

Bylaws of the Board

Meeting Conduct

I. Meeting Conduct

- A. Meetings of the Board of Education shall be conducted by the Chairperson of the Board of Education in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and the adopted bylaws of the Board.
- B. All Board meetings shall commence at, or as close as practicable to, the stated time, provided a quorum is present.
- C. All regular and special Board meetings shall be guided by an agenda which will have been prepared and delivered in advance to all Board Members and other designated persons.
- D. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Board except as otherwise provided by these bylaws.
- E. All Board members are strongly encouraged to participate in Board meetings in their entirety, whether in person or telephonically, unless unforeseen circumstances arise.

II. Procedures for Telephonic Participation

- A. Board members may participate in all or any portion of meetings telephonically under the conditions set forth herein. When such conditions are met, any Board member participating telephonically shall be counted for the purpose of constituting a quorum. Conditions for participation are as follows:
 - 1. The facility that is made available to the public that wishes to attend the meeting must be located where the greatest number of Board of Education members are located;
 - 2. Any physical or demonstrable material that is used in the course of the proceedings must be present in the place where the public is located; and
 - 3. All those in attendance at the meeting, at whatever location, must be able to hear and identify all participants in the proceeding, including their individual remarks and votes.
- B. When a Board member is participating in all or any portion of a meeting telephonically, the minutes of the meeting shall reflect that the Board member is participating by telephone. In the event that the Board member participates in a portion of the meeting, the minutes shall include reference to the specific times that the Board member joined the meeting by telephone and terminated his/her

Bylaws of the Board

Meeting Conduct (continued)

participation in the meeting. The Chairperson shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the three conditions enumerated above are met. In addition, the Chairperson shall take the necessary steps to ensure that a Board member participating telephonically has adequate opportunity to express himself/herself in Board discussion, including the opportunity to take the floor and make motions.

III. Public Address

- A. The Board may permit any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction during a portion of the Board's regular meetings so designated for such purpose.
 - 1. Three (3) minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty (20) minutes to each subject matter. The Board may modify these limitations at the beginning of a meeting if the number of persons wishing to speak makes it advisable to do so.
 - 2. A Board of Education member shall be appointed by the Chairperson prior to the meeting to act as a timekeeper for the meeting, if deemed necessary by the Chairperson.
 - 3. No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the Chairperson, of that person's privilege of address.
 - 4. All speakers must identify themselves by name and address.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
1-200 Definitions
1-206 Denial of access of public records or meetings. Notice. Appeal
1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public
1-232 Conduct of meetings (re disturbances)

Freedom of Information Commission Advisory Opinion #41 (April 9, 1980)

Bylaw adopted by the Board:	January 2, 2003	
First reading:	May 26, 2016	WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bylaw revised:	August 25, 2016	Waterford, Connecticut