

GOVERNANCE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

BG 2.06 BOARD MEETINGS

(1) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(a) All regular and special meetings of the Board and its committees shall be open to the public, except as provided in Wisconsin Statutes 19.85.

(b) The quality of the public schools depends, in part, on people, the Board, and the staff working together in a constructive manner to tailor educational programs to the needs of the community. This is why the Board welcomes public participation in school affairs and encourages people to express their views on matters concerning their school system.

(c) Because the Board desires to hear the viewpoints of people — but also needs to conduct its business in an orderly and efficient manner — individuals, citizen groups, and other organizations wishing a hearing on any school matter must forward their requests to the Board by letter, e-mail, or petition. These communications should be sent to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors, P.O. Box 2181, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53201-2181, and marked for the attention of the Board Clerk.

(d) In most cases, any communication received at least 48 hours prior to a regular monthly meeting of the Board will then be presented at that regular monthly Board meeting, and the Board president shall immediately refer it to the appropriate committees and/or the Administration for study and recommendations. Any communication received less than 48 hours prior to a regular monthly meeting of the Board shall be held for referral until the following month's regular Board meeting. Persons or organizations who have submitted communications to the Board shall be notified by letter from the Board Clerk as to when their communications will be discussed so that they may be present to participate in the discussions.

(e) Additionally, when the Board receives communications, petitions, or resolutions which would affect particular schools, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the appropriate principals and provide them with copies of the documents. It will then be the responsibility of the principal to notify interested parent organizations and advisory groups.

(2) AGENDA PREPARATION AND DISSEMINATION

(a) The Board Clerk shall prepare all agendas for meetings of the Board and its committees. In doing so, the Board's President, the Superintendent, the Senior Director, Office of Accountability and Efficiency, and appropriate members of the administrative staff shall be consulted as necessary.

(b) Items of business may be suggested by any board member, staff member, or citizen of the District. The inclusion of such items shall be at the discretion of the Board Clerk.

(c) The Board shall follow the order of business set up by the agenda unless it is altered by a majority vote of the members present. Items of business not on the agenda may be discussed and acted upon if a majority of the Board, or the committee, agrees to consider them, provided that such items are properly noticed under the open meetings law. The Board, however, may not revise policies, or adopt new ones, unless such action has been scheduled.

(d) Committee agendas shall always allow time for the remarks of the public who wish to speak before the committee.

(e) The agenda, together with supporting materials, shall be distributed to board members sufficiently prior to the Board or committee meeting, if at all possible, to permit them to give items of business careful consideration. The agenda shall also be made available to the press, to the public, to employees, and to others upon request.

(3) BROADCASTING AND RECORDING

- (a) The MPS radio station, WYMS, shall broadcast all regular and special meetings of the Board. Meetings of the Board’s committees will be live-streamed on the District’s website.
- (b) Regular meetings of the Board are aired live on Spectrum, channel 13, and on AT&T U-verse, channel 99. Special meetings of the Board may be aired upon request of the Board President.
- (c) Broadcasts of meetings may be interrupted.
- (d) Whenever possible, audio recordings of the meetings of the Board and its committees shall be posted on the District’s website as soon as is feasible after the meetings.

(4) REPORTING BOARD BUSINESS

- (a) As part of its ongoing effort to keep staff and the public fully informed concerning its affairs and actions, the Board instructs the Superintendent, the Board Clerk/Chief Officer, Office of Board Governance, and the Senior Director, Office of Accountability and Efficiency to institute and to maintain effective and appropriate procedures for the prompt dissemination of information about decisions made at all Board meetings.
- (b) Releases to the press, brief summaries of actions taken at Board meetings posted to the District’s website, and the published Board proceedings are regarded as appropriate means of information for meeting the requirements of this policy.

History: Codified 1976; Reaffirmed 4-20-95, 4-25-96; Revised 10-29-15, 11-18-21
Previous Coding: BG 2.07, prior to September, 2014; BG 2.08, prior to September, 2014; BG 2.09, prior to September, 2014; BG 2.10, prior to 6-26-96
Legal Ref: W.S. 19.85

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