *inter-governmental gift* means any gift given to a Board member or employee from an officer or employee of another governmental entity.
11. Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.
12. Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than \$100.

Each of the listed exceptions is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

A Board member or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the Board member or employee, does not violate this policy if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3).

#### Enforcement

The Board President and Superintendent shall seek guidance from the Board attorney concerning compliance with and enforcement of this policy and State ethics laws. The Board may, as necessary or prudent, appoint an Ethics Advisor for this task.

Written complaints alleging a violation of this policy shall be filed with the Superintendent or Board President. If attempts to correct any misunderstanding or problem do not resolve the matter, the Superintendent or Board President shall, after consulting with the Board Attorney, either place the alleged violation on a Board meeting agenda for the Board's disposition or refer the complainant to Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. A Board member who is related, either by blood

or by marriage, up to the degree of first cousin, to the person who is the subject of the complaint, shall not participate in any decision-making capacity for the Board. If the Board finds it more likely than not that the allegations in a complaint are true, it shall notify the State's Attorney and/or consider disciplinary action for the employee.

### Definitions

Unless otherwise stated, all terms used in this policy have the definitions given in the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/1-5.

*Political activity* means:

1. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.
2. Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.
3. Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.
4. Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
5. Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
6. Assisting at the polls on Election Day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
7. Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.
8. Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
9. Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.
10. Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.
11. Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
12. Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.
13. Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
14. Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.
15. Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

With respect to an employee whose hours are not fixed, *compensated time* includes any period of time when the employee is on premises under the control of the District and any other time when the employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.

*Prohibited source* means any person or entity who:

1. Is seeking official action by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
2. Does business or seeks to do business with: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee, or with the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
3. Conducts activities regulated by: (a) a Board member, or (b) an employee or by the Board member or another employee directing that employee;
4. Has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the Board member or employee;
5. Is registered or required to be registered with the Secretary of State under the Lobbyist Registration Act, except that an entity does not become a prohibited source merely because a registered lobbyist is one of its members or serves on its board of directors; or
6. Is an agent of, a spouse of, or an immediate family member living with a prohibited source.

*Gift* means any gratuity, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of a Board member or employee.

#### Complaints of Sexual Harassment Made Against Board Members by Elected Officials

Pursuant to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/70-5), members of the Board and other elected officials are encouraged to promptly report claims of sexual harassment by a Board member. Every effort should be made to file such complaints as soon as possible, while facts are known and potential witnesses are available. If the official feels comfortable doing so, he or she should directly inform the individual that the individual's conduct or communication is offensive and must stop.

Board members and elected officials should report claims of sexual harassment against a member of the Board to the Board President or Superintendent. If the report is made to the Superintendent, the Superintendent shall promptly notify the President, or if the President is the subject of the complaint, the Vice President. Reports of sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable.

When a complaint of sexual harassment is made against a member of the Board by another Board member or other elected official, the Board President shall appoint a qualified outside investigator who is not a District employee or Board member to conduct an independent review of the allegations. If the allegations concern the President, or the President is a witness or otherwise conflicted, the Vice President shall make the appointment. If the allegations concern both the President and Vice President, and/or they are witnesses or otherwise conflicted, the Board Secretary shall make the appointment. The investigator shall prepare a written report and submit it to the Board.

If a Board member has engaged in sexual harassment, the matter will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board.

The Superintendent will post this policy on the District website and/or make this policy available in the District's administrative office.



LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/22-93.  
5 ILCS 430/, State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.  
10 ILCS 5/9-25.1, Election Interference Prohibition Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2023



## **School Board**

### **Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers**

The School Board officers are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers are elected or appointed by the Board at its organizational meeting.

#### **President**

The Board elects a President from its members for a two-year term. The duties of the President are to:

1. Preside at all meetings;
2. Focus the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content;
3. Make all Board committee appointments, unless specifically stated otherwise;
4. Attend and observe any Board committee meeting at his or her discretion;
5. Represent the Board on other boards or agencies;
6. Sign official District documents requiring the President's signature, including Board minutes and Certificate of Tax Levy;
7. Call special meetings of the Board;
8. Serve as the head of the public body for purposes of the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act;
9. Ensure that a quorum of the Board is physically present at all Board meetings, except as otherwise provided by the Open Meetings Act;
10. Administer the oath of office to new Board members;
11. Serve as or appoint the Board's official spokesperson to the media;
12. Except when the Board President is the subject of a complaint of sexual harassment, a witness, or otherwise conflicted, appoint a qualified outside investigator to conduct an independent review of allegations of sexual harassment made against a Board member by another Board member or elected official; and
13. Ensure that all fingerprint-based criminal history records information checks, screenings, and sexual misconduct related employment history reviews (EHRs) required by State law and policy 5:30, *Hiring Process and Criteria*, are completed for the Superintendent.

The President is permitted to participate in all Board meetings in a manner equal to all other Board members, including the ability to make and second motions.

The Vice President fills a vacancy in the Presidency.

#### **Vice President**

The Board elects a Vice President from its members for a two-year term. The Vice President performs the duties of the President if:

1. The office of President is vacant;
2. The President is absent; or
3. The President is unable to perform the office's duties.

A vacancy in the Vice Presidency is filled by a special Board election.

#### **Secretary**

The Board elects a Secretary for a two-year term. The Secretary may be, but is not required to be, a Board member. The Secretary may receive reasonable compensation as determined by the Board before appointment. However, if the Secretary is a Board member, the compensation shall not exceed \$500

per year, as fixed by the Board at least 180 days before the beginning of the term. The duties of the Secretary are to:

1. Keep minutes for all Board meetings, and keep the verbatim record for all closed Board meetings;
2. Mail meeting notification and agenda to news media who have officially requested copies;
3. Keep records of the Board's official acts, and sign them, along with the President, before submitting them to the Treasurer at such times as the Treasurer may require;
4. Report to the Treasurer on or before July 7, annually, such information as the Treasurer is required to include in the Treasurer's report to the Regional Superintendent;
5. Act as the local election official for the District;
6. Arrange public inspection of the budget before adoption;
7. Publish required notices;
8. Sign official District documents requiring the Secretary's signature; and
9. Maintain Board policy and such other official documents as directed by the Board.

The Secretary may delegate some or all of these duties, except when State law prohibits the delegation. The Board appoints a secretary pro tempore, who may or may not be a Board member, if the Secretary is absent from any meeting or refuses to perform the duties of the office. A permanent vacancy in the office of Secretary is filled by special Board election.

#### Recording Secretary

The Board may appoint a Recording Secretary who is a staff member. The Recording Secretary shall:

1. Assist the Secretary by taking the minutes for all open Board meetings;
2. Assemble Board meeting material and provide it, along with prior meeting minutes, to Board members before the next meeting; and
3. Perform the Secretary's duties, as assigned, except when State law prohibits the delegation.

In addition, the Recording Secretary or Superintendent receives notification from Board members who desire to attend a Board meeting by video or audio means.

#### Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Board shall be either a member of the Board who serves a one-year term or a non-Board member who serves at the Board's pleasure. A Treasurer who is a Board member may not be compensated. A Treasurer who is not a Board member may be compensated provided it is established before the appointment. The Treasurer must:

1. Be at least 21 years old;
2. Not be a member of the County Board of School Trustees; and
3. Have a financial background or related experience, or 12 credit hours of college-level accounting.

The Treasurer shall:

1. Furnish a bond, which shall be approved by a majority of the full Board;
2. Maintain custody of school funds;
3. Maintain records of school funds and balances;
4. Prepare a monthly reconciliation report for the Superintendent and Board; and
5. Receive, hold, and expend District funds only upon the order of the Board.

A vacancy in the Treasurer's office is filled by Board appointment.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/8-1, 5/8-2, 5/8-3, 5/8-6, 5/8-16, 5/8-17, 5/10-1, 5/10-5, 5/10-7, 5/10-8, 5/10-13, 5/10-13.1, 5/10-14, 5/10-16.5, 5/10-21.9, 5/17-1, 5/21B-85, and 5/22-94.  
5 ILCS 120/7, Open Meetings Act.  
5 ILCS 420/4A-106, Ill. Governmental Ethics Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:150 (Committees), 2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria)

ADOPTED: August 10, 2023



## **School Board**

### **Board Member Development**

The School Board desires that its individual members learn, understand, and practice effective governance principles. The Board is responsible for Board member orientation and development. Board members have an equal opportunity to attend State and national meetings designed to familiarize members with public school issues, governance, and legislation.

The Board President and/or Superintendent shall provide all Board members with information regarding pertinent education materials, publications, and notices of training or development.

### **Mandatory Board Member Training**

Each Board member is responsible for his or her own compliance with the mandatory training laws that are described below:

1. Each Board member elected or appointed to fill a vacancy of at least one year's duration must complete at least four hours of professional development leadership training in education and labor law, financial oversight and accountability, fiduciary responsibilities, and (beginning in the fall of 2023) trauma-informed practices for students and staff within the first year of his or her first term.
2. Each Board member must complete training on the Open Meetings Act no later than 90 days after taking the oath of office for the first time. After completing the training, each Board member must file a copy of the certificate of completion with the Board. Training on the Open Meetings Act is only required once.
3. Each Board member must complete a training program on evaluations under the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) before participating in a vote on a tenured teacher's dismissal using the optional alternative evaluation dismissal process. This dismissal process is available after the District's PERA implementation date.

The Superintendent or designee shall maintain on the District website a log identifying the complete training and development activities of each Board member, including both mandatory and non-mandatory training.

### **Professional Development; Adverse Consequences of School Exclusion; Student Behavior**

The Board President or Superintendent, or their designees, will make reasonable efforts to provide ongoing professional development to Board members about the adverse consequences of school exclusion and justice-system involvement, effective classroom management strategies, culturally responsive discipline, appropriate and available supportive services for the promotion of student attendance and engagement, and developmentally appropriate disciplinary methods that promote positive and healthy school climates.

### Board Self-Evaluation

The Board will conduct periodic self-evaluations with the goal of continuous improvement.

### New Board Member Orientation

The orientation process for newly elected or appointed Board members includes:

1. The Board President or Superintendent, or their designees, shall give each new Board member a copy of or online access to the Board Policy Manual, the Board's regular meeting minutes for the past year, and other helpful information including material describing the District and explaining the Board's roles and responsibilities.
2. The Board President or designee shall schedule one or more special Board meetings, or schedule time during regular meetings, for Board members to become acquainted and to review Board processes and procedures.
3. The Board President may request a veteran Board member to mentor a new member.
4. All new members are encouraged to attend workshops for new members conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

### Candidates

The Superintendent or designee shall invite all current candidates for the office of Board member to attend: (1) Board meetings, except that this invitation shall not extend to any closed meetings, and (2) pre-election workshops for candidates.

LEGAL REF.:           5 ILCS 120/1.05 and 120/2.  
                              105 ILCS 5/10-16a and 5/24-16.5.

CROSS REF.:           2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:125 (Board Member Compensation;  
Expenses), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)

ADOPTED:            August 11, 2022



## **Board of Education**

### **Board Member Expenses**

No Board member may receive compensation for services, except that a Board member serving as the Board Secretary may be paid an amount up to the statutory limit if the Board so provides.

The Board of Education may advance or reimburse members the actual and necessary expenses incurred while attending:

1. Meetings sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education or by the Regional Superintendent of Schools;
2. County or regional meetings and the annual meeting sponsored by any Board of Education association complying with Article 23 of The School Code; and
3. Meetings sponsored by an organization in the field of public school education.

Expense reimbursement is not guaranteed and Board members should seek pre-approval of expenses, except in situations when the expense is diminutive. A member must return to the District any portion of an expense advance not used. Members must submit an itemized, signed voucher to support any expense advanced or to seek expense reimbursement. The voucher must show the amount of actual expense, attaching receipts if possible. A Board member submitting a bill for a group function should record participating members' names on the receipt. Money shall not be advanced or reimbursed for: (1) the expenses of any person except the Board of Education member, or (2) anyone's personal expenses.

The Superintendent shall review the submitted vouchers for compliance with this policy. If any voucher's compliance appears uncertain, the Superintendent shall notify the Board President, or Vice President if the voucher in question is from the President, as well as the Board member who submitted the voucher. The Superintendent shall include the voucher in the monthly list of bills that is presented to the Board of Education for approval or rejection.

### **Registration**

When possible, registration fees will be paid by the District in advance.

### **Transportation**

The least expensive transportation will be used, providing that no hardship will be caused to the Board member. Board of Education members will be reimbursed for:

1. Air travel at the coach or single class commercial airline rate. First class air travel will be reimbursed only if emergency circumstances warrant. The emergency circumstances must be explained on the expense voucher. Copies of airline tickets must be attached to the expense voucher.
2. Rail or bus travel at actual cost. Rail or bus travel costs may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Copies of tickets will be attached to the expense voucher to substantiate amounts.
3. Use of personal automobiles at the standard mileage rate approved by the Internal Revenue Service for income tax purposes. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of coach airfare. Mileage for use of personal automobiles in trips to and from transportation terminals will also be reimbursed. Toll charges and parking costs will be reimbursed.
4. Automobile rental costs when the vehicle's use is warranted. The circumstances for such use must be explained on the expense voucher.
5. Taxis, airport limousines, or other local transportation costs.



#### Hotel/Motel Charges

Board of Education members should request conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations. A single room rate will be reimbursed. Board of Education members should pay personal expenses at checkout. If that is impossible, deductions for the charges should be made on the expense voucher.

#### Meal Charges

Meal charges to the School District will be reimbursed up to \$75.00 per day. Tips are included with the meal charges. Expense vouchers must explain the meal charges incurred.

#### Miscellaneous Expenses

Board of Education members may include any other costs related to Board activities on expense vouchers.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.32.

CROSS REF.: 2:100 (Board Member Conflict of Interest), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 4:50 (Payment Procedures)

ADOPTED: May 4, 2009



## School Board

### Exhibit - Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements

WHEREAS, Section 10-20 of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-20) grants school boards other powers that are not inconsistent with their duties;

WHEREAS, Section 10 of the Local Government Travel Expense Control Act (50 ILCS 150/, added by P.A. 99-604, eff. 1-1-17) provides that the School Board shall by resolution regulate the reimbursement of all travel, meal, and lodging expenses of officers and employees, including, but not limited to: (1) the types of official business for which travel, meal, and lodging expenses are allowed; (2) maximum allowable reimbursement for travel, meal, and lodging expenses; and (3) a standardized form for submission of travel, meal, and lodging expenses supported with minimum documentation;

WHEREAS, the Board regulates the types of expenses that are allowed in Board Policies 2:125, *Board Member Compensation; Expenses* and 5:60, *Expenses*;

WHEREAS, based upon the School District's budget and other financial considerations, the Superintendent has recommended to the Board a maximum allowable reimbursement amount of \$2000 for Board members and District staff;

WHEREAS, the Board requires submission of appropriate standardized expense forms supported with required written minimum documentation (50 ILCS 150/10 and 20);

WHEREAS, submitted expenses that exceed the Board's maximum allowable reimbursement amount may be approved by a roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board when an emergency or other extraordinary circumstance exists (50 ILCS 150/10 and 15);

WHEREAS, all Board member expenses must be approved by a roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board (50 ILCS 150/15);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby:

1. Defines and sets the types of allowable expenses through Board policy 2:125, *Board Member Compensation; Expenses* and 5:60, *Expenses*.
2. Sets the maximum allowable reimbursement for travel, meal, and lodging expenses to an amount not to exceed \$ 2000, effective on 2/8/2016 until the Resolution is rescinded or replaced by the Board.
3. Supersedes its previously adopted *Resolution to Regulate Expense Reimbursements* as of the effective date in paragraph two above.
4. Requires use of Board exhibits 2:125-E1, *Board Member Expense Reimbursement Form*; 2:125-E2, *Board Member Estimated Expense Approval Form*; 5:60-E1, *Employee Expense Reimbursement Form*; and 5:60-E2, *Employee Estimated Expense Approval Form*.
5. May approve expenses that exceed the Board's maximum allowable reimbursement amount by a roll call vote at an open meeting when an emergency or other extraordinary circumstance exists.
6. Must approve its members' expenses by a roll call vote at an open meeting.

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_, Board President

Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_, Board Secretary

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## REQUEST TO ATTEND PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

### Marshall Community Unit School District #C-2

Name of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Number of days absent from school (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Substitute required? Yes ☐ No ☐

If it is necessary to send registration forms accompanied by fees at this time, please fill out the conference registration form completely, attach it to this request form and indicate the amount of the fees in the space below.

#### Workshop Registration

☐ I (staff member) personally will register myself for this workshop.

☐ Unit office staff should register staff member for this workshop.

