

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Bylaw

BB 9320

Board Bylaws

Meetings and Notices

Meetings of the Governing Board are conducted for the purpose of accomplishing district business.

A Board meeting exists whenever a majority of Board members gather at the same time and place to hear, discuss or deliberate upon any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board or district. (Government Code 54952.2)

In accordance with state open meeting laws, the Board shall hold its meetings in public and shall conduct closed sessions during these meetings only to discuss confidential matters specified by law. To encourage community involvement in the schools, meetings shall provide opportunities for questions and comments by members of the public and shall be conducted in accordance with law and Board-adopted bylaws

Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Education shall be held two Wednesdays of each month at 5:00 p.m., pursuant to a schedule determined during the annual organizational meeting, except as noted herein. Unless otherwise designated, meetings shall be held in the Board Room, the Paul Robeson Building, 1025 Second Avenue, Oakland, California 94606. Regular Board meetings shall not be held during Thanksgiving week, winter recess, or the month of July.

If, however, a regular meeting date falls on a Board declared or a legal holiday, the Board shall meet on the following business day, Saturday and Sunday excepted, at the same hour and place unless specifically ordered otherwise by the Board.

Every notice of a regular meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board concerning any item that has been described in the meeting notice, before or during the item's consideration. However, the agenda need not provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body on any item that has already been considered by a committee, composed exclusively of members of the legislative body, at a public meeting wherein all interested members of the public were afforded the opportunity to address the committee on the item, before or during the committee's consideration of the item, unless the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item, as determined by the legislative body. (Government Code 54954.3)

Every notice of a regular meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board concerning any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, but is not listed on the meeting agenda. (Government Code 4954.3)

Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Education may be called when necessary by either the president or a majority of the members. Such meetings shall be called by written notice given each member at least 24 hours before the meeting, unless a Board member has waived written notice. It shall also be the policy of the Board to notify, in writing at least 24 hours before the meeting, each local newspaper of general circulation, radio or television station and the public requesting notice in writing. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except that for which the meeting has been noticed and called.

Every notice of a special meeting shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the Board concerning any item that has been described in the meeting notice, before or during the item's consideration. (Government Code 54954.3)

Emergency Meetings

In the case of an emergency situation for which prompt action is necessary due to the disruption or threatened disruption of public facilities, the Board may hold an emergency meeting without complying with the 24-hour notice or 24-hour posting requirement for special meetings pursuant to Government Code 54956. The Board shall comply with all other requirements for special meetings during an emergency meeting. (Government Code 54956.5)

An emergency situation means either of the following: (Government Code 54956.5)

1. A work stoppage, crippling activity or other activity that severely impairs public health and/or safety as determined by a majority of the members of the Board

(cf. 4141.6/4241.6 - Concerted Action/Work Stoppage)

2. A dire emergency, which shall be defined as a crippling disaster, mass destruction, terrorist activity, or threatened terrorist act that poses peril so immediate and significant that requiring the Board to provide one-hour notice before holding an emergency meeting under this section may endanger the public health and/or safety as determined by a majority of the members of the Board

Except in the case of a dire emergency, the Board president or designee shall give notice of the emergency meeting by telephone at least one hour before the meeting to the local media that have requested notice of special meetings. If telephone services are not functioning, the notice requirement of one hour is waived and, as soon after the meeting as possible, the Board shall notify those media representatives of the meeting and shall describe the purpose of the meeting

and any action taken by the Board. (Government Code 54956.5)

In the case of a dire emergency, the Board president shall give such notice at or near the time he/she notifies the other members of the Board about the meeting. (Government Code 54956.5)

The minutes of the meeting, a list of persons the Board president or designee notified or attempted to notify, a copy of the roll call vote, and any actions taken at the meeting shall be posted for at least 10 days in a public place as soon after the meeting as possible. (Government Code 54956.5)

Adjourned Meetings

The Board may adjourn (continue) any meeting to a later time and place as permitted by law. A copy of the order of adjournment shall be posted at the meeting site.

