

Virtual Meetings Policy

The School's Board of Directors adopts this policy in compliance with Ohio Revised Code 121.221 to permit Board meetings and hearings to be conducted by means of video conference or other similar electronic technology.

Virtual Meeting Requirements:

Any time a Board meeting is to be held by means of video conference or other similar electronic technology the following shall occur:

- a) At least seventy-two (72) hours in advance, notice of the meeting/hearing will be given to the public, to the media that have requested notification of a meeting, and to the parties required to be notified of a hearing. Such notice shall be by a reasonable method by which any person may determine the time, location, agenda, and the manner by which the meeting/hearing will be conducted (entirely virtually or in person with virtual attendance permitted). Seventy-two (72) hours' advanced notice shall not be required in the event of an emergency requiring immediate official action. In the event of an emergency, the Board shall immediately notify the news media that have requested notification or the parties required to be notified of a hearing of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting or hearing.
- b) The public will be provided access to any meeting/hearing held under this policy in the same manner that the meeting/hearing is being conducted. The electronic method of meeting shall include the use of electronic equipment that is widely available to the general public and which allows a party to a hearing to converse with witnesses, view documentary testimony and physical evidence, and permit public comment, when applicable. The Board shall ensure that the public can observe and hear the discussions and deliberations of all the present members of the Board, whether the member is participating in person or electronically. Board members shall have a sufficient internet or other electronic connection to allow the member to be seen and heard clearly and shall be visible at all times.
- c) All votes taken in the meeting/hearing shall be taken by roll call vote unless there is a motion for unanimous consent, and the motion is not objected to by a member of the Board. If a vote is taken unanimously, the Board chair or moderator of the meeting shall provide the public with information on how the members of the Board voted, including any abstentions.
- d) Any member of the Board who intends to attend a meeting by means of video conference or other similar electronic technology shall notify the chairperson or chairperson's designee of that intent not less than forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting, except in the case of an emergency.

Virtual Meetings/Hearings Not Permitted Under Certain Circumstances:

Meetings will not be held by means of video conference or other similar electronic technology when:

- (i) The meeting/hearing involves a vote to approve a major non-routine expenditure which shall be any expenditure outside of the Board approved budget.
- (ii) The meeting/hearing involves a vote to approve a significant hiring decision such as the hiring of the School's superintendent, principal/school leader, or a management company/operator, or a change in fiscal officer.
- (iii) The meeting/hearing involves a purpose to propose, approve, or vote on a tax issue or tax increase.
- (iv) Excluding expense reimbursements to members for actual expenses incurred while fulfilling their duties, the members of the Board are compensated for their position as members of the Board, except when members are participating in a multi-party meeting if the multi-party meeting does not involve a vote to approve a major nonroutine expenditure or significant hiring decision or involve a purpose to propose, approve, or vote on a tax issue or tax increase. (For purposes of this policy "multi-party meeting" means a meeting in which the members of the Board and the members of at least one other public body are participants.)
- (v) The members of the Board are elected by vote of the general public to their positions as members, except when members are participating in a multi-party meeting if the multi-party meeting does not involve a vote to approve a major nonroutine expenditure or significant hiring decision or involve a purpose to propose, approve, or vote on a tax issue or tax increase.
- (vi) When, upon the notification of an upcoming meeting of the Board, and not later than forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting, the greater of at least ten per cent (10%) of the members of the Board or two members of the Board, notifies the chairperson or their designee that an item in the agenda must be acted upon at a meeting conducted fully in person, upon the chairperson's acknowledgment of receipt of the notification, the Board shall take action on the item of the agenda only at a meeting conducted fully in person.
- (vii) Without the consent of all parties to a hearing.

Effect of Virtual Meetings:

Upon compliance with this policy, members of the Board who attend meetings/hearings by means of video conference or any other similar electronic technology shall be considered present as if in person at the meeting or hearing, shall be permitted to vote, and shall be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present at the meeting or hearing.

Upon compliance with this policy any resolution, rule, or formal action of any kind taken during a meeting/hearing using video conference or similar electronic technology shall have the same effect as if it occurred during an open meeting or hearing of the public body in person.