☐ Fee required: (amount) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ No fee required

☐ No registration is required

Estimated total expense (Please itemize)

\_\_\_\_\_

Please explain professional interest in attending.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Principal \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Request granted \_\_\_\_\_ Request denied \_\_\_\_\_





**FOR MONTH OF**

## MARSHALL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #C-2

[illegible]



## **School Board**

### **Board-Superintendent Relationship**

The School Board directs, through policy, the Superintendent in his or her charge of the administration of the District by delegating its authority to operate the District and provide leadership to staff. The Board employs and evaluates the Superintendent and holds him or her responsible for the operation of the District in accordance with Board policies and State and federal law.

The Board-Superintendent relationship is based on mutual respect for their complementary roles. The relationship requires clear communication of expectations regarding the duties and responsibilities of both the Board and Superintendent.

The Board considers the recommendations of the Superintendent as the District's Chief Executive Officer. The Board adopts policies necessary to provide general direction for the District and to encourage achievement of District goals. The Superintendent develops plans, programs, and procedures needed to implement the policies and directs the District's operations.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 and 5/10-21.4.

CROSS REF.: 3:40 (Superintendent)

ADOPTED: November 11, 2021



## **School Board**

### **Communications To and From the Board**

The School Board welcomes communications from staff members, parents/guardians, students, and community members. Individuals may submit questions or communications for the School Board's consideration to the Superintendent or may use the electronic link to the Board's email address(es) posted on the District's website. The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Ensure that the home page for the District's website contains an active electronic link to the email address(es) for the School Board, and
2. During the Board's regular meetings, report for the Board's consideration all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link along with the status of the District's response in the Board meeting packet.

If contacted individually, Board members will refer the person to the appropriate level of authority, except in unusual situations. Board members' questions or communications to staff or about programs will be channeled through the Superintendent's office. Board members will not take individual action that might compromise the Board or District. There is no expectation of privacy for any communication sent to the Board or its members, whether sent by letter, email, or other means.

### **Board Member Use of Electronic Communications**

For purposes of this section, *electronic communications* includes, without limitation, electronic mail, electronic chat, instant messaging, texting, and any form of social networking. Electronic communications among a majority or more of a Board-quorum shall not be used for the purpose of discussing District business. Electronic communications among Board members shall be limited to: (1) disseminating information, and (2) messages not involving deliberation, debate, or decision-making. The following list contains examples of permissible electronic communications:

- Agenda item suggestions
- Reminders regarding meeting times, dates, and places
- Board meeting agendas or information concerning agenda items
- Individual emails to community members, subject to the other limitations in this policy

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act and the Oath of Office taken by Board members, individual Board members will not (a) reply to an email on behalf of the entire Board, or (b) engage in the discussion of District business through electronic communications with a majority of a Board-quorum.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.  
50 ILCS 205/20, Local Records Act.

CROSS REF.: 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 3:30 (Chain of Command), 8:110  
(Public Suggestions and Concerns)

APPROVED: August 8, 2019



## School Board

### Exhibit - Guidance for Board Member Communications, Including Email Use

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires the School Board to discuss District business only at a properly noticed Board meeting. 5 ILCS 120/. Other than during a Board meeting, a majority or more of a Board-quorum may not engage in contemporaneous interactive communication, whether in person or electronically, to discuss District business. This *Guidance* assumes a Board has seven members and covers issues arising from Board policy 2:140, *Communications To and From the Board*.

#### Communications Between or Among Board Members and/or the Superintendent Outside of a Properly Noticed Board Meeting

1. The Superintendent or designee is permitted to email information to Board members. For example, the Superintendent may email Board meeting agendas and supporting information to Board members. When responding to a single Board member's request, the Superintendent should copy all other Board members and include a *do not reply/forward* alert to the group, such as: **"BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is in response to a request. Do not reply or forward to the group but only to the sender."**
2. Board members are permitted to discuss any matter except District business with each other, whether in person or by telephone or email, regardless of the number of members participating in the discussion. For example, they may discuss league sports, work, or current events.
3. Board members are permitted to provide information to each other, whether in person or by telephone or email, that is non-deliberative and non-substantive. Examples of this type of communication include scheduling meetings and confirming receipt of information.
4. A Board member is not permitted to discuss District business with more than one other Board member at a time, whether in person or by telephone or email. Stated another way, a Board member may discuss District business in person or by telephone or email with only one other Board member at a time. However, a Board member should not facilitate interactive communication by discussing District business in a series of visits with, or telephone calls or emails to, Board members individually.
5. A Board member should include a *do not reply/forward* alert when emailing a message concerning District business to more than one other Board member. The following is an example of such an alert: **"BOARD MEMBER ALERT: This email is not for interactive discussion purposes. The recipient should not reply to it or forward it to any other individual."**
6. Board members should not forward email received from another Board member.

#### When Must the Electronic Communications Sent or Received by Individual Board Members Be Disclosed Pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request?

An electronic communication must be disclosed if it is a *public record* as defined by FOIA, unless a specific exemption applies. A public record is any recorded information "pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of any public body." 5 ILCS 140/2. Email sent or received by an individual Board member may be, depending on the content and circumstances, subject to disclosure as a *public record* (unless a FOIA exemption is applicable).

If a Board member uses a District-provided device or email address to discuss public business, the email is subject to disclosure under FOIA, barring an applicable exemption. If a Board member uses a private device and email address, the communication is subject to FOIA if it satisfies this test:

**First**, the communication pertains to the transaction of public business, and

**Second**, the communication was: (1) prepared by a public body, (2) prepared for a public body, (3) used by a public body, (4) received by a public body, (5) possessed by a public body, and/or (6) controlled by a public body.

This test is from the appellate court decision in City of Champaign v. Madigan, 992 N.E.2d 629 (Ill.App.4th 2013).

The following *examples* describe FOIA's treatment of electronic communications:

1. If an electronic communication does not pertain to public business, it is not a public record and is not subject to a FOIA request.
2. An electronic communication pertaining to public business that is:
  - a. Sent and/or received by an individual Board member using a personal electronic device and personal email address while he or she is at home or work **would not be a public record**. Individual Board members, alone, cannot conduct school District business. As stated earlier, emails among a majority or more of a Board-quorum violate OMA and, thus, are subject to disclosure during proceedings to enforce OMA.
  - b. Sent and/or received by an individual Board member on a District-issued device or District-issued email address **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is under the control of the District.
  - c. Received by an individual Board member on a personal electronic device and then forwarded by the Board member to a District-owned device or server **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is under the control of the District.
  - d. Received by an individual Board member using a personal electronic device and personal email address, and then forwarded by the Board member to enough members to constitute a majority or more of a Board-quorum **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is in the District's possession.
  - e. Either sent to or from a Board member's personal electronic device during a Board meeting **will be a public record** and subject to FOIA. The electronic communication is in the District's possession because Board members were functioning collectively as a public body.

The District's Freedom of Information Officer and/or Board Attorney will help determine when a specific communication must be disclosed pursuant to a FOIA request.

#### When Must Electronic Communications Be Retained?

Email that qualifies under FOIA as a *public record* will need to be stored pursuant to the Local Records Act (LRA), only if it is evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities or contains informational data appropriate for preservation. 50 ILCS 205/. An example is any email from a Board officer concerning a decision made in his or her capacity as an officer. If a Board member uses his or her personal email, he or she must copy this type of email to the appropriate District office where it will be stored. If made available, Board members should use their email accounts provided by the District, and the District will automatically store the official record messages. The District will delete these official record messages as provided in an applicable, approved **retention schedule**. Of course, email pertaining to public business that is sent or received



by a Board Member using a District-issued device or email address will be subject to FOIA, even if the email does not need to be retained under the LRA.

**Important:** Do not destroy any email concerning a topic that is being litigated without obtaining the Board attorney's direction. In federal lawsuits, there is an automatic discovery of virtually all types of electronically created or stored data that might be relevant. Attorneys will generally notify their clients at the beginning of a legal proceeding not to destroy any electronic records that might be relevant. This is referred to as a *litigation hold*. For more discussion of a litigation hold, see 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*. In addition, any person who knowingly with the intent to defraud any party destroys, removes, or conceals any public record commits a Class 4 felony. 50 ILCS 205/4.

APPROVED:        August 8, 2019



## **School Board**

### **Committees**

The School Board may establish committees to assist with the Board's governance function and, in some situations, to comply with State law requirements. These committees are known as Board committees and report directly to the Board. Committee members may include both Board members and non-Board members depending on the committee's purpose. The Board President makes all Board committee appointments unless specifically stated otherwise. Board committee meetings shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. A Board committee may not take final action on behalf of the Board – it may only make recommendations to the Board.

#### **Special Board Committees**

A special committee may be created for specific purposes or to investigate special issues. A special committee is automatically dissolved after presenting its final report to the Board or at the Board's discretion.

#### **Standing Board Committees**

A standing committee is created for an indefinite term although its members will fluctuate. Standing committees are:

1. Board Policy Committee. This committee researches policy issues, and provides information and recommendations to the Board.
2. Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee. This committee assists in the development of student discipline policy and procedure, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. Its members are parents/guardians and teachers, and may include persons whose expertise or experience is needed. The committee reviews such issues as administering medication in the schools, reciprocal reporting between the School District and local law enforcement agencies regarding criminal offenses committed by students, student discipline, disruptive classroom behavior, school bus safety procedures, and the dissemination of student conduct information.
3. Behavioral Interventions Committee. This committee develops and monitors procedures for using behavioral interventions in accordance with Board policy 7:230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. At the Board President's discretion, the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee shall perform the duties assigned to the Behavioral Interventions Committee.

Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the Superintendent or designee to create and use committees that report to him or her or to other staff members.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120.  
105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 and 5/14-8.05.

CROSS REF.: 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:240 (Board Policy Development), 7:190 (Student Discipline), 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)

ADOPTED: December 10, 2015

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## **School Board**

### **Board Attorney**

The School Board may enter into agreements for legal services with one or more attorneys or law firms to be the Board Attorney(s). The Board Attorney represents the School Board in its capacity as the governing body for the School District. The Board Attorney shall not represent another client if the representation involves a concurrent conflict of interest, unless permitted by the Ill. Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the Ill. Supreme Court. The Board Attorney serves on a retainer or other fee arrangement as determined in advance. The Board Attorney will provide services as described in the agreement for legal services. The District will only pay for legal services that are provided in accordance with the agreement for legal services or are otherwise authorized by this policy or a majority of the Board.

The Superintendent, his or her designee, and Board President, are each authorized to confer with and/or seek the legal advice of the Board Attorney. The Board may authorize a specific member to confer with legal counsel on its behalf.

The Superintendent may authorize the Board Attorney to represent the District in any legal matter until the Board has an opportunity to consider the matter.

The Board retains the right to consult with or employ other attorneys and to terminate the service of any attorney.

LEGAL REF.: Rule 1.7 (Conflict of Interest: Current Clients) and Rule 1.13 (Organization as Client) of the Ill. Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the Ill. Supreme Court.

CROSS REF.: 4:60 (Purchases and Contracts)

ADOPTED: October 8, 2015



## **School Board**

### **Procurement of Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying Services**

The School Board selects architects, engineers, and land surveyors to provide professional services to the District on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications, and in accordance with State law.

LEGAL REF.:      40 U.S.C. §1101 et seq.  
                         50 ILCS 510/, Local Government Professional Services Selection Act.  
                         105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.  
                         Shively v. Belleville Twp. High Sch. Dist. 201, 329 Ill.App.3d 1156 (5th Dist. 2002),  
                         *appeal denied.*

ADOPTED:      August 10, 2023





## **School Board**

### **Types of School Board Meetings**

#### **General**

For all meetings of the School Board and its committees, the Superintendent or designee shall satisfy all notice and posting requirements contained herein as well as in the Open Meetings Act. This shall include mailing meeting notifications to news media that have officially requested them and to others as approved by the Board. Unless otherwise specified, all meetings are held in the District's main office. Board policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, governs meeting quorum requirements.

The Superintendent is designated on behalf of the Board and each Board committee to receive the training on compliance with the Open Meetings Act that is required by Section 1.05(a) of that Act. The Superintendent may identify other employees to receive the training. In addition, each Board member must complete a course of training on the Open Meetings Act as required by Section 1.05(b) or (c) of that Act.

#### **Regular Meetings**

The Board announces the time and place for its regular meetings at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Superintendent shall prepare and make available the calendar of regular Board meetings. The regular meeting calendar may be changed with 10 days' notice in accordance with State law.

A meeting agenda shall be posted at the District's main office and the Board's meeting room, or other location where the meeting is to be held, at least 48 hours before the meeting.

#### **Closed Meetings**

The Board and Board committees may meet in a closed meeting to consider the following subjects:

1. The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with [the Open Meetings Act]. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459.
2. Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
3. The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
4. Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where specifically authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act,

provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision setting forth its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).

5. The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
6. The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
7. The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
8. Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
9. Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
10. The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
11. Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
12. The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the public body or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).
13. Self evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
14. Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
15. Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29).

The Board may hold a closed meeting, or close a portion of a meeting, by a majority vote of a quorum, taken at an open meeting. The vote of each Board member present, and the reason for the closed meeting, will be publicly disclosed at the time of the meeting and clearly stated in the motion and the meeting minutes.

A single motion calling for a series of closed meetings may be adopted when such meetings will involve the same particular matters and are scheduled to be held within three months of the vote.

No final Board action will be taken at a closed meeting.

### Reconvened or Rescheduled Meetings

A meeting may be rescheduled or reconvened. Public notice of a rescheduled or reconvened meeting shall be given in the same manner as that for a special meeting, except that no public notice is required when the original meeting is open to the public and: (1) is to be reconvened within 24 hours, or (2) an announcement of the time and place of the reconvened meeting was made at the original meeting and there is no change in the agenda.

### Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President or by any three members of the Board by giving notice thereof, in writing, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting to remaining Board members by mail at least 48 hours before the meeting, or by personal service at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Public notice of a special meeting is given by posting a notice at the District's main office at least 48 hours before the meeting and by notifying the news media that have filed a written request for notice. A meeting agenda shall accompany the notice.

All matters discussed by the Board at any special meeting must be related to a subject on the meeting agenda.

### Emergency Meetings

Public notice of emergency meetings shall be given as soon as practical, but in any event, before the meeting to news media that have filed a written request for notice.

### Posting on the District Website

In addition to the other notices specified in this policy, the Superintendent or designee shall post the following on the District website: (1) the annual schedule of regular meetings, which shall remain posted until the Board approves a new schedule of regular meetings; (2) a public notice of all Board meetings; and (3) the agenda for each meeting which shall remain posted until the meeting is concluded.

LEGAL REF.:       5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.  
                      5 ILCS 140/, Freedom of Information Act.  
                      105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.:       2:110 (Qualifications Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:120 (Board Member Development), 2:210 (Organizational School Board Meetings), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board), 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks)

ADOPTED:         December 12, 2019



## **School Board**

### **Organizational School Board Meeting**

During a March meeting in odd-numbered years, the School Board establishes a date for its organizational meeting to be held sometime after the election authority canvasses the vote, but within 40 days after the consolidated election. The consolidated election is held on the first Tuesday in April of odd-numbered years. At the organizational meeting, the following shall occur:

1. Each successful candidate, before taking his or her seat on the Board, shall take the oath of office as provided in Board policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*.
2. The new Board members shall be seated.
3. The Board shall elect its officers, who assume office immediately upon their election.
4. The Board shall fix a time and date for its regular meetings.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-5, 5/10-16, and 5/10-16.5.  
10 ILCS 5/2A-1 et seq., Election Code.

CROSS REF.: 2:30 (School District Elections), 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2023



## **School Board**

### **School Board Meeting Procedure**

#### **Agenda**

The School Board President is responsible for focusing the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content. The Superintendent shall prepare agendas in consultation with the Board President. The President shall designate a portion of the agenda as a consent agenda for those items that usually do not require extensive discussion before Board action. Upon the request of any Board member, an item will be withdrawn from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for independent consideration.

Each Board meeting agenda shall contain the general subject matter of any item that will be the subject of final action at the meeting. Items submitted by Board members to the Superintendent or the President shall be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting. District residents may suggest inclusions for the agenda. The Board will take final action only on items contained in the posted agenda; items not on the agenda may still be discussed.

The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the agenda, with adequate data and background information, to each Board member at least 48 hours before each meeting, except a meeting held in the event of an emergency. The meeting agenda shall be posted in accordance with Board policy 2:200, *Types of School Board Meetings*.

The Board President shall determine the order of business at regular Board meetings. Upon consent of a majority of members present, the order of business at any meeting may be changed.

#### **Voting Method**

Unless otherwise provided by law, when a vote is taken upon any measure before the Board, with a quorum being present, a majority of the votes cast shall determine its outcome. A vote of *abstain* or *present*, or a vote other than *yea* or *nay*, or a failure to vote, is counted for the purposes of determining whether a quorum is present. A vote of *abstain* or *present*, or a vote other than *yea* or *nay*, or a failure to vote, however, is not counted in determining whether a measure has been passed by the Board, unless otherwise stated in law. The sequence for casting votes is rotated.