If no member of the Board is present at any regular or adjourned regular meeting of the Board, the Secretary may declare the meeting adjourned to a later time and shall give notice in the same manner required by these By-Laws or law.

Open Meetings

All meetings of the Board of Education and all committee meetings of the Board shall be open to the public except closed sessions. The public shall have the right to speak, pursuant to the rules herein, on any item on the agenda or under consideration.

Direct communication, personal intermediaries, and technological devices shall not be used by a majority of Board members to develop a collective concurrence as to an action that members will take on any item of district business. (Government Code 54952.2)

Meetings shall be held within district boundaries, except when otherwise allowed by law. (Government Code 54954)

Meetings shall be held in a facility that is accessible to all persons, including disabled persons, without charge. (Government Code 54961)

(cf. 0410 – Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

In order to help ensure participation in the meeting by disabled individuals, the Secretary shall provide appropriate disability-related accommodations or modifications upon request in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Government Code 54953.2, 54954.1)

Meeting notices and agendas shall specify that an individual who requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Board meeting should contact the Secretary in writing.

Maximum Time – Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Board shall not exceed three hours, unless extended by majority vote of the Board.

The Regular Meeting of a standing committee shall not exceed one and one-half hours, unless extended by majority vote of the Committee.

Video/Teleconferencing

A teleconference is a meeting of the Board in which Board members are in different locations, connected by electronic means through audio and/or video. (Government Code 54953)

The Board may use teleconferences for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction. All votes taken during a teleconference meeting shall be by roll call. (Government Code 54953)

During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the Board shall participate from locations within district boundaries. (Government Code 54953)

Agendas shall be posted at all teleconference locations and shall list all teleconference locations whenever they are posted elsewhere. Additional teleconference locations may be provided to the public. (Government Code 54953)

All teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the Board, including the right of the public to address the Board directly at each teleconference location. (Government Code 54953)

All applicable law, Board policies, administrative regulations and bylaws shall apply equally to meetings that are teleconferenced.

Other Gatherings

Attendance by a majority of the Board members at any of the following events is not subject to state open meeting laws provided that a majority of the Board members do not discuss specific district business among themselves other than as part of the scheduled program: (Government Code 54952.2)

1. A conference or similar public gathering open to the public that involves a discussion of issues of general interest to the public or to school Boards
2. An open, publicized meeting organized by a person or organization other than the district to address a topic of local community concern
3. An open and noticed meeting of another body of the district or at a legislative body of

another local agency

4. A purely social or ceremonial occasion
5. An open and noticed meeting of a standing committee of the Board, provided that the Board members who are not members of the standing committee attend only as observers

(cf. 9130 - Board Committees)

Individual contacts or conversations between a Board member and any other person are not subject to open meeting laws. (Government Code 54952.2)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 35140 Time and place of meetings
- 35143 Annual organizational meeting, date, and notice
- 35144 Special meeting
- 35145 Public meetings
- 35145.5 Agenda; public participation; regulations
- 35146 Closed sessions
- 35147 Open meeting law exceptions and applications

GOVERNMENT CODE

- 54950-54957.9 Meetings, especially:
 - 54953 Meetings to be open and public; attendance
 - 54953.2 Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act
 - 54954 Time and place of regular meetings
 - 54954.1 Mailed notices
 - 54954.2 Agenda posting requirements, board actions
 - 54954.3 Opportunity for public to speak
 - 54956 Special meetings; call; notice
 - 54956.5 Emergency meetings
 - 54957.5 Agenda distribution
- 54961 Prohibition on use of certain facilities

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

- 12101-12213 Americans with Disabilities Act

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

- 35.160 Effective communications
- 36.303 Auxiliary aids and services

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

- 84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 181 (2001)
- 84 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 30 (2001)
- 79 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 69 (1996)
- 78 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 327 (1995)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, 1999

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies,, California Attorney General's Office,
2002

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.caag.state.ca.us>

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