

Board of Education

School District Governance

The District is governed by a School Board consisting of 7 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 at which a quorum is physically present.

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 120/1.02.
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), 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)

Reviewed and Adopted: October 19, 2015

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, 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 discipline 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. 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 the Act, direct or cause the Board to direct the Superintendent or other equivalent school administrator to comply with the Act's requirements concerning the reporting of child abuse.

19. 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 5/2-3.25d, 5/10, 5/17-1, and 5/27-1.
115 ILCS 5/.
325 ILCS 5/4.

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), 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 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 Discipline), 7:200 (Suspension Procedures), 7:210 (Expulsion Procedures), 8:10 (Connection with the Community), 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on School Property)

Adopted: November 17, 2014

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.

1. 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.
2. 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, 5/10-9, 5/22-17, 5/22-18, and 5/28.
105 ILCS 5/9 and 5/9-1.5.

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

Adopted April 28, 2014

Board of Education

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. II, §1; Art. IV, §2€; Art. VI, §13(b).
105 ILCS 5/10-3 and 5/10-10.

CROSS REF: 2.30, 2:70

Adopted: October 19, 2015

Board of Education

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, 2:80, 2:210

Adopted: October 19, 2015

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 Intermediate Service Center Executive Director to remove such member from office.

CROSS REF.: 2.70

Adopted: October 19, 2015

Board of Education

Vacancies on Board of Education - Filling Vacancies

Vacancy

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

Filling Vacancies

Whenever a vacancy occurs, the remaining members shall notify the Regional Superintendent of Schools of that vacancy within 5 days after its occurrence and shall fill the vacancy until the next regular school 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, 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 have the same residential qualifications as specified in The School Code. The Board shall fill the vacancy within 45 days after it occurred by a public vote at a meeting of the Board.

Immediately following a vacancy on the School Board, the Board will publicize it and accept resumes 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.

Reviewed and Adopted: October 19, 2015

Board of Education

Board Member Ethics

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 Board Room and in Room 122.

CROSS REF.: 1.30 (district philosophy)

Reviewed and Adopted: October 19, 2015

School Board Exhibit

Board Member Ethics

Each member of the Ridgewood High School District Board of Education ascribes to the following code of ethics:

1. I shall represent all school district constituents honestly and equally and refuse to surrender my responsibilities to special interest or partisan political groups.
2. I shall avoid any conflict of interest or any appearance of impropriety which could result from my position, and shall not use my School Board membership for personal gain or publicity.
3. I shall recognize that a School Board member has no legal authority as an individual and that decisions can be made only by a majority vote at a School Board meeting.
4. I shall take no private action that might compromise the Board or administration and shall respect the confidentiality of privileged information.
5. I shall abide by majority decisions of the School Board, while retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions through ethical and constructive channels.
6. I shall encourage and respect the free expression of opinion by my fellow School Board members and others who seek a hearing before the School Board.
7. I shall be involved and knowledgeable about local educational concerns as well as State and national issues.

In addition, I shall encourage my School Board to pursue the following goals:

1. The development of educational programs which meet the individual needs of every student, regardless of ability, race, sex, creed, social standing or handicap;
2. The development of procedures for the regular and systematic evaluation of programs, staff performance and School Board operations to ensure progress toward educational and fiscal goals;

3. The development of effective School Board policies which provide direction for the operation of the schools and delegate authority to the Superintendent for their administration;
4. The development of systematic communications which ensure that the School Board, administration, staff, students and community are fully informed and that the staff understands the community's aspirations for its schools; and
5. The development of sound business practices which ensure that every dollar spent produces maximum benefits.
6. Communicate with the administration and/or the Board President regarding possible problems with the Superintendent's recommendations.

Board of Education

Board Self-Evaluation

The Board of Education shall conduct periodic self-evaluations.

Reviewed and Adopted: October 19, 2015

SCHOOL BOARD

Board Member Conflict of Interest

No School Board member shall have a beneficial interest directly or indirectly in any contract, work, or business of the District unless permitted by The School Code.