On all questions involving the expenditure of money and on all questions involving the closing of a meeting to the public, a roll call vote shall be taken and entered in the Board's minutes. An individual Board member may request that a roll call vote be taken on any other matter; the President or other presiding officer may approve or deny the request but a denial is subject to being overturned by a majority vote of the members present.

#### **Minutes**

The Board Secretary shall keep written minutes of all Board meetings (whether open or closed), which shall be signed by the President and the Secretary. The minutes include:

1. The meeting's date, time, and place;
2. Board members recorded as either present or absent;

3. A summary of the discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and a record of any votes taken;
4. On all matters requiring a roll call vote, a record of who voted *yea* and *nay*;
5. If the meeting is adjourned to another date, the time and place of the adjourned meeting;
6. The vote of each member present when a vote is taken to hold a closed meeting or portion of a meeting, and the reason for the closed meeting with a citation to the specific exception contained in the Open Meetings Act (OMA) authorizing the closed meeting;
7. A record of all motions, including individuals making and seconding motions;
8. Upon request by a Board member, a record of how he or she voted on a particular motion; and
9. The type of meeting, including any notices and, if a reconvened meeting, the original meeting's date.

The minutes shall be submitted to the Board for approval or modification at its next regularly scheduled open meeting. Minutes for open meetings must be approved within 30 days after the meeting or at the second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later.

Every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, in an open meeting, the Board: (1) reviews minutes from all closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, and (2) determines which, if any, no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. This is also referred to as a *semi-annual review*. The Board may meet in a prior closed session to review the minutes from closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, but it reports its determination in open session.

The Board's meeting minutes must be submitted to the Board Treasurer at such times as the Treasurer may require.

The official minutes are in the custody of the Board Secretary. Open meeting minutes are available for inspection during regular office hours within 10 days after the Board's approval; they may be inspected in the District's main office, in the presence of the Secretary, the Superintendent or designee, or any Board member.

Minutes from closed meetings are likewise available, but only if the Board has released them for public inspection, except that Board members may access closed session minutes not yet released for public inspection (1) in the District's administrative offices or their official storage location, and (2) in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Superintendent or designated administrator, or any elected Board member. The minutes, whether reviewed by members of the public or the Board, shall not be removed from the District's administrative offices or their official storage location except by vote of the Board or by court order.

The Board's open meeting minutes shall be posted on the District website within ten days after the Board approves them; the minutes will remain posted for at least 60 days.

#### Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings

The Superintendent, or the Board Secretary when the Superintendent is absent, shall audio record all closed meetings. If neither is present, the Board President or presiding officer shall assume this responsibility. After the closed meeting, the person making the audio recording shall label the recording



with the date and store it in a secure location. The Superintendent shall ensure that: (1) an audio recording device and all necessary accompanying items are available to the Board for every closed meeting, and (2) a secure location for storing closed meeting audio recordings is maintained close to the Board's regular meeting location.

After 18 months have passed since being made, the audio recording of a closed meeting is destroyed provided the Board approved: (1) its destruction, and (2) minutes of the particular closed meeting.

Individual Board members may access verbatim recordings in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Superintendent or designated administrator, or any elected Board member. Access to the verbatim recordings is available at the District's administrative offices or the verbatim recording's official storage location. Requests shall be made to the Superintendent or Board President. While a Board member is listening to a verbatim recording, it shall not be re-recorded or removed from the District's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the Board or by court order.

Before making such requests, Board members should consider whether such requests are germane to their responsibilities, service to District, and/or Oath of Office in policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*. In the interest of encouraging free and open expression by Board members during closed meetings, the recordings of closed meetings should not be used by Board members to confirm or dispute the accuracy of recollections.

#### Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means

A quorum of the Board must be physically present at all Board meetings. A majority of the full membership of the Board constitutes a quorum.

Provided a quorum is physically present, a Board member may attend a meeting by video or audio conference if he or she is prevented from physically attending because of: (1) personal illness or disability, (2) employment or District business, or (3) a family or other emergency. If a member wishes to attend a meeting by video or audio means, he or she must notify the recording secretary or Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting unless advance notice is impractical. The recording secretary or Superintendent will inform the Board President and make appropriate arrangements. A Board member who attends a meeting by audio or video means, as provided in this policy, may participate in all aspects of the Board meeting including voting on any item.

#### No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video; Disaster Declaration

The ability of the Board to meet in person with a quorum physically present at its meeting location may be affected by the Governor or the Director of the Ill. Dept. of Public Health issuing a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency. The Board President or, if the office is vacant or the President is absent or unable to perform the office's duties, the Vice President determines that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the **Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means** subhead above, is not practical or prudent because of the disaster declaration; if neither the President nor Vice President are present or able to perform this determination, the Superintendent shall serve as the duly authorized designee for purposes of making this determination.

The individual who makes this determination for the Board shall put it in writing, include it on the Board's published notice and agenda for the audio or video meeting and in the meeting minutes, and ensure that the Board meets every OMA requirement for the Board to meet by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum.

## Rules of Order

Unless State law or Board-adopted rules apply, the Board President, as the presiding officer, will use the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as a guide when a question arises concerning procedure.

## Broadcasting and Recording Board Meetings

Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting. Special requests to facilitate recording or broadcasting an open Board meeting, such as seating, writing surfaces, lighting, and access to electrical power, should be directed to the Superintendent at least 24 hours before the meeting.

Recording meetings shall not distract or disturb Board members, other meeting participants, or members of the public. The Board President may designate a location for recording equipment, may restrict the movements of individuals who are using recording equipment, or may take such other steps as are deemed necessary to preserve decorum and facilitate the meeting.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/2a, 120/2.02, 120/2.05, 120/2.06, and 120/7.

105 ILCS 5/10-6, 5/10-7, 5/10-12, and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:150 (Committees), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

ADOPTED: August 11, 2022

## School Board

### Exhibit - Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes

The following procedures govern the verbatim audio recordings and minutes of School Board meetings that are closed to the public.

| Actor  | Action  |
|--|---|
| <i>Before any Board meeting:</i><br>Superintendent or designee   | <p>Arranges to have an audio recording device with adequate storage capacity and a back-up audio recording device in the Board meeting room during every Board meeting regardless of whether a closed meeting is scheduled.</p> <p>The Board may close a portion of a public meeting without prior notice; it cannot, however, have a closed meeting unless it can record the session.</p>  |
| <i>Before a closed meeting:</i><br>Board President or presiding officer (#3 and #4 may be delegated to the Board Secretary or Recording Secretary) | <p>On the closed meeting date: (1) convenes an open meeting, (2) requests a motion to adjourn into closed meeting making sure the reason for the meeting is identified in the motion, (3) takes a roll call vote, (4) ensures that the minutes record the vote of each member present and the reason for the closed meeting with a citation to the specific exception contained in the Open Meetings Act (OMA) authorizing the closed meeting (5 ILCS 120/2a), and (5) adjourns the open meeting.</p>   |
| <i>Before a closed meeting:</i><br>Superintendent or Board Secretary   | <p>Immediately before a closed meeting, tests and activates the audio recording device.</p>   |
| <i>During a closed meeting:</i><br>Board President or presiding officer  | <p>Convenes the closed meeting stating:</p> <p>Seeing a quorum of the Board of Education gathered today, ____ date, at ____ o'clock, at ____ location, for the purpose of holding a closed meeting in order to confidentially discuss ____, I call the meeting to order. In order to record who is present, I request that each individual state his or her name and position with the District. <b>(Note:</b> This script is an example.)</p> <p>Limits discussion to the topics that were included in the motion to go into a closed meeting.</p> <p>The failure to immediately call a person out-of-order who strays from the purposes included in the motion may result in an</p> |

| Actor  | Action   |
|--|--|
|  | <p>appearance of acquiescence. This responsibility to call a person out-of-order falls on each Board member in the event of the President's failure.</p> <p>Once the closed meeting is finished, announces a return to an open meeting or adjournment, and states the time.</p>  |
| <p><i>After a closed meeting:</i></p> <p>Superintendent, Recording Secretary, or Board Secretary</p> | <p><b>For Verbatim Recordings:</b></p> <p>Takes possession of the audio recording of the closed meeting and labels it with identification information, specifically the date and items discussed.</p> <p>Adds the identification information contained on the audio recording's label to a cumulative list of closed meeting recordings.</p> <p>As soon as possible, puts the recording of the closed meeting in the previously identified secure location for storing recordings of closed meetings.</p> <p>Upon request of a Board member:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provides access to the verbatim recordings minutes at a reasonable time and place without disrupting District operations;</li> <li>2. Supervises the access to the closed session minutes or delegates it to one of the following individuals in the District: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Recording Secretary,</li> <li>b. The Superintendent or designated administrator, or</li> <li>c. Any elected Board member; and</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Logs the access to the recordings in 2:220-E7, <i>Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings</i>.</li> </ol> <p><b>For Closed Meeting Minutes:</b></p> <p>Prepares written closed meeting minutes that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The date, time, and place of the closed meeting</li> <li>• The Board members present and absent</li> <li>• A summary of discussion on all matters proposed or discussed</li> <li>• The time the closed meeting was adjourned</li> </ul> |

| Actor   | Action  |
|---|---|
|   | <p>Upon request of a Board member:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provides access to the closed session minutes at a reasonable time and place without disrupting District operations;</li> <li>2. Supervises the access to the closed session minutes or delegates it to one of the following individuals in the District: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Recording Secretary,</li> <li>b. The Superintendent or designated administrator, or</li> <li>c. Any elected Board member; and</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Logs the access in 2:220-E7, <i>Access to Closed Meeting Minutes and Verbatim Recordings</i>.</li> </ol>   |
| <p><i>After a closed meeting:</i><br/>School Board</p>                                  | <p>Approves the previous closed meeting minutes at the next open meeting.</p>   |
| <p><i>In preparation for the semi-annual review:</i><br/>Superintendent or designee</p> | <p>Every six months, prepares a recommendation concerning the continued need for confidential treatment of all of the Board's closed meeting minutes; includes this recommendation in the packet for the meeting in which the Board will conduct its semi-annual review.</p> <p>This step is in preparation of the Board's meeting to decide whether the need for confidential treatment of specific closed meeting minutes continues to exist.</p> <p>If the Board wants to discuss closed meeting minutes in closed session, places "review of unreleased closed meeting minutes" on a closed meeting agenda.</p> <p>Places "result of Board's review of unreleased closed meeting minutes" as an item on a subsequent open meeting agenda.</p> |
| <p><i>In preparation for the semi-annual review:</i><br/>Individual Board members</p>   | <p>Before the meeting in which the Board will conduct its semi-annual review, examines the material supplied by the Superintendent.</p> <p>Individual Board members should consider: (1) the Superintendent's recommendation, (2) the recommendation of the Board Attorney, (3) other Board members' opinions, (4) the minutes themselves, and/or (5) whether the minutes would be exempted from public disclosure under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.</p>   |
| <p><i>During the semi-annual review:</i><br/>School Board</p>                           | <p>The Board decides in open session whether: (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of closed meeting minutes, or (2) the minutes or portions thereof no longer require</p>   |

| Actor   | Action  |
|---|---|
|   | <p>confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.</p> <p>The Board may have an earlier meeting in closed session to discuss the continued need for confidential treatment.</p> |
| <p><i>After the semi-annual review:</i></p> <p>Superintendent or designee</p> | <p>Re-labels and re-files closed meeting minutes as appropriate.</p>  |
| <p><i>Monthly:</i></p> <p>Board President</p>                                 | <p>Adds "destruction of closed meeting audio recording" as an agenda item to an upcoming open meeting.</p>  |
| <p><i>Monthly:</i></p> <p>School Board</p>                                    | <p>Approves the destruction of particular closed meeting recording(s) that are at least 18 months old and for which approved minutes of the closed meeting already exist.</p>                   |

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/, Open Meetings Act.

ADOPTED: August 11, 2022

## School Board

### Exhibit - Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting

#### **Motion to Adjourn to Closed Meeting**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_, and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to adjourn to closed meeting to discuss:

- ☐ The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors, or specific volunteers of the District or legal counsel for the District, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor, or a volunteer of the District or against legal counsel for the District to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), amended by P.A. 101-459.
- ☐ Collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2).
- ☐ The selection of a person to fill a public office, including a vacancy in a public office, when the District is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the District is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3).
- ☐ Evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, or in closed hearing where authorized by law, to a quasi-adjudicative body, as defined in the Open Meetings Act, provided that the body prepares and makes available for public inspection a written decision with its determinative reasoning. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4).
- ☐ The purchase or lease of real property for the use of the District, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(5).
- ☐ The setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by the District. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6).
- ☐ The sale or purchase of securities, investments, or investment contracts. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7).
- ☐ Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).
- ☐ Student disciplinary cases. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(9).
- ☐ The placement of individual students in special education programs and other matters relating to individual students. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10).
- ☐ Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular District has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the District finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the closed meeting minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11).
- ☐ The establishment of reserves or settlement of claims as provided in the Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act, if otherwise the disposition of a claim or potential claim might be prejudiced, or the review or discussion of claims, loss or risk management information, records, data, advice or communications from or with respect to any insurer of the District or any intergovernmental risk management association or self insurance pool of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(12).
- ☐ Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the District is a member. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16).
- ☐ Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes as mandated by Section 2.06. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21).
- ☐ Meetings between internal or external auditors and governmental audit committees, finance committees, and their equivalents, when the discussion involves internal control weaknesses, identification of potential fraud risk areas, known or suspected frauds, and fraud interviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards of the United States of America. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(29).

**Closed Meeting Roll Call:**

| "Yeas" | "Nays" |
|--------|--------|
|--------|--------|

**Motion:** ☐ Carried ☐ Failed

**ADOPTED:** December 12, 2019



**School Board****Exhibit - Closed Meeting Minutes****Closed Meeting Minutes**

*Items in bold are required by 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a)(1)-(3). Non-bolded items align with best practices.*

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) taking and recording the minutes: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person presiding: \_\_\_\_\_

**Members in attendance:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

**Members absent:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Summary of the discussion on all matters (as specified in the vote to close the meeting):**

**Basis for the finding that litigation is probable or imminent, if applicable (5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)):**

Time of adjournment or return to open meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

---

*The School Board, during its semi-annual review of closed session minutes, has decided these minutes no longer need confidential treatment. Semi-annual means every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the board. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d), amended by P.A. 102-653.*

☐ These minutes are available for public inspection as of: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

ADOPTED: August 11, 2022

## **School Board**

### **Exhibit - School Board Records Maintenance Requirements and FAQs**

#### **Open Meetings Act**

The Open Meetings Act (OMA) requires public bodies to “keep written minutes of all their meetings, whether open or closed, and a verbatim record of all their closed meetings in the form of an audio or video recording.” 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a). Minutes must include, but are not limited to: (1) the date, time, and place of the meeting; (2) the members of the public body recorded as either present or absent and whether the members were physically present or present by means of video or audio conference; and (3) a summary of discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided, and record of any votes taken. Id.

The remainder of Section 2.06 addresses the approval of open meeting minutes, the treatment of verbatim recordings of closed meetings, the semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes, the confidential nature of closed meeting minutes, and the right of persons to address public officials under rules established and recorded by the public body. The requirements of Section 2.06, as well as OMA requirements pertaining to Board agendas, are included in policy 2:220, *School Board Meeting Procedure*.

Exhibit 2:220-E3, *Closed Meeting Minutes*, provides a sample template for keeping closed meeting minutes that incorporates the requirements of Section 2.06 of OMA. It also includes an area to designate if the Board has determined, pursuant to Section 2.06(d), that the closed meeting minutes no longer need confidential treatment.

Exhibit 2:220-E4, *Open Meeting Minutes*, contains an open meeting minute’s protocol that incorporates the requirements of Section 2.06 of OMA. It also provides a sample template for keeping open meeting minutes.

Exhibit 2:220-E5, *Semi-Annual Review of Closed Meeting Minutes*, contains a process for implementing the semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes, and exhibit 2:220-E6, *Log of Closed Meeting Minutes*, is designed to facilitate this semi-annual review.

#### **Local Records Act**

The Local Records Act (LRA) provides that public records, including “any book, paper, map, photograph, digitized electronic material, or other official documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made, produced, executed or received by any agency or officer pursuant to law or in connections with the transaction of public business and preserved or appropriate for preservation by such agency or officer” must be preserved unless the State Local Records Commission has given permission to destroy those records. 50 ILCS 205/3 and 7. Board records, including agendas, meeting packets and meeting minutes, fall into this definition.

Public bodies located in Cook County must work with the Local Records Commission of Cook County to determine how long they must retain public records. Public bodies located outside of Cook County must work with the Downstate Local Records Commission to determine how long they must retain public records.

Policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*, contains a subhead entitled **Preserving Public Records** which provides as follows:



Public records, including email messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g., a litigation hold), District auditor, or other individual authorized by the School Board or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

See the sample policy, 2:200, *School Board Meeting Procedure*, for all relevant footnotes. Also see administrative procedure 2:250-AP2, *Protocols for Record Preservation and Development of Retention Schedules*, for recommendations regarding school district records retention protocols and links to web-based record management resources.

#### Open Meeting Minutes

| Are you required to approve them?  | Must they be semi-annually reviewed?  | May you release them to the public?  | May you destroy them?  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Yes, within 30 days or at the next subsequent meeting, whichever is later.</p> <p><i>A public body shall approve the minutes of its open meeting within 30 days after that meeting or at the public body's second subsequent regular meeting, whichever is later. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).</i></p> | <p>No.</p> <p>Unlike the closed meeting requirement, OMA does not contain semi-annual review requirements for open meeting minutes.</p> | <p>Yes, must within ten days after minutes are approved.</p> <p><i>The minutes of meetings open to the public shall be available for public inspection within 10 days after the approval of such minutes by the public body. Beginning July 1, 2006, at the time it complies with other requirements of this subsection, a public body that has a website that the full-time staff of the public body maintains shall post the minutes of a regular meeting of its governing body open to the public on the public body's website within 10 days after the approval of the minutes by the public body. Beginning July 1, 2006, any minutes of meetings open to the public posted on the public body's website shall remain posted on the website for at least 60 days after their initial posting. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).</i></p> | <p>No.</p> <p>There is no OMA provision permitting the destruction of open meeting minutes, and <b>they must be preserved unless the State Local Records Commission has given permission to destroy them.</b></p> <p>If a public body would like to destroy open meeting minutes, then it must comply with the LRA and work with its Local Records Commission. It is highly unlikely, however, that the Local Records Commission would approve of their destruction.</p> |



### Open Meeting Verbatim Recordings

| Are you required to approve them?   | Must they be semi-annually reviewed?   | May you release them to the public?   | May you destroy them?   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>No.</p> <p>OMA does not require public bodies to approve verbatim recordings of open meetings.</p> | <p>No.</p> <p>Unlike the closed meeting requirement, OMA does not require public bodies to keep verbatim recordings of open meetings. OMA does not contain semi-annual review requirements for open meeting verbatim recordings.</p> | <p>Yes.</p> <p>Unlike the closed meeting requirement, OMA does not require public bodies to keep verbatim recordings of open meetings. If a public body makes verbatim recordings of open meetings, then such recordings are subject to public disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/).</p> | <p>Possibly.</p> <p>If a public body would like to destroy open meeting verbatim recordings, then it must comply with the LRA and work with its Local Records Commission.</p> |

### Closed Meeting Minutes

| Are you required to approve them?  | Must they be semi-annually reviewed?   | May you release them to the public?   | May you destroy them?   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Yes.</p> <p>OMA does not directly state public bodies are required to approve closed meeting minutes, nor does it set a time frame for such approval. However, OMA Section 2.06(d) requires public bodies to meet at least semi-annually to "review minutes of all closed meetings." 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d).</p> <p>Moreover, OMA Section 2.06(c) specifically allows the destruction of closed meeting verbatim recordings only if certain conditions are met, one of which is that "the public body approves minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of subsection (a) of this Section." 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c)(2). Both of these tasks would be difficult to achieve if closed meeting minutes were not first approved.</p> <p>One practice is to approve</p> | <p>Yes.</p> <p><i>Each public body shall periodically, but not less than semi-annually, meet to review all existing minutes of all prior closed meetings (this includes records from all time that the board has been in existence). At such meetings a determination shall be made, and reported in an open session that (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes or (2) that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d).</i></p> | <p>Yes, if prerequisites are met.</p> <p><i>Minutes of meetings closed to the public shall be available only after the public body determines that it is no longer necessary to protect the public interest or the privacy of an individual by keeping them confidential. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(f).</i></p> | <p>No.</p> <p>There is no OMA provision permitting the destruction of closed meeting minutes, and <b>they must be preserved unless the State Local Records Commission has given permission to destroy them.</b></p> <p>In addition, per OMA Section 2.06(f), as amended by P.A. 99-515:</p> <p><i>No minutes of meetings closed to the public shall be removed from the public body's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the public body or by court order. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(f).</i></p> <p>If a public body would like to destroy closed meeting minutes, then it must comply with the LRA and work with its Local Records Commission. It is highly unlikely, however, that the Local Records Commission would</p> |





| Are you required to approve them?   | Must they be semi-annually reviewed? | May you release them to the public? | May you destroy them?         |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| closed meeting minutes within the same time frame that open meeting minutes are approved – within 30 days of the meeting or at the next subsequent meeting, whichever is later. |                                      |                                     | approve of their destruction. |

#### Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings

| Are you required to approve them?  | Must they be semi-annually reviewed?   | May you release them to the public?  | May you destroy them?   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p>No.</p> <p>OMA does not require approval of closed meeting verbatim recordings.</p> | <p>No.</p> <p>OMA does not require semi-annual review of closed meeting verbatim recordings.</p> | <p>Possibly but unlikely.</p> <p><i>Unless the public body has made a determination that the verbatim recording no longer requires confidential treatment or otherwise consents to disclosure, the verbatim record of a meeting closed to the public shall not be open for public inspection or subject to discovery in any administrative or judicial proceeding other than one brought to enforce this Act.</i> 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e).</p> <p>But see <u>Kodish v. Oakbrook Terrace Fire Protection District</u> (235 F.R.D. 447 (N.D. IL. 2006)), where a federal district court ordered that closed meeting verbatim recordings be disclosed to the Plaintiff in discovery because his primary claim was brought under federal law.</p> | <p>Yes, after 18 months if prerequisites are met.</p> <p><i>The verbatim record may be destroyed without notification to or the approval of a records commission or the State Archivist under the Local Records Act or the State Records Act no less than 18 months after the completion of the meeting recorded but only after: 1.) the public body approves the destruction of a particular recording; and 2.) the public body approves minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of subsection (a) of this Section.</i> 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c).</p> <p>In addition, per OMA Section 2.06(f), as amended by P.A. 99-515:</p> <p><i>No verbatim recordings shall be recorded or removed from the public body's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the public body or by court order.</i> 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e).</p> |

ADOPTED: December 8, 2016



## **School Board**

### **Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board**

At each regular and special open meeting, members of the public and District employees may comment to or ask questions of the School Board, subject to reasonable constraints.

The individuals appearing before the Board are expected to follow these guidelines:

1. Address the Board only at the appropriate time as indicated on the agenda and when recognized by the Board President.
2. Identify oneself and be brief. Ordinarily, such comments shall be limited to 2 minutes. In unusual circumstances, and when the person has given advance notice of the need to speak for a longer period of time, such person may be allowed to speak for more than 2 minutes.
3. The Board President may shorten or lengthen a person's opportunity to speak. The President may also deny the opportunity to speak to a person who has previously addressed the Board on the same subject within the past 2 months.
4. The board President shall have the authority to determine procedural matters regarding public participation not otherwise defined in Board of Education policy.
5. Conduct oneself with respect and civility toward others and otherwise abide by Board policy, 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*.

Petitions or written correspondence to the Board shall be presented to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/2.06.  
105 ILCS 5/10-6 and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Adopted: October 9, 2014



## **School Board**

### **Board Policy Development**

The School Board governs using written policies. Written policies ensure legal compliance, establish Board processes, articulate District ends, delegate authority, and define operating limits. Board policies also provide the basis for monitoring progress toward District ends.

#### **Policy Development**

Anyone may propose new policies, changes to existing policies, or deletion of existing policies. Staff suggestions should be processed through the Superintendent. Suggestions from all others should be made to the Board President or the Superintendent.

A Board Policy Committee will consider all policy suggestions and provide information and recommendations to the Board.

The Superintendent is responsible for: (1) providing relevant policy information and data to the Board, (2) notifying those who will implement or be affected by or required to implement a proposed policy and obtaining their advice and suggestions, and (3) having policy recommendations drafted into written form for Board deliberation. The Superintendent shall seek the counsel of the Board Attorney when appropriate.

#### **Policy Adoption and Dissemination**

Policies or policy revisions will not be adopted at the Board meeting at which they are first introduced, except when: (1) appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or (2) necessary or prudent in order to meet emergency or special conditions or to be legally compliant. Further Board consideration will be given at a subsequent meeting(s) and after opportunity for community input. The adoption of a policy will serve to supersede all previously adopted policies on the same topic.

The Board policies are available for public inspection in the District's main office during regular office hours. Copy requests should be made pursuant to Board policy 2:250, *Access to District Public Records*.

#### **Board Policy Review and Monitoring**

The Board will periodically review its policies for relevancy, monitor its policies for effectiveness, and consider whether any modifications are required. The Board may use an annual policy review and monitoring calendar.

#### **Superintendent Implementation**

The Board will support any reasonable interpretation of Board policy made by the Superintendent. If reasonable minds differ, the Board will review the applicable policy and consider the need for further clarification.

In the absence of Board policy, the Superintendent is authorized to take appropriate action.

#### **Suspension of Policies**

The Board, by a majority vote of members present at any meeting, may temporarily suspend a Board policy except those provisions that are controlled by law or contract. The failure to suspend with a specific motion does not invalidate the Board action.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

CROSS REF.: 2:150 (Committees), 2:250 (Access to District Public Records), 3:40 (Superintendent)

APPROVED: August 8, 2019

## School Board

### Exhibit - PRESS Issue Updates

This procedure is for **PRESS** subscribers. For subscribers to **PRESS Plus**, IASB's full-maintenance policy update service, the **PRESS Plus** Online User Guide, available at [www.iasb.com/policy](http://www.iasb.com/policy), provides further guidance.

| Actor  | Action   |
|--|--|
| Superintendent                               | <p>Manages the process for the Board to receive <b>PRESS</b> updates to policies.</p> <p>Manages the Board's compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Ensures that, as appropriate, the agendas for the Board Policy Committee and School Board include discussion and list action to consider, adopt, or revise Board policies and Board exhibits.</p> <p>Manages the process for approving new or revised administrative procedures, administrative procedure exhibits, and changes to employee and student handbooks.</p> <p>Communicates all policy and administrative procedure revisions or adoptions, as appropriate, to staff members, parents, students, and community members.</p>     |
| Superintendent or Superintendent's Secretary | <p>Updates the District's <i>Roster</i> as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Go to <a href="http://www.iasb.com">www.iasb.com</a> and click on the <b>Member Login</b> button.</li><li>2. Log in using your email address and password. If you do not know your password, use the "forgot your password?" link.</li><li>3. At the bottom of your Profile page, click on <b>Districts You Manage</b> and then the District name.</li><li>4. Review and verify or change the District's existing records. Ensure that all current board members, administrators, and anyone else on staff who accesses <b>PRESS</b> are listed with their current email addresses.</li></ol> |
| Designated support staff                     | <p>Logs in to <b>PRESS</b> Online as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Go to <a href="http://www.iasb.com">www.iasb.com</a> and click on the <b>Member Login</b> button.</li><li>2. Log in using your email address and password. If you do not know your password, use the "forgot your password?" link.</li><li>3. Under "<b>My Account Links</b>," click "<b>PRESS Login</b>."</li></ol>  |

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| Actor  | Action  |
|--|---|
|  | <p>To each member of the Policy Committee, full Board, or other interested school official, emails or otherwise distributes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>PRESS Update Memo;</b></li> <li>2. <b>PRESS</b> video tutorial link at: <a href="http://www.iasb.com/policy">www.iasb.com/policy</a>;</li> <li>3. Committee worksheets; and</li> <li>4. Current District policy in relevant areas.</li> </ol> <p>As appropriate, includes new and revised policies in the Board meeting packets.</p> <p>After a policy is adopted or revised, updates the District's policy manual master electronic file and adds or updates adoption dates.</p> <p>Archives previous version of revised policy.</p> <p>Follows district process for updating paper and online manuals.</p> <p>Considers distributing <b>PRESS Update Memo</b> to Building Principals.</p> |
| Policy Committee (or Full Board)               | <p>Considers each <b>PRESS</b> update. Reviews all footnote changes.</p> <p>Decides which changes require School Board discussion and which are appropriate as consent agenda items.</p> <p>The following are appropriate for the consent agenda: changes to the Legal References and Cross References, and minor policy edits that do not require Board discussion.</p> <p>Requests review of recommended revisions by the Board Attorney, as appropriate.</p> <p>Presents recommendations regarding <b>PRESS</b> updates to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting.</p>   |
| Full Board                                     | <p>Conducts a first reading of the policies that are recommended for adoption or revision.</p> <p>During the next regular meeting, conducts a second reading.</p> <p>A second reading allows the Board to hear feedback from interested parties, including staff, parents, students, and community members; however, State law does not require two readings.</p> <p>After the second reading, consider and take action to approve the policies at a duly convened open meeting.</p>  |
| Assistant Superintendents, Directors, Building | <p>Reads <b>PRESS Update Memo</b> (if applicable) and adopted policies, follows the Superintendent's process for updating administrative procedures, and makes necessary changes to employee and student handbooks within their assigned building(s).</p>   |



| Actor                                    | Action   |
|--|--|
| Principals, and<br>supervisory employees |  |
| Anyone                                   | For further clarification, view the online tutorial for <b>PRESS</b> , available at <a href="http://www.iasb.com/policy">www.iasb.com/policy</a> . |

ADOPTED: November 11, 2021



## School Board

### Exhibit - Developing Local Policy

| Actor   | Action  |
|---|---|
| Anyone (Superintendent, School Board member, staff, parent, student, community member, or Board Attorney) | Brings a concern that may necessitate a new policy or a current policy's revision to the attention of the School Board.   |
| Superintendent  | <p>Confers with the Board Attorney as appropriate.</p> <p>Manages the Board's compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Ensures that, as appropriate, the agendas for the Board Policy Committee and School Board include discussion and list action to consider, adopt, or revise Board policies and Board exhibits.</p> <p>Manages the process for approving new or revised administrative procedures, administrative procedure exhibits, and changes to employee and student handbooks.</p> <p>Communicates all policy and administrative procedure revisions or adoptions as appropriate to staff members, parents, students, and community members.</p>   |
| Policy Committee (or Full Board)  | <p><b>First</b>, answers these questions to decide whether new policy language is needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does the IASB Policy Reference Manual provide guidance?</li> <li>2. Is the request something that should be covered in policy (i.e., Board work), or is it something that should be handled by the staff (i.e., staff work)?</li> <li>3. Is it already covered in policy? Checks for policies that cover similar or connected topics using tools such as search engines, Tables of Contents, cross references, and indexes.</li> </ol> <p><b>Second</b>, uses a 3-step process to draft new policy language:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Frames the question and discusses the topic.</li> <li>2. Requests the Superintendent to provide research, including appropriate data, and input from others, such as, those who may</li> </ol> |



| Actor  | Action  |
|--|---|
|  | <p>be affected by the policy and those who will implement the policy.</p> <p>3. Drafts or requests the Superintendent or Board Attorney to draft language addressing the concern that aligns with the Board's mission, vision, goals, and objectives.</p> <p><b>Third</b>, decides whether the new language should be included in an existing policy or added as a new policy. Assigns any new policy an appropriate location and number.</p> <p>The <b>PRESS</b> coding system reserves policy numbers ending in a '0' and '5' for <b>PRESS</b> material. Locally developed District policies should use policy numbers ending in 2, 4, 6, or 8.</p> |
| Full Board   | <p>Conducts a first reading of the policy that is recommended for adoption or revision.</p> <p>During the next regular meeting, conducts a second reading.</p> <p>A second reading allows the Board to hear feedback from interested parties, including staff, parents, students, and community members; however, State law does not require two readings.</p> <p>After the second reading, consider and take action to approve the policies at a duly convened open meeting.</p>   |
| Designated support staff   | <p>After a policy is adopted or revised, updates the District's policy manual master electronic file and adds or updates adoption dates.</p> <p>Archives previous version of revised policy.</p> <p>Follows district process for updating paper and online manuals.</p>   |
| Assistant Superintendents, Directors, Building Principals, and supervisory employees | <p>Reads <b>PRESS Update Memo</b> (if applicable) and adopted policies, follows the Superintendent's process for updating administrative procedures, and makes necessary changes to employee and student handbooks within their assigned building(s).</p>   |

ADOPTED: November 11, 2021





## **School Board**

### **Access to District Public Records**

Full access to the District's *public records* is available to any person as provided in the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), this policy, and implementing procedures. The Superintendent or designee shall: (1) provide the Board with sufficient information and data to permit the Board to monitor the District's compliance with FOIA and this policy, and (2) report any FOIA requests during the Board's regular meetings along with the status of the District's response.

### **Freedom of Information Officer**

The Superintendent shall serve as the District's Freedom of Information Officer and assumes all the duties and powers of that office as provided in FOIA and this policy. The Superintendent may delegate these duties and powers to one or more designees, but the delegation shall not relieve the Superintendent of the responsibility for the action that was delegated.

### **Definition**

The District's *public records* are defined as records, reports, forms, writings, letters, memoranda, books, papers, maps, photographs, microfilms, cards, tapes, recordings, electronic data processing records, electronic communications, recorded information and all other documentary material pertaining to the transaction of public business, regardless of physical form or characteristics, having been prepared by or for, or having been or being used by, received by, in the possession of, or under the control of the School District.

### **Requesting Records**

A request for inspection and/or copies of public records must be made in writing and may be submitted by personal delivery, mail, telefax, or email directed to the District's Freedom of Information Officer. Individuals making a request are not required to state a reason for the request other than to identify when the request is for a commercial purpose or when requesting a fee waiver. The Superintendent or designee shall instruct District employees to immediately forward any request for inspection and copying of a public record to the District's Freedom of Information Officer or designee.

### **Responding to Requests**

The Freedom of Information Officer shall approve all requests for public records unless:

1. The requested material does not exist;
2. The requested material is exempt from inspection and copying by the Freedom of Information Act; or
3. Complying with the request would be unduly burdensome.

Within five business days after receipt of a request for access to a public record, the Freedom of Information Officer shall comply with or deny the request, unless the time for response is extended as specified in Section 3 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer may extend the time for a response for up to five business days from the original due date. If an extension is needed, the Freedom of Information Officer shall: (1) notify the person making the request of the reason for the extension, and (2) either inform the person of the date on which a response will be made, or agree with the person in writing on a compliance period.

The time periods are extended for responding to requests for records made for a *commercial purpose*, requests by a *recurrent requester*, or *voluminous requests*, as those terms are defined in Section 2 of FOIA. The time periods for responding to those requests are governed by Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.6 of FOIA.

When responding to a request for a record containing both exempt and non-exempt material, the Freedom of Information Officer shall redact exempt material from the record before complying with the request.

#### Fees

Persons making a request for copies of public records must pay any and all applicable fees. The Freedom of Information Officer shall establish a fee schedule that complies with FOIA and this policy and is subject to the Board's review. The fee schedule shall include copying fees and all other fees to the maximum extent they are permitted by FOIA, including without limitation, search and review fees for responding to a request for a *commercial purpose* and fees, costs, and personnel hours in connection with responding to a *voluminous request*.

Copying fees, except when fixed by statute, shall be reasonably calculated to reimburse the District's actual cost for reproducing and certifying public records and for the use, by any person, of its equipment to copy records. In no case shall the copying fees exceed the maximum fees permitted by FOIA. If the District's actual copying costs are equal to or greater than the maximum fees permitted by FOIA, the Freedom of Information Officer is authorized to use FOIA's maximum fees as the District's fees. No copying fees shall be charged for: (1) the first 50 pages of black and white, letter or legal sized copies, or (2) electronic copies other than the actual cost of the recording medium, except if the response is to a *voluminous request*, as defined in FOIA.

A fee reduction is available if the request qualifies under Section 6 of FOIA. The Freedom of Information Officer shall set the amount of the reduction taking into consideration the amount of material requested and the cost of copying it.

#### Provision of Copies and Access to Records

A public record that is the subject of an approved access request will be available for inspection or copying at the District's administrative office during regular business hours, unless other arrangements are made by the Freedom of Information Officer.

Many public records are immediately available from the District's website including, but not limited to, the process for requesting a public record. The Freedom of Information Officer shall direct a requester to the District's website if a requested record is available there. If the requester is unable to reasonably access the record online, he or she may resubmit the request for the record, stating his or her inability to reasonably access the record online, and the District shall make the requested record available for inspection and copying as otherwise provided in this policy.

#### Preserving Public Records

Public records, including email messages, shall be preserved and cataloged if: (1) they are evidence of the District's organization, function, policies, procedures, or activities, (2) they contain informational data appropriate for preservation, (3) their retention is required by State or federal law, or (4) they are subject to a retention request by the Board Attorney (e.g., a litigation hold), District auditor, or other individual authorized by the School Board or State or federal law to make such a request. Unless its retention is required as described in items numbered 3 or 4 above, a public record, as defined by the Illinois Local Records Act, may be destroyed when authorized by the Local Records Commission.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 140/, Illinois Freedom of Information Act.  
105 ILCS 5/10-16 and 5/24A-7.1.  
820 ILCS 40/11.  
820 ILCS 130/5.

CROSS REF.: 2:140 (Communications To and From the Board), 5:150 (Personnel Records),  
7:340 (Student Records)

ADOPTED: December 12, 2019



## **School Board**

### **Administrative Procedure - Access to and Copying of District Public Records**

- A. Legal Citations and Definitions
- B. FOIA Compliance
- C. Availability and Posting Requirements
- D. Fee Schedule
- E. Response to FOIA Requests
- F. Extensions of Time to Respond
- G. Unduly Burdensome Requests
- H. Requests for Commercial Purposes
- I. Managing Requests from a Recurrent Requester
- J. Managing Voluminous Requests
- K. Denials
- L. Consultation with the Board Attorney

#### **A. Legal Citations and Definitions**

The legal requirements contained in this procedure are followed by a citation to the controlling statute. Citations in parenthesis indicate the location of a named law. For additional clarification regarding a requirement, the cited law should be reviewed.

Definitions are found in the Ill. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/2). For easy reference, some definitions are re-printed in this procedure. The IASB reports on Ill. Public Access Counselor (PAC) opinions concerning FOIA on its **Recent Court and Agency Decisions** website, located at: [www.iasb.com/law/courtdecisions.cfm](http://www.iasb.com/law/courtdecisions.cfm).

#### **B. FOIA Compliance**

The District's Freedom of Information Officer (FOIA Officer) implements the Board policy (2:250, *Access to District Public Records*) and has the duties, without limitation, listed below:

1. Manages the District's compliance with FOIA including without limitation, performing the following duties specified in FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/3.5:
  - a. Receives FOIA requests, ensures that the District responds to requests in a timely fashion, and issues responses to FOIA requests.
  - b. Develops a list of documents or categories of records that will be immediately disclosed upon request. See 2:250-E2, *Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records*.
  - c. Upon receiving a request for a public record, (a) notes the date the District received the written request; (b) computes the day on which the period for response will expire and makes a notation of that date on the written request; (c) maintains an electronic or paper copy of a written request, including all documents submitted with the request until the request has been complied with or denied; and (d) creates a file for the retention of the original request, a copy of the response, a record of written communications with the requester, and a copy of other communications.
2. Identifies other staff members to assist with FOIA compliance and delegates specific responsibilities to them. These individuals may include the information technology specialist and department heads.

3. Informs and/or trains staff members concerning their respective responsibilities regarding FOIA. This includes explaining the requirement that all FOIA requests must be immediately forwarded to the FOIA Officer, including those that are received via email.
4. Successfully completes the annual training program developed by the Ill. Public Access Counselor (PAC) in the Ill. Attorney General's office. Each newly appointed FOIA Officer must successfully complete the training program within 30 days after assuming the position.

### **C. Availability and Posting Requirements**

Full access to the District's *public records* is available to any person as provided in FOIA. The FOIA Officer approves all requests for *public records* unless: (1) the requested material does not exist, (2) the requested material is exempt from inspection and copying by FOIA, or (3) complying with the request will be unduly burdensome after extending an opportunity to the requester to reduce the request to manageable proportions.

The FOIA Officer shall:

1. Prominently display at each administrative office and school, and post on the District website, if any, the following:
  - a. A brief description of the District, and
  - b. The methods for requesting information and District public records, directory information listing the FOIA Officer and where requests for public records should be directed, and any fees. 5 ILCS 140/4. This information must be copied and mailed if requested.
2. Maintain and make available for inspection and copying a reasonably current list of all types or categories of records under the District's control. 5 ILCS 140/5. The list below contains the categories of records kept by the District; some of the records within these categories are exempt and, therefore, will not be disclosed in response to a FOIA request.
  - a. Board governance, including without limitation, Board meeting calendar and notices, Board meeting agendas and minutes, Board policy
  - b. Fiscal and business management, including without limitation, levy resolution and certificate of tax levy, audit, line-item budget, grant documents, account statements, accounts payable list, contracts, legal notices, bidding specifications, requests for proposals
  - c. Personnel, including without limitation, employee contact information, salary schedules, staff handbook, collective bargaining agreements, personnel file material
  - d. Students and instruction, including without limitation, accountability documents, calendars, student handbooks, learning outcomes, student school records

### **D. Fee Schedule**

The FOIA Officer establishes a fee schedule (from time-to-time as appropriate) that complies with 5 ILCS 140/6, including each of the following:

1. The fees, except when otherwise fixed by statute, must: (a) be reasonably calculated to reimburse the District's actual cost for reproducing and certifying public records and for the use, by any person, of its equipment to copy records, and (b) not exceed that maximum fee amount set by FOIA.
2. Statutory fees applicable to copies of public records when furnished in a paper format are not applicable to those records when furnished in an electronic format.
3. No fee is charged for the first 50 pages of black and white, letter or legal sized copies furnished to a requester.

4. The fee for black and white, letter or legal sized copies shall not exceed 15 cents per page.
5. If the District provides copies in color or in a size other than letter or legal, the fee may not be more than its actual cost for reproducing the records.
6. A fee reduction is available if the person requesting the record states a specific purpose for the request and indicates that a fee reduction is in the public interest by having as its principal purpose the general public's health, safety, welfare, or legal rights and is not for the principal purpose of personal or commercial benefit. In setting the reduction's amount, the FOIA Officer considers the amount of materials requested and the cost of copying them.
7. In accordance with 5 ILCS 140/6(a-5), if a voluminous request is for electronic records and the responsive records are:
  - a. Not in a portable document format (PDF), the District charges up to \$20 for not more than two megabytes of data, up to \$40 for more than two but not more than four megabytes of data, and up to \$100 for more than four megabytes of data.
  - b. In a PDF, the District charges up to \$20 for not more than 80 megabytes of data, up to \$40 for more than 80 megabytes but not more than 160 megabytes of data, and up to \$100 for more than 160 megabytes of data.
  - c. In both a PDF and not in a PDF, the District separates the fees and charges the requester under both fee scales.
8. Unless the request is for a commercial purpose or a voluminous request, the costs of any search for and review of the records or other personnel costs associated with reproducing the records are not included in the fee calculation. 5 ILCS 140/6(a).

\*Section 6(a) states: "If a request is *not* a request for a *commercial purpose* or a *voluminous request*, a public body *may not* charge the requester for the costs of any search for and review of the records or other personnel costs associated with reproducing the records." (Emphasis added) This implies that a search and review fee may be charged when responding to a request for a *commercial purpose* or a *voluminous request*. However, Sec. 6(b) states that the search and review fee described in Sec. 6(f) may be charged *only* to someone making a *commercial request*. Sec. 6(f) contains the maximum amounts that may be charged for search and review but does not explain when they may be charged. The FOIA Officer will need to consult the Board Attorney.

When responding to a request for commercial purposes, as defined in 5 ILCS 140/2(c-10), the District charges:

- a. Up to \$10.00 for each hour spent by personnel in searching for or retrieving a requested record or examining the record for necessary reductions. No fee is charged for the first eight hours spent by personnel in searching for or retrieving a requested record. 5 ILCS 140/6(f).
- b. The actual cost of retrieving and transporting public records from an off-site storage facility when the public records are maintained by a third-party storage company under contract with the District. 5 ILCS 140/6(f).

Someone making a voluminous request may be charged the fees as described above upon the FOIA Officer's consult with the Board Attorney.

The FOIA Officer provides the requester with an accounting of all fees, costs, and personnel hours in connection with the request for public records under 7 and 8 above. 5 ILCS 140/6(a-5) and (f).

#### **E. Response to FOIA Requests**

The FOIA Officer must:

1. Comply with or deny a request for inspection or copying within five business days of receiving a records request, unless the time for response is extended. 5 ILCS 140/3. He or she may use forms prepared by the PAC available at: [www.foiাপac.ilag.gov/](http://www.foiাপac.ilag.gov/). Click on the menu *PAC Resources*, then on the submenu *Forms and Sample Letters*.
2. Redact any and all exempt portion(s) of requested records containing both exempt and non-exempt material and release the remaining material. 5 ILCS 140/7.
3. Comply with the Personnel Record Review Act (PRRA), 820 ILCS 40/, amended by P.A. 101-531.
  - a. The response to a request for a disciplinary report, letter of reprimand, or other disciplinary action depends on the age and nature of the responsive record.
    - 1) If the responsive record is more than four years old and is not related to an incident or an attempted incident of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or *sexual misconduct* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), the request must be denied unless the release is ordered in a legal action or arbitration. 5 ILCS 140/7.5(q), amended by P.A. 101-620; 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 102-702.
    - 2) If the responsive record is more than four years old and is related to an incident or an attempted incident of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, or *sexual misconduct* as defined in 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(c), the request cannot be denied. 820 ILCS 40/8, amended by P.A.s 101-531 and 102-702.
    - 3) If the responsive record is four years old or less, it must be disclosed (regardless of its nature) and the employee must be notified in writing (first class mail) or by email, if available, on or before the day any such record is released, unless notice is not required under the PRRA. 5 ILCS 140/7.5(q), amended by P.A. 101-620; 820 ILCS 40/7, amended by P.A. 102-562. A notice to the employee is not required if:
      - The employee specifically waived written notice as part of a written, signed employment application with another employer;
      - The disclosure is ordered to a party in a legal action or arbitration; or
      - Information is requested by a government agency as a result of a claim or complaint by an employee, or as a result of a criminal investigation by such agency.
  - b. A request for a performance evaluation(s) must be denied. 820 ILCS 40/11.

#### **F. Extensions of Time to Respond**

The District FOIA Officer may extend the time for a response for any of the reasons stated in 5 ILCS 140/3(e)(i-vii), **quoted below**:

- (i) The requested records are stored in whole or in part at other locations than the office having charge of the requested records;
- (ii) The request requires the collection of a substantial number of specified records;
- (iii) The request is couched in categorical terms and requires an extensive search for the records responsive to it;



- (iv) The requested records have not been located in the course of routine search and additional efforts are being made to locate them;
- (v) The requested records require examination and evaluation by personnel having the necessary competence and discretion to determine if they are exempt from disclosure under 5 ILCS 140/7 or should be revealed only with appropriate deletions;
- (vi) The request for records cannot be complied with by the public body within the time limits prescribed by 5 ILCS 140/3(d) without unduly burdening or interfering with the operations of the public body; or
- (vii) There is a need for consultation, which shall be conducted with all practicable speed, with another public body or among two or more components of a public body having a substantial interest in the determination or in the subject matter of the request.

If an extension of time for a response is needed, the FOIA Officer must perform one of the following actions within five business days after receipt of the request:

1. Notify the requester that the District is extending its time for response for no longer than 5 business days from the original due date, and identify the reason for the delay and the date on which a response will be made. 5 ILCS 140/3(e) and (f); or
2. Confer with the requester in an attempt to reach an agreement on an extended compliance date. The agreement must be in writing. 5 ILCS 140/3(e).

#### **G. Unduly Burdensome Requests**

Before invoking the *unduly burdensome* exemption, the FOIA Officer must confer with the requester in an attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions. 5 ILCS 140/3(e) and (g). A request may be unduly burdensome due, for example, to the request's breadth. The FOIA Officer must explain to the requester in writing when a request continues to be unduly burdensome, specifying the reason why the request is unduly burdensome.

#### **H. Requests for Commercial Purposes**

A request is for *commercial purposes*, according to 5 ILCS 140/2(c-10), if:

[T]he use of any part of a public record or records, or information derived from public records, in any form for sale, resale, or solicitation or advertisement for sales or services. For purposes of this definition, requests made by news media and non-profit, scientific, or academic organizations shall not be considered to be made for a *commercial purpose* when the principal purpose of the request is (i) to access and disseminate information concerning news and current or passing events, (ii) for articles of opinion or features of interest to the public, or (iii) for the purpose of academic, scientific, or public research or education.

The FOIA Officer responds to a request that appears to be for commercial purposes pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3.1 by:

1. Asking the requester to identify if the record is for a commercial purpose. See 2:250-E1, *Written Request for District Public Records*. It is unlawful for a person to knowingly obtain a public record for a commercial purpose without disclosing that it is for a commercial purpose, if requested to do so by the District. 5 ILCS 140/3.1(c).
2. Responding to a request for records to be used for a commercial purpose within 21 working days after receipt. The response must be one of the following: (a) provide an estimate of the time required by the District to provide the records and an estimate of the fees, which the requester may be required to pay in full before copying the requested documents; (b) deny the request pursuant to one or more of the exemptions; (c) notify the requester that the request is

unduly burdensome and extend an opportunity to attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions; or (d) provide the records requested.

3. Complying with a request, unless the records are exempt from disclosure, within a reasonable period considering the size and complexity of the request, and giving priority to records requested for non-commercial purposes.
4. Collecting a fee as described in subsection D. above.

#### **I. Managing Requests from a Recurrent Requester**

A request is from a *recurrent requester*, according to 5 ILCS 140/2(g), if:

[A] person that, in the 12 months immediately preceding the request, has submitted to the same public body (i) a minimum of 50 requests for records, (ii) a minimum of 15 requests for records within a 30-day period, or (iii) a minimum of seven requests for records within a seven-day period. For purposes of this definition, requests made by news media and non-profit, scientific, or academic organizations shall not be considered in calculating the number of requests made in the time period in this definition when the principal purpose of the requests is (i) to access and disseminate information concerning new and current or passing events, (ii) for articles of opinion or features of interest to the public, or (iii) for the purpose of academic, scientific, or public research or education.

For purposes of this definition, one *request* may identify multiple records to be inspected or copied.

The District complies with a request from a recurrent requester within a reasonable period considering the size and complexity of the record, unless the records are exempt from disclosure. 5 ILCS 140/3.2(c).

The FOIA Officer responds to a request from a recurrent requester by:

1. Notifying the requester within five business days after receiving a request from a recurrent requester (5 ILCS 140/3.2(b)) that:
  - a. The request is being treated as coming from a recurrent requester under 5 ILCS 140/2(g);
  - b. The reasons the request is being treated as coming from a recurrent requester;
  - c. The District will send an initial response within 21 business days after receipt of the request; and
  - d. The proposed FOIA responses that may be asserted pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/3.2(a). These are the same responses that the District can provide within 21 business days after receipt of a request.
2. Responding within 21 business days after receipt of a recurrent request with one of the following (5 ILCS 140/3.2(a)):
  - a. An estimate of the time required by the District to provide the records and an estimate of the fees, which the requester is required to pay in full before the District copies the requested documents;
  - b. A denial pursuant to one or more of the exemptions;
  - c. Notification that the request is unduly burdensome and extend an opportunity to attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions; or
  - d. The records as requested.

#### **J. Managing Voluminous Requests**

A *voluminous request*, according to 5 ILCS 140/2(h), means:

[A] request that:

- i. Includes more than five individual requests for more than five different categories of records or a combination of individual requests that total requests for more than five different categories of records in a period of 20 business days; or
- ii. Requires the compilation of more than 500 letter or legal-sized pages of public records unless a single requested record exceeds 500 pages. *Single requested record* may include, but is not limited to, one report, form, email, letter, memorandum, book, map, microfilm, tape, or recording.

According to 5 ILCS 140/2(h), a *voluminous request* "does not include a request made by news media and non-profit, scientific, or academic organizations if the principal purpose of the request is: (1) to access and disseminate information concerning news and current or passing events; (2) for articles of opinion or features of interest to the public; or (3) for the purpose of academic, scientific, or public research or education."

The FOIA Officer responds to a voluminous request by:

1. Notifying the requester within five business days after receiving a voluminous request that:
  - a. The District is treating the request as a voluminous request under 5 ILCS 140/3.6.
  - b. The District is treating the request as voluminous for one of the following reasons:
    - 1) Includes more than five individual requests for more than five different categories of records or a combination of individual requests that total requests for more than five different categories of records in a period of 20 business days; or
    - 2) Requires the compilation of more than 500 letter or legal-sized pages of public records unless a single requested record exceeds 500 pages.
  - c. The requester must respond to the District within ten business days after this response is sent. The requester must specify whether the requester would like to amend the request in such a way that the District will no longer treat the request as a voluminous request.
  - d. If the requester does not respond within ten business days or if the request continues to be a voluminous request following the requester response, the District will respond to the request and assess any fees the District charges pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/6.
  - e. The District has five business days after receipt of the requester's response or five business days from the last day for the requester to amend the request, whichever is sooner, to respond to the request.
  - f. The District may request an additional ten business days to comply with the request.
  - g. The requester has the right to review the District's determination by the public access counselor whose address and phone number follows:

Public Access Counselor  
Office of the Attorney General  
500 S. 2nd Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
Phone: 1-877-299-3642
  - h. If the requester fails to accept or collect the responsive records, the District will still charge the requester for its response pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/6 and the requester's failure to pay will be considered a debt due and owing to the District and may be collected in accordance with applicable law.

2. Providing the requester ten business days from the date the District responded to amend the request in such a way that the District will no longer treat it as a voluminous request.
3. If a request continues to be a voluminous request following the requester's reply or the requester fails to reply, responding within the earlier of five business days after the District receives the requester's reply or five business days after the final day for the requester to reply to the District's notification. The District's response must:
  - a. Provide an estimate of the fees to be charged, indicating whether the District requires the person to pay in full before the District copies the requested documents;
  - b. Deny the request pursuant to one or more of the exemptions sent out in FOIA;
  - c. Notify the requester that the request is unduly burdensome and extend an opportunity to the requester to attempt to reduce the request to manageable proportions; or
  - d. Provide the records as requested.

The District may extend the time for responding by not more than five business days from the final date for the requester to reply to the District's notification for any of the reasons provided in 5 ILCS 140/3(e).

The requester and District may agree in writing to extend the time for compliance for a period to be determined by the parties.

#### **K. Denials**

The FOIA Officer will deny a FOIA request for any of the exemptions in 5 ILCS 140/7 or 7.5, amended by P.A.s 101-221, 101-620, and 101-649. He or she will comply with 5 ILCS 140/9 by:

1. Providing the requester with a written response containing: (a) the reasons for the denial, including a detailed factual basis for the application of any exemption claimed; (b) the names and titles or positions of each person responsible for the denial; and (c) information about his or her right to review by the Public Access Counselor (include the address and phone number for the Public Access Counselor), and to judicial review under 5 ILCS 140/11.
2. Specifying the exemption claimed to authorize the denial and the specific reasons for the denial, including a detailed factual basis and a citation to supporting legal authority when the denial is based on the grounds that the records are exempt under 5 ILCS 140/7.
3. Retaining copies of all denial notices in a single central office file that is open to the public and indexed according to the type of exemption asserted and, to the extent feasible, according to the types of records requested. 5 ILCS 140/9(b).

#### **L. Consultation with the Board Attorney**

The FOIA Officer may consult with the Board Attorney, as needed, for legal advice concerning compliance with FOIA, including without limitation:

1. Responding to specific requests,
2. Communicating with the Office of the Ill. Attorney General or PAC, or
3. During any judicial proceeding.

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 140/, Freedom of Information Act.

ADOPTED: January 12, 2023

## School Board

### Exhibit - Immediately Available District Public Records and Web-Posted Reports and Records

*[For use by only those Districts that have websites.]*

The District's Freedom of Information Officer designates the public records that are listed in this table as being immediately available to the public. The records that are asterisked (\*) are posted on the District's website and may be immediately inspected, downloaded, printed, and/or copied. Any asterisked public record is also immediately available for inspection or copying upon request at the District's administrative office during its regular business hours, provided any applicable fees are paid. Records not asterisked (\*) will be provided within five business days as allowed by the Freedom of Information Act, provided any applicable fees are paid.

| <b>Web-posted records and information (use of an * is explained in the paragraph above this table)</b>   | <b>Web-posting statutory reference and special instructions</b>   |
|--|---|
| <p>*Annual schedule of regular meetings for the current school year that are posted at the beginning of each calendar or fiscal year</p> <p>*Public notice of each Board meeting that is posted at least 48 hours before the meeting and remains posted until the meeting is concluded</p> <p>*Agenda of each regular meeting that is posted at least 48 hours before a meeting and remains posted until the meeting is concluded</p> <p><b>Note:</b> For school districts that do not post board meeting notices and/or agendas on a website (because they do not have a website maintained by a full-time staff member), the notice and agenda must be continuously available for public review during the entire 48-hour period preceding the meeting</p> | <p>5 ILCS 120/2.02.</p>   |
| <p>*Official open meeting minutes that are posted within 10 days of the Board's approval and remain posted for at least 60 days (required if the District has a website maintained by a full-time staff member)</p>  | <p>5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).</p>  |
| <p>*Description of the District and its records including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summary of the District's purpose</li> <li>2. Functional subdivisions</li> <li>3. Total amount of operating budget</li> <li>4. Number and location of all of its separate offices</li> <li>5. Approximate number of full- and part-time employees (see also, salary and benefits information report for the Superintendent,</li> </ol>  | <p>5 ILCS 140/4.</p> <p>The District must prominently post the list at each administrative office and make it available for inspection and copying.</p> |

| Web-posted records and information (use of an * is explained in the paragraph above this table)  | Web-posting statutory reference and special instructions   |
|--|--|
| <p>administrators, and teachers, District's Statement of Affairs)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Identification and membership of the Board</li> <li>7. Brief description of the methods whereby the public may request information and public records</li> <li>8. Directory information for the Freedom of Information Officer</li> <li>9. Address where requests for public records should be directed</li> <li>10. Fees</li> </ol> |  |
| <p>*A hyperlink to an email address(es) for members of the public to communicate with members of the Board</p>   | <p>50 ILCS 205/20.</p> <p>The hyperlink must be easily accessible from the District's home page.</p>   |
| <p>Annual budget for current fiscal year, itemized by receipts and expenditures</p>  | <p>105 ILCS 5/17-1.2.</p> <p>This may be accomplished using the Ill. State Board of Education (ISBE) <i>School District Budget Form</i> (50-36) or the summary pages from it.</p> <p>The District must notify its students' parents/guardians when the budget is web-posted along with its website address.</p>  |
| <p>*District Report Card and a Report Card for each School (the Report Cards will be provided by ISBE by Oct. 31 of each year, unless otherwise provided by law)</p>   | <p>105 ILCS 5/10-17a, amended by P.A.s 102-16, 102-294, 102-539, and 102-594.</p> <p>Annually, no more than 30 calendar days after receiving the Report Cards from the State Superintendent, the District must: (1) present them at a regular Board meeting, (2) post them on the District's website, (3) make them available to a newspaper of general circulation serving the District, and (4) upon request, send them home to parents/guardians. 105 ILCS 5/10-17a(5).</p> <p>The District also must send a written notice home to parents/guardians stating: (1) that the Report Cards are available on the website, (2) the website's address, (3) that a printed copy will be sent upon request, and (4) the telephone number to request a printed copy. <u>Id.</u></p> |
| <p>*The District's discipline plan and progress on the plan, in the event the District is identified by ISBE to be in the</p>  | <p>105 ILCS 5/2-3.162.</p>   |

| Web-posted records and information (use of an * is explained in the paragraph above this table)   | Web-posting statutory reference and special instructions  |
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| top 20% (for three consecutive years) of districts for out-of-school suspensions, out-of-school expulsions, or racial disproportionality in the use of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions | If the District is required to submit a plan to ISBE, it must be approved at a public board meeting and posted on the District's website. Within one year after being identified by ISBE, the District must submit to ISBE and post on its website a progress report describing implementation of the plan and the results achieved.                        |
| *A list of all contracts in excess of \$25,000 and any contracts with an exclusive bargaining representative  | 105 ILCS 5/10-20.44.<br><br>There is no statutory timeline for web-posting.<br><br>Each year, in conjunction with the submission of the Statement of Affairs to ISBE, before Dec. 1, the District must submit to ISBE an annual report on all contracts over \$25,000 awarded during the previous fiscal year.  |
| *Contract(s) with any commercial driver training school(s) for driver education   | 105 ILCS 5/27-24.2.<br><br>The District is required to web-post this document if it has a website. If the District has no website, it must make the contract available upon request.  |
| Annual Statement of Affairs   | 105 ILCS 5/10-17.<br><br>The District is not required to web-post this document. It must, annually by Dec. 1, submit the Statement to ISBE for posting on ISBE's website, have copies of the Statement available in the main administrative office, and publish a summary of the Statement in a newspaper of general circulation published in the District. |
| *Fiscal Efficiency Report, summarizing the District's attempts to improve fiscal efficiency through shared services or outsourcing in the prior fiscal year                                     | 105 ILCS 5/17-1.1, amended by P.A. 102-1088.<br><br>The report must be: (1) approved by the Board at an open meeting, and (2) primarily in checklist form and approximately one page in length.   |
| Beginning in levy year 2022, if the District has an aggregate property tax levy greater than \$5,000,000, it will make good faith efforts to electronically publish the                         | 35 ILCS 200/18-50.2, added by P.A. 102-265.   |

| Web-posted records and information (use of an * is explained in the paragraph above this table)  | Web-posting statutory reference and special instructions   |
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| <p>following data from all vendors and subcontractors doing business with the District:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Whether the vendor or subcontractor is minority-owned, women-owned, or veteran-owned</li> <li>2. Whether the vendor or subcontractor holds a certification as a minority-owned, women-owned, or veteran-owned business as defined in 30 ILCS 575/, or if they are self-certifying; and</li> <li>3. If the vendor self-certifies, whether it qualifies as a small business under federal Small Business Administration standards (See <a href="http://www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-guide/size-standards">www.sba.gov/federal-contracting/contracting-guide/size-standards</a>).</li> </ol> | <p>The law does not define <i>electronically publish</i>; website posting is a means of compliance. This item is not asterisked should the District choose to electronically publish the information offline.</p>  |
| <p>*Explanation of the data elements of <i>covered information</i> that the District collects, maintains, or discloses to any person, entity, third party, or governmental agency.</p> <p>*A description of the procedures that parents/guardians may use to carry out their rights under 105 ILCS 85/33(c)(1), (2), &amp; (3), including the right to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inspect and review their child's covered information</li> <li>2. Request a paper or electronic copy of their child's covered information</li> <li>3. Request corrections for factual inaccuracies contained in their child's covered information</li> </ol>  | <p>105 ILCS 85/27(a)(1).</p> <p>The explanation of data elements of covered information must be clear and understandable by a layperson and cover the following: (1) how the District uses the covered information; (2) to whom or what entities the District discloses the covered information; and (3) for what purpose the District discloses the covered information.</p> <p>The explanation of data elements and description of parent rights procedures must be updated by Jan. 31 and July 31 each year, as needed.</p> |
| <p>*A list of operators with whom the District has written agreements and the following for each operator:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Copy of the agreement</li> <li>2. Business address</li> <li>3. List of any subcontractors to whom covered information may be disclosed or a link to a page on the operator's website that clearly lists the subcontractors</li> </ol>   | <p>105 ILCS 85/27(a)(2) &amp; (3).</p> <p>The District must post new operator contracts and an explanation of the data elements of covered information disclosed to the operator (see immediate row above) within 10 business days after entering into the contract. 105 ILCS 85/27(c).</p> <p>This list must also be updated by Jan. 31 and July 31 each year, as needed.</p>   |
| <p>*A list of <i>breaches</i> of covered information maintained by the school or an operator involving 10% or more of the District's student enrollment. The list must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of students whose covered information was involved in the breach, unless the breach involved <i>personal information</i> as defined in the Personal Information Protection Act, 815 ILCS</li> </ol>   | <p>105 ILCS 85/27(a)(5).</p> <p>The District must update breach information by Jan. 31 and July 31 each year, and it must remain on the District's website for at least five years after the District adds it to the list. Breaches that occurred (or were estimated to have occurred) prior to 7-1-21 or breaches that</p>  |



| Web-posted records and information (use of an * is explained in the paragraph above this table)  | Web-posting statutory reference and special instructions   |
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| <p>530/5, in which case the number of students involved may not be disclosed</p> <p>2. Date, estimated date, or estimated date range of the breach</p> <p>3. Name of the operator, if applicable</p>                                   | <p>were posted more than five years prior to updating the current list do not need to be posted.</p>   |
| <p>*Board policy 7:180, <i>Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment</i></p> <p>*Information developed as a result of the evaluation and assessment of the bullying policy's outcomes and effectiveness</p> | <p>105 ILCS 5/27-23.7(b)(10) and (11).</p>   |
| <p>*Contact information for the District's Title IX Coordinator(s) and Board policies 2:260, <i>Uniform Grievance Procedure</i>; and 2:265, <i>Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure</i></p>                                  | <p>34 C.F.R. §106.8.</p>   |
| <p>*Training materials for any individuals designated as Title IX Coordinator(s), investigators, decision-makers, and informal resolution facilitators</p>   | <p>34 C.F.R. §106.45(b)(10)(i)(D).</p> <p>Naming only the training provider and course does not meet this requirement. The U.S. Dept. of Education (DOE) requires training materials be publicly available "so that a district's approach to training Title IX personnel may be transparently viewed by the [district's] educational community and the public, including for the purpose of holding a [district] accountable for using training materials that comply with [Title IX] regulations." 85 Fed. Reg. 30254. Consult the board attorney regarding this requirement; making training materials of third-party consultants publicly available may violate their intellectual property rights. The DOE acknowledged the potential for intellectual property violations, suggesting that districts either "secure permission from the consultant to publish the training materials" or create their own training materials. 85 Fed. Reg. 30412.</p> |
| <p>*Board policy 7:20, <i>Harassment of Students Prohibited</i>, and age-appropriate explanations of its contents in student handbook(s)</p>   | <p>105 ILCS 5/10-20.69.</p> <p>The District must have an age-appropriate policy on sexual harassment (1) in the student handbook(s), (2) posted on the District's website, and (3) posted in any other area where policies, rules and</p>  |

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|  | standards of conduct are posted in each school.  |
| *Board policy 7:290, <i>Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention</i>  | 105 ILCS 5/2-3.166, amended by P.A. 102-267.   |
| *Contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) and Crisis Text Line (Text 741741), if the District does not issue student identification cards to all students   | 105 ILCS 5/10-20.76, added by P.A. 102-134 and renumbered by P.A. 102-813.   |
| *Administrator and Teacher Salary and Benefits Report (itemized salary report for the Superintendent and all administrators and teachers); <i>benefits</i> includes, without limitation, vacation days, sick days, bonuses, annuities, and retirement enhancements | 105 ILCS 5/10-20.47.<br>Annually on or before Oct. 1: (1) the information must be presented at a regular Board meeting and posted on the District's website, and (2) after the Board meeting at which the information was presented, the Report must be provided to ISBE.  |
| *All records pertaining to the creation, alteration or revision of school attendance areas shall be open to the public   | 105 ILCS 5/10-21.3.<br>This law also requires school attendance areas to be periodically revised, if necessary, to prevent or eliminate segregation by color, race, or nationality.<br>See policy 7:30, <i>Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer</i> .  |
| *Vacancies for teaching positions in a subject shortage area, before hiring a retired teacher to any such position   | 40 ILCS 5/16-150.1, amended by P.A. 102-440.<br>The District must, on an ongoing basis, post the vacancy for a period of at least 90 days during the six months preceding either the fall or spring term for which it seeks to employ a retired teacher in a subject shortage area. This posting requirement is in effect for employment ending no later than June 30, 2024. |
| *Information regarding a Severance Agreement entered into because an employee or contractor was found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual discrimination  | 50 ILCS 205/3c.<br>Within 72 hours of Board approval, the District must post: (1) the name/title of person receiving payment under the severance agreement, (2) the amount of payment, (3) that the employee or contractor was found to have engaged in sexual harassment or sexual  |

| Web-posted records and information (use of an * is explained in the paragraph above this table)  | Web-posting statutory reference and special instructions  |
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|  | <p>discrimination, as applicable, and (4) the date, time, and location of the meeting at which the agreement was approved.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The Government Severance Pay Act (GSPA), 5 ILCS 415/10(a)(2), prohibits an employee of a school district with contract provisions for severance pay from receiving any severance if the employee is fired by the board for <i>misconduct</i>, which includes sexual harassment and/or discrimination. <i>Id.</i> at 415/5. For more discussion about the reconciling these laws, see f/n 6 in sample policy 2:260, <i>Uniform Grievance Procedure</i>.</p> |
| <p>*As an employer that participates in the Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), a compensation report for employees who have a total compensation package that exceeds \$75,000 per year; <i>total compensation package</i> means salary, health insurance, a housing allowance, a vehicle allowance, a clothing allowance, bonuses, loans, vacation days granted, and sick days granted</p>                          | <p>5 ILCS 120/7.3.</p> <p>The report must be posted within six business days after the District approves a budget. The District may choose to post a physical copy of this information at its principal office in lieu of posting the information directly on the website in which case it must post directions on the website for accessing that information.</p> <p>The Ill. Attorney General's office has not provided guidance concerning whether this requirement applies to employees who do not participate in IMRF, e.g., Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) participants.</p>                     |
| <p>*As an employer that participates in the IMRF, a compensation report for employees who have a total compensation package that is equal to or in excess of \$150,000 per year; total compensation package means payment by the employer to the employee for salary, health insurance, a housing allowance, a vehicle allowance, a clothing allowance, bonuses, loans, vacation days granted, and sick days granted</p> | <p>5 ILCS 120/7.3.</p> <p>The report must be posted at least six days before the District approves an employee's total compensation package that is equal to or in excess of \$150,000. The District may choose to post a physical copy of this information at its principal office in lieu of posting the information directly on the website in which case it must post directions on the website for accessing that information.</p> <p>The Ill. Attorney General's office has not provided guidance concerning whether this requirement applies to employees who do</p>                               |

| Web-posted records and information (use of an * is explained in the paragraph above this table)   | Web-posting statutory reference and special instructions   |
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|   | not participate in IMRF, e.g., TRS participants.   |
| *As an employer that participates in IMRF, a link to information posted on the IMRF website at: <a href="http://www.imrf.org/en/about-imrf/transparency/employer-cost-and-participation-information">www.imrf.org/en/about-imrf/transparency/employer-cost-and-participation-information</a>  | 40 ILCS 5/7-135.5.   |
| *Board policy 5:120, <i>Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest</i>   | 105 ILCS 5/22-85.5(e), added by P.A. 102-676.  |
| A description of activities to address intergroup conflict (an optional program authorized by Sec. 27-23.6)   | 105 ILCS 5/27-23.6(c).   |
| <p>The total number of personnel with a school support personnel endorsement, and for each endorsement area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Those actively employed by the District on a full-time basis;</li> <li>2. Those actively employed by the District on a part-time basis; and</li> <li>3. Those actively employed by a special education cooperative providing services to students in the District</li> </ol> | <p>105 ILCS 5/10-20.80, added by P.A. 102-302 and renumbered by P.A. 102-813.</p> <p>Annually by Dec. 1st, the District must report its school support personnel information as of Oct. 1 to ISBE and web-post it.</p>   |
| The total number of students enrolled in the District and of that total, the number of students with an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan  | <p>105 ILCS 5/2-3.182, added by P.A. 102-302 and renumbered by P.A. 102-813.</p> <p>Annually by Dec. 1st, the District must report its enrollment information as of Oct. 1 to ISBE and web-post it.</p>  |
| *Notice that students with disabilities who do not qualify for an IEP may qualify for services under Section 504  | 105 ILCS 5/14-6.01, amended by P.A. 102-1072. The notice shall: (1) identify the location and phone number of the District office or employee to whom inquiries about the identification, assessment, and placement of children with disabilities should be directed, and (2) inform parents who are deaf or do not typically communicate using spoken English that they are entitled to the services of an interpreter when participating in a Section 504 meeting. |
| *Names of Board members who have completed professional development leadership training   | 105 ILCS 5/10-16a, amended by P.A. 102-638, requires the District to post on its website the names of all Board members who have completed professional development leadership training. The web-  |

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|  | <p>posting may be expanded to log all Board members' training and development activities.</p> <p>5 ILCS 120/1.05(b) and (c) require each Board member to complete training on the Open Meetings Act. After completing the training, each Board member must file a copy of their certificate of completion with the Board.</p> <p>105 ILCS 5/24-16.5 requires each Board member to complete a training program on performance evaluations before voting on a dismissal based on a performance evaluation pursuant to the Performance Evaluation Reform Act.</p> |
| Immunization data reported to ISBE by each Nov. 15   | <p>105 ILCS 5/27-8.1(6).</p> <p>By Dec. 1, the District must annually make the immunization <i>data</i> that it must report to ISBE each year publicly available. The data, not its format, must be identical to the data reported to ISBE. Boards have control over the method(s) used to make this data publicly available. One method is to instruct the reader to ask for the data directly from ISBE.</p>   |
| Information on mental health issues and local treatment resources  | <p>The Ill. House of Representatives encouraged this in HR 478 (99th General Assembly, 5-31-15).</p>   |
| *All reliable assessments, scored by entities other than the District that are administered in each of the District's schools  | <p>105 ILCS 5/22-82(b).</p> <p>These must be made available to parents and/or guardians through the District's website or paper handouts.</p>  |
| *The District's Remote and/or Blended Remote Learning Day Plan, when the Governor has declared a public health emergency pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/7.   | <p>105 ILCS 5/10-30(6).</p>  |
| <p>*When the Board allows for student participation in registered apprenticeship programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notification to students and parents of the opportunities for registered apprenticeships, which includes the following statements:</li> </ol> | <p>23 Ill.Admin.Code §255.200(b)(4) and (c).</p>   |

| Web-posted records and information (use of an * is explained in the paragraph above this table)  | Web-posting statutory reference and special instructions |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Students may participate in any registered apprenticeship program listed by the District, and</li> <li>b. Students may find a registered, but not listed, apprenticeship program with a business or organization if a registered apprenticeship program is not offered in the District.</li> </ul> <p>2. Board policy 6:310, <i>High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students</i> (specifically, the section titled <b>Registered Apprenticeship Program</b>)</p> <p>3. A form for a parent/guardian to request that when their child successfully completes a registered apprenticeship program, it be substituted for a course</p> |  |
| <p>*If offered by the District, identification of the curriculum the District uses to provide comprehensive personal health and safety and comprehensive sexual health education (National Sex Education Standards (NSES)), the scope and sequence of these instructional materials, and the name and contact information, including an email address, of a school staff member who can respond to inquiries about instruction and materials</p>   | <p>105 ILCS 5/27-9.1a, added by P.A. 102-522.</p>        |
| <p>*Board policy 6:135, <i>Accelerated Placement Program</i></p>   | <p>23 Ill.Admin.Code §227.60(a).</p>                     |
| <p>*Board policy 7:70, <i>Attendance and Truancy</i></p>   | <p>23 Ill.Admin.Code §207.20(b).</p>                     |

ADOPTED: August 10, 2023

## MARSHALL COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2-C

### Illinois Freedom of Information Act Request for Public Records

The State of Illinois has declared it to be the public policy of the State that all persons are entitled to full and complete information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts and policies of those who represent them as public officials and public employees consistent with the terms of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 ILCS 140/1 *et seq.* The purpose of this Request Form is to ensure that the Marshall Community Unit School District No. 2-C can respond to requests for public records in a timely and appropriate manner, consistent with the requirements of FOIA and District Policy.

As you make a request of the District for certain public records, please know that:

1. FOIA does not create a duty on the District to create or maintain a record that is responsive to your request, but rather to provide the opportunity to inspect or copy public records that are maintained by the District.
2. FOIA contains many exemptions which are intended to prevent a request for public records from violating individual privacy, furthering a commercial enterprise, or disrupting the duly-undertaken work of the District. Many of those exemptions most commonly encountered in the context of records maintained by the District include the education records of students or confidential personnel matters. If your request for records is unable to be granted due to a FOIA exemption, the District will notify you of that fact.
3. The District will charge copying fees of \$0.40 per page when complying with your request. Payment must be received before the the copies will be provided.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please state the public records you are requesting as specifically as possible:

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I am requesting (\_\_\_\_ to inspect) / (\_\_\_\_ to receive a copy) of these records. [If a written request was received, please attach to this Request Form.]

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### OFFICE USE:

Received by \_\_\_\_\_

On: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Records are exempt from disclosure? Yes or No

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Records were provided on: \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

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## **School Board**

### **Uniform Grievance Procedure**

A student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member should notify any District Complaint Manager if he or she believes that the School Board, its employees, or its agents have violated his or her rights guaranteed by the State or federal Constitution, State or federal statute, or Board policy, or have a complaint regarding any one of the following:

1. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.
2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., excluding Title IX sexual harassment complaints governed by policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §791 et seq.
4. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.
5. Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act), 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.
6. Sexual harassment prohibited by the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, 5 ILCS 430/70-5(a); Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/; and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. (Title IX sexual harassment complaints are addressed under policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*)
7. Breastfeeding accommodations for students, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.60
8. Bullying, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7
9. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children
10. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs
11. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180/
12. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112/
13. Provision of services to homeless students
14. Illinois Whistleblower Act, 740 ILCS 174/
15. Misuse of genetic information prohibited by the Illinois Genetic Information Privacy Act, 410 ILCS 513/; and Titles I and II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq.
16. Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/

The Complaint Manager will first attempt to resolve complaints without resorting to this grievance procedure. If a formal complaint is filed under this policy, the Complaint Manager will address the complaint promptly and equitably. A student and/or parent/guardian filing a complaint under this

policy may forego any informal suggestions and/or attempts to resolve it and may proceed directly to this grievance procedure. The Complaint Manager will not require a student or parent/guardian complaining of any form of harassment to attempt to resolve allegations directly with the accused (or the accused's parents/guardians); this includes mediation.

#### Right to Pursue Other Remedies Not Impaired

The right of a person to prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed under this policy shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies, e.g., criminal complaints, civil actions, etc. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies and use of this grievance procedure does not extend any filing deadline related to the pursuit of other remedies. If a person is pursuing another remedy subject to a complaint under this policy, the District will continue with a simultaneous investigation under this policy.

#### Deadlines

All deadlines under this policy may be extended by the Complaint Manager as he or she deems appropriate. As used in this policy, *school business days* means days on which the District's main office is open.

#### Filing a Complaint

A person (hereinafter Complainant) who wishes to avail him or herself of this grievance procedure may do so by filing a complaint with any District Complaint Manager. The Complainant shall not be required to file a complaint with a particular Complaint Manager and may request a Complaint Manager of the same gender. The Complaint Manager may request the Complainant to provide a written statement regarding the nature of the complaint or require a meeting with a student's parent(s)/guardian(s). The Complaint Manager shall assist the Complainant as needed.

For any complaint alleging bullying and/or cyberbullying of students, the Complaint Manager shall process and review the complaint according to Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, in addition to any response required by this policy. For any complaint alleging sexual harassment or other violation of Board policy 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*, the Complaint Manager shall process and review the complaint according to that policy, in addition to any response required by this policy.

#### Investigation Process

The Complaint Manager will investigate the complaint or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf. The Complaint Manager shall ensure both parties have an equal opportunity to present evidence during an investigation. If the Complainant is a student under 18 years of age, the Complaint Manager will notify his or her parents/guardians that they may attend any investigatory meetings in which their child is involved. The complaint and identity of the Complainant will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the Complainant.

The identity of any student witnesses will not be disclosed except: (1) as required by law, this policy, or any collective bargaining agreement, (2) as necessary to fully investigate the complaint, or (3) as authorized by the parent/guardian of the student witness, or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older.

The Complaint Manager will inform, at regular intervals, the person(s) filing a complaint under this policy about the status of the investigation. Within 30 school business days after the date the complaint was filed, the Complaint Manager shall file a written report of his or her findings with the Superintendent. The Complaint Manager may request an extension of time.

The Superintendent will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

If a complaint contains allegations involving the Superintendent or Board member(s), the written report shall be filed directly with the Board, which will make a decision in accordance with paragraph four of the following section of this policy.

#### Decision and Appeal

Within five school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's report, the Superintendent shall mail his or her written decision to the Complainant and the accused by registered mail, return receipt requested, and/or personal delivery as well as to the Complaint Manager. All decisions shall be based upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.

Within 10 school business days after receiving the Superintendent's decision, the Complainant or the accused may appeal the decision to the Board by making a written request to the Complaint Manager. The Complaint Manager shall promptly forward all materials relative to the complaint and appeal to the Board.

Within 30 school business days after an appeal of the Superintendent's decision, the Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Superintendent's decision or direct the Superintendent to gather additional information. Within five school business days after the Board's decision, the Superintendent shall inform the Complainant and the accused of the Board's action.

For complaints containing allegations involving the Superintendent or Board member(s), within 30 school business days after receiving the Complaint Manager's or outside investigator's report, the Board shall mail its written decision to the Complainant and the accused by registered mail, return receipt requested, and/or personal delivery as well as to the Complaint Manager.

This policy shall not be construed to create an independent right to a hearing before the Superintendent or Board. The failure to strictly follow the timelines in this grievance procedure shall not prejudice any party.

### Appointing a Nondiscrimination Coordinator and Complaint Managers

The Superintendent shall appoint a Nondiscrimination Coordinator to manage the District's efforts to provide equal opportunity employment and educational opportunities and prohibit the harassment of employees, students, and others. The Nondiscrimination Coordinator also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent shall appoint at least one Complaint Manager to administer this policy. If possible, the Superintendent will appoint two Complaint Managers, one of each gender. The District's Nondiscrimination Coordinator may be appointed as one of the Complaint Managers.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the names, office addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and the Complaint Managers.

#### **Nondiscrimination Coordinator:**

Kevin Ross

Name

503 Pine Street, Marshall, IL, 62441

Address

kross@marshall.k12.il.us

Email

Telephone(217)826-5912

#### **Complaint Managers:**

|                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kevin Ross                           | Connie Morgan                      |
| Name                                 | Name                               |
| 503 Pine Street, Marshall, IL, 62441 | 806 S. Street, Marshall, IL, 62441 |
| Address                              | Address                            |
| kross@marhshallk12.net               | cmorgan@marshallk12.net            |
| Email                                | Email                              |

LEGAL REF.: 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq., Immigration Reform and Control Act.  
20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Education Rights Privacy Act.  
20 U.S.C. §1400, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.  
20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.  
29 U.S.C. §206(d), Equal Pay Act.  
29 U.S.C. §621 et seq., Age Discrimination in Employment Act.  
29 U.S.C. §791 et seq., Rehabilitation Act of 1973.  
29 U.S.C. §2612, Family and Medical Leave Act.  
42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq., Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.  
42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq., Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act).  
42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq., Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.  
42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq., McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.  
42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq., Americans With Disabilities Act.  
105 ILCS 5/2-3.8, 5/3-10, 5/10-20, 5/10-20.5, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-20.60, 5/10-20.69  
5/10-20.75 (final citation pending), 5/10-22.5, 5/22-19, 5/24-4, 5/27-1, 5/27-  
23.7, and 45/1-15.  
5 ILCS 415/10(a)(2), Government Severance Pay Act.  
5 ILCS 430/70-5(a), State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.  
410 ILCS 513/, Ill. Genetic Information Privacy Act.  
740 ILCS 174/, Whistleblower Act.  
740 ILCS 175/, Ill. False Claims Act.  
775 ILCS 5/, Ill. Human Rights Act.  
820 ILCS 180/, Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act; 56 Ill.Admin.Code Part  
280.  
820 ILCS 112/, Equal Pay Act of 2003.  
820 ILCS 70/, Employee Credit Privacy Act, 70/10(b), and 70/2523 Ill.Admin.Code  
§§1.240, 200.40, 226.50, and 226.570.

CROSS REF.: 2:105 (Ethics and Gift Ban), 2:265 (Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 6:120 (Education of Children with Disabilities), 6:140 (Education of Homeless Children), 6:170 (Title I Programs), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:15 (Student and Family Privacy Rights), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:310 (Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools), 7:315 (Restrictions on Publications; High Schools), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities), 8:95 (Parental Involvement), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

ADOPTED: August 11, 2022

## **School Board**

### **Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure**

Sexual harassment affects a student's ability to learn and an employee's ability to work. Providing an educational and workplace environment free from sexual harassment is an important District goal. The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities, and it complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulations (34 C.F.R. Part 106) concerning everyone in the District's education programs and activities, including applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and third parties.

### **Title IX Sexual Harassment Prohibited**

Sexual harassment as defined in Title IX (Title IX Sexual Harassment) is prohibited. Any person, including a District employee or agent, or student, engages in Title IX Sexual Harassment whenever that person engages in conduct on the basis of an individual's sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's educational program or activity; or
3. *Sexual assault* as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(v), *dating violence* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(11), *domestic violence* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(12), or *stalking* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(36).

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to, touching, crude jokes or pictures, discussions of sexual experiences, teasing related to sexual characteristics, spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities, rape, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

### **Definitions from 34 C.F.R. §106.30**

*Complainant* means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

*Education program or activity* includes locations, events, or circumstances where the District has substantial control over both the *Respondent* and the context in which alleged sexual harassment occurs.

*Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* means a document filed by a *Complainant* or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a *Respondent* and requesting that the District investigate the allegation.

*Respondent* means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of the conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

*Supportive measures* mean non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the *Complainant* or the *Respondent* before or after the filing of a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* or where no *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* has been filed.

#### Title IX Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response

The Superintendent or designee will ensure that the District prevents and responds to allegations of Title IX Sexual Harassment as follows:

1. Ensures that the District's comprehensive health education program in Board policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content*, incorporates (a) age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention programs in grades pre-K through 12, and (b) age-appropriate education about the warning signs, recognition, dangers, and prevention of teen dating violence in grades 7-12. This includes incorporating student social and emotional development into the District's educational program as required by State law and in alignment with Board policy 6:65, *Student Social and Emotional Development*.
2. Incorporates education and training for school staff as recommended by the Superintendent, Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, or a Complaint Manager.
3. Notifies applicants for employment, students, parents/guardians, employees, and collective bargaining units of this policy and contact information for the Title IX Coordinator by, at a minimum, prominently displaying them on the District's website, if any, and in each handbook made available to such persons.

#### Making a Report

A person who wishes to make a report under this Title IX Sexual Harassment grievance procedure may make a report to the Title IX Coordinator, Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any employee with whom the person is comfortable speaking. A person who wishes to make a report may choose to report to a person of the same gender.

School employees shall respond to incidents of sexual harassment by promptly making or forwarding the report to the Title IX Coordinator. An employee who fails to promptly make or forward a report may be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

The Superintendent shall insert into this policy and keep current the name, office address, email address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator.



### **Title IX Coordinator:**

Kevin Ross

Name

503 Pine St.

Address

kross@marhsallk12.net

Email

Telephone (217)826-5912

### **Processing and Reviewing a Report or Complaint**

Upon receipt of a report, the Title IX Coordinator and/or designee will promptly contact the *Complainant* to: (1) discuss the availability of supportive measures, (2) consider the *Complainant's* wishes with respect to *supportive measures*, (3) inform the *Complainant* of the availability of *supportive measures* with or without the filing of a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint*, and (4) explain to the *Complainant* the process for filing a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint*.

Further, the Title IX Coordinator will analyze the report to identify and determine whether there is another or an additional appropriate method(s) for processing and reviewing it. For any report received, the Title IX Coordinator shall review Board policies 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*; 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*; 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*; 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*; 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*; 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*; 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*; and 7:190, *Student Behavior*, to determine if the allegations in the report require further action.

Reports of alleged sexual harassment will be confidential to the greatest extent practicable, subject to the District's duty to investigate and maintain an educational program or activity that is productive, respectful, and free of sexual harassment.

### **Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Grievance Process**

When a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* is filed, the Title IX Coordinator will investigate it or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation.

The Superintendent or designee shall implement procedures to ensure that all *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaints* are processed and reviewed according to a Title IX grievance process that fully complies with 34 C.F.R. §106.45. The District's grievance process shall, at a minimum:

1. Treat *Complainants* and *Respondents* equitably by providing remedies to a *Complainant* where the *Respondent* is determined to be responsible for sexual harassment, and by following a grievance process that complies with 34 C.F.R. §106.45 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions against a *Respondent*.
2. Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a *Complainant*, *Respondent*, or witness.

3. Require that any individual designated by the District as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by the District to facilitate an informal resolution process:
  - a. Not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual *Complainant* or *Respondent*.
  - b. Receive training on the definition of sexual harassment, the scope of the District's *education program or activity*, how to conduct an investigation and grievance process (including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable), and how to serve impartially.
4. Require that any individual designated by the District as an investigator receiving training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.
5. Require that any individual designated by the District as a decision-maker receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the *Complainant's* sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant.
6. Include a presumption that the *Respondent* is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
7. Include reasonably prompt timeframes for conclusion of the grievance process.
8. Describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies the District may implement following any determination of responsibility.
9. Base all decisions upon the *preponderance of evidence* standard.
10. Include the procedures and permissible bases for the *Complainant* and *Respondent* to appeal.
11. Describe the range of *supportive measures* available to *Complainants* and *Respondents*.
12. Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

### Enforcement

Any District employee who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge. Any third party who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be addressed in accordance with the authority of the Board in the context of the relationship of the third party to the District, e.g., vendor, parent, invitee, etc. Any District student who is determined, at the conclusion of the grievance process, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion consistent with student behavior policies. Any person making a knowingly false accusation regarding sexual harassment will likewise be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy does not increase or diminish the ability of the District or the parties to exercise any other rights under existing law.

Retaliation Prohibited

The District prohibits any form of retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, has made a report or complaint, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in a proceeding under this policy. Any person should report claims of retaliation using Board policy 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*.

Any person who retaliates against others for reporting or complaining of violations of this policy or for participating in any manner under this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, with regard to employees, or suspension and expulsion, with regard to students.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; 34 C.F.R. Part 106.

Davis v. Monroe County Bd. of Educ., 526 U.S. 629 (1999).

Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent Sch. Dist., 524 U.S. 274 (1998).

CROSS REF.: 2:260 (Uniform Grievance Procedure), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:100 (Staff Development Program), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:65 (Student Social and Emotional Development), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 7:185 (Teen Dating Violence Prohibited), 7:190 (Student Behavior)

ADOPTED: January 12, 2023



## **School Board**

### **Exhibit – Title IX Sexual Harassment Glossary of Terms**

Use this exhibit to educate employees and students about Title IX terms, and with the required Title IX response and grievance process in Board policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*, implemented by administrative procedures 2:265-AP1, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Response*, and 2:265-AP2, *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Grievance Process*.

#### **Glossary of Terms**

**Actual Knowledge** – Notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to any District employee or to the District's Title IX Coordinator. Assumption of knowledge based solely on the District's status as an employer or other presumption under law does not constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met when the only official of the District with actual knowledge is the Respondent. *Notice* as used here includes, but is not limited to, a report or complaint of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, by telephone, or by email using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.30, 106.8(a).

**Appellate Decision-Maker** – An individual or group, e.g., a Board-appointed appeal examiner or the Board, which reviews an appeal of the Initial Decision-Maker's determination regarding responsibility or a dismissal of a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint (defined below). The Appellate Decision-Maker cannot be the same person as the Initial Decision-Maker, the Investigator, or the Title IX Coordinator. 34 C.F.R. §106.45(b)(8)(iii)(B). The Appellate Decision-Maker must be free from conflicts of interest or bias against complainants and respondents generally or against an individual Complainant or Respondent, and must be trained to serve impartially. 34 C.F.R. §106.45(b)(1)(iii).

**Complainant** – An individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment. 34 C.F.R. §106.30.

**Consent** – Knowing, voluntary, and clear permission by word or action, to engage in mutually agreed upon sexual activity. Consent may not be inferred from silence, passivity, or a lack of verbal or physical resistance. A person's manner of dress does not constitute consent. Past consent to sexual activities, or a current or previous dating relationship, does not imply ongoing or future consent. Consent to some sexual contact (such as kissing or fondling) cannot be presumed to be consent for other sexual activity (such as intercourse). Consent to engage in sexual activity with one person does not constitute consent to engage in sexual activity with another person. Consent may be withdrawn at any time. A person cannot consent to sexual activity if that person is unable to understand the nature of the activity or give knowing consent due to circumstances, including without limitation the following: (1) the person is incapacitated due to the use or influence of alcohol or drugs; (2) the person is asleep or unconscious; (3) the person is under age; or (4) the person is incapacitated due to a mental disability. The existence of consent is based on the totality of the circumstances, including the context in which the alleged incident occurred. Coercion, force, or the threat of either invalidates consent.

**Note:** 34 C.F.R. §106.30, added at 85 Fed. Reg. 30574, states that Title IX recipients are not required to adopt a particular definition of consent with respect to sexual assault; however, in its 2020 Title IX rulemaking, the U.S. Dept. of Education (DOE) stated that "recipients must clearly define consent and must apply that definition consistently." 85 Fed. Reg. 30125. **Consult the Board Attorney if the District would like to customize this definition.**

**Education Program or Activity** – Includes locations, events, or circumstances in the United States over which the District exercised substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurred. 34 C.F.R. §106.44(a).

**Note:** Title IX jurisdiction is geographically limited to discrimination against a person in the United States. 34 C.F.R. §106.8(d). The District's Title IX obligations extend to off-campus sexual harassment incidents "if the off-campus incident occurs as part of the [district]'s 'operations' pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1687 and 34 CFR 106.2(h)" or if the District "exercised substantial control over the respondent and the context of alleged sexual harassment that occurred off campus pursuant to § 106.44(a)." 85 Fed. Reg. 30196. No single factor is determinative of whether the District exercised *substantial control* or whether an incident occurred as part of the District's *operations*. *Id.* at 30197. *Operations* may include computer and internet networks, digital platforms, and computer hardware or software owned or operated by, or used in, the District's operations. *Id.* at 30202. **Consult the Board Attorney for further guidance.**

**Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint** – A document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation. At the time of filing a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education program or activity with which the Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint is filed.

**Note:** Whether a Complainant is *attempting to participate* is a fact-specific inquiry. For example, a Complainant who has graduated may still be attempting to participate in an education program where he or she intends to remain involved in alumni programs or activities. 85 Fed. Reg. 30138. **Consult the Board Attorney for further guidance.**

**Initial Decision-Maker** – An individual designated by the Title IX Coordinator to reach an initial determination regarding responsibility in a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint (defined above) by applying the standard of proof set forth in 2:265-AP2, *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Grievance Process*. See 85 Fed. Reg. 30054. The Title IX Coordinator cannot be the Initial Decision-Maker. 34 C.F.R. §106.45(b)(7)(i). The Initial Decision-Maker must be free from conflicts of interest or bias against complainants and respondents generally or against an individual Complainant or Respondent, and must be trained to serve impartially. 34 C.F.R. §106.45(b)(1)(iii).

**Investigator** – The Title IX Coordinator or an individual designated by the Title IX Coordinator to investigate a *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint* (defined above) according to 2:265-AP2, *Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint Grievance Process*. The Investigator must be free from conflicts of interest or bias against complainants and respondents generally or against an individual Complainant or Respondent, and must be trained to serve impartially. 34 C.F.R. §106.45(b)(1)(iii).

**Respondent** – An individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of the conduct that could constitute sexual harassment. 34 C.F.R. §106.30.

**Supportive Measures** – Non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to a Complainant or Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint or where no Formal Title IX Sexual Harassment Complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. The District will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to a Complainant or Respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. 34 C.F.R. §106.30.

**Sexual Harassment Governed by Laws Other Than Title IX** – The District must also address sexual harassment that does not meet the definition of Title IX sexual harassment, including but not limited to

sexual harassment in violation of the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/), Illinois Human Rights Act (775 ILCS 5/), and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.).

For each report or complaint received, the Title IX Coordinator reviews the following Board policies to determine if they require additional action by the District in addition to or at the exclusion of policy 2:265, *Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure*:

- 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*. This policy provides a method for any student, parent/guardian, employee, or community member to file a complaint if he or she believes that the School Board, its employees, or its agents have violated his or her rights under the State or federal Constitution, State or federal statute, Board policy, or various enumerated bases.
- 5:20, *Workplace Harassment Prohibited*. This policy prohibits employees from engaging in sexual harassment.
- 5:90, *Abused and Neglected Child Reporting*. This policy requires employees who suspect or receive knowledge that a student may be an abused or neglected child to immediately report their suspicion to the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS). If an employee reports an alleged incident of sexual abuse to DCFS and DCFS accepts the report for investigation, it further requires the District to coordinate with the local Children's Advocacy Center.
- 5:120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*. This policy sets forth high standards for employee ethics and conduct, and incorporates by reference the Code of Ethics for Illinois Educators.
- 7:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited*. This policy prohibits all sexual harassment of students.
- 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*. This policy prohibits students from engaging in bullying, intimidation, and harassment at school, school-related events and electronically. Prohibited conduct includes stalking, sexual harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.
- 7:185, *Teen Dating Violence Prohibited*. This policy prohibits students 13-19 years of age from using or threatening to use physical, mental, or emotional abuse to control an individual in the dating relationship, and from using or threatening to use sexual violence in the dating relationship.
- 7:190, *Student Behavior*. This policy sets forth student conduct rules, prohibited student conduct, and behavioral interventions and disciplinary measures designed to address the causes of misbehavior and teach students positive behavioral skills.

**Title IX Sexual Harassment** – Conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following (34 C.F.R. §106.30):

- A District employee conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; or
- Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or
- *Sexual assault* as defined in 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(v), *dating violence* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(11), *domestic violence* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(12), or *stalking* as defined in 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(36).
  - *Sexual assault* means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system (UCR Program) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and includes rape, fondling, incest, and statutory rape. 20 U.S.C. §1092(f)(6)(A)(v); 34 C.F.R. Part 668, Appendix A to Subpart D. For more information regarding the FBI UCR Program, see [www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/](http://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/).

- *Dating violence* means violence committed by a person: (1) who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, and (2) where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(11).
- *Domestic violence* includes any felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant funding and, in the case of victim services, includes the use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person who: (1) is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim; (2) is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner; (3) shares a child in common with the victim; or (4) commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction. 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(12).
- *Stalking* means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to: (1) fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or (2) suffer substantial emotional distress. 34 U.S.C. §12291(a)(36).

ADOPTED: January 12, 2023