School Board members must annually file a "Statement of Economic Interests" as required by the Illinois Government Ethics Act. Each School Board member is responsible for filing the statement with the county clerk of the county in which the Board member resides by May 1.

No School Board member shall solicit or accept a gift that he or she has reason to believe is offered in an effort to influence his or her official position. The "Ethics Ordinance" adopted May 17, 2004 applies to Board members.

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

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 2-year term. The duties of the President are to:

1. Focus the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content and preside at all meetings;
2. Make all Board committee appointments, unless specifically stated otherwise;
3. Attend and observe any Board committee meeting at his or her discretion;
4. Represent the Board on other boards or agencies;
5. Sign official District documents requiring the President's signature, including Board minutes and Certificate of Tax Levy;
6. Call special meetings of the Board;
7. Serve as the *head of the public body* for purposes of the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act;
8. Ensure that a quorum of the Board is physically present at all Board meetings;
9. Administer the oath of office to new Board members; and
10. Serve as the Board's official spokesperson to the media.
11. Eliminating "Serve as chairperson of the Education Officers Electoral Board which hears challenges to Board candidate nominating petitions."

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 2-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 2-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 authority 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 1-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.: 5 ILCS 120/7 and 420/4A-106.
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, and 5/17-1.

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

ADOPTED: April 28, 2014

Board of Education

Qualifications, Terms and duties of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer

Treasurer

The Treasurer for the school district will be appointed by the Board on or before June 30 and will serve for a 2-year term beginning and ending on July 1, per Section 8-1 of the School Code.

Compensation for the Treasurer's position will be set by the Board and approved by the Board before the appointment of the Treasurer. The compensation and appointment of the Treasurer will be voted on at a regular Board meeting prior to June 30 in any year that the Treasurer's term expires.

The Treasurer serves at the discretion of the Board.

The Treasurer shall:

1. Furnish a bond, which shall be approved by a majority of the Board and paid with school funds
2. Maintain custody of school funds
3. Maintain records of school funds and balances
4. Prepare a monthly reconciliation report for the Superintendent and the Board
5. Receive, hold, and expend district funds only upon order of the Board, and
6. Perform those duties in Section 8-1 of the School Code.

Assistant Treasurer

The Assistant Treasurer for the school district will be appointed by the Board on or before June 30 and serve for a 2-year period that coincides with the term of the Treasurer.

The Assistant Treasurer shall:

1. Oversee the function of the Treasurer
2. Attend investment workshops
3. Verify accuracy of monthly reconciliation reports
4. Ensure all members of Finance/Audit Subcommittee are on line.

The Assistant Treasurer will be a current member of the Board of Education. Schools codes prevent compensation for this position.

In the event that the Board member, serving as Assistant Treasurer, does not seek reelection or is not reelected to the Board, the Board will appoint an interim Assistant Treasurer from its ranks to serve until the meeting to appoint the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer is regularly scheduled.

Adopted: April 20, 1998

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 must complete at least 4 hours of professional development leadership training in education and labor law, financial oversight and accountability, and fiduciary responsibilities within the first year of his or her first term. This requirement is applicable to Board members who are elected after June 13, 2011 or who are appointed to fill a vacancy of at least one year's duration after that date.
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 evaluative dismissal process. This dismissal process is available after the District's implementation date.
- 4.

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.

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 may request a veteran Board member to mentor a new member.
3. 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 Expenses), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings)

Adoption: November 18, 2013

Board of Education

Board Member Expenses

No School 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 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 school board association complying with Article 23 of the School Code; and
3. Meetings sponsored by an organization in the field of public school education.

In addition, the Board may reimburse a member for registration fees or tuition for a course that allowed the member to comply with the mandatory training described in policy 2:120, *Board Member Development*.

Expense reimbursement is not guaranteed and Board members should seek pre-approval of expenses, except in situations when the expense is diminutive. A Board 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 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 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 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 members should request conference rate or mid-fare room accommodations. A single room rate will be reimbursed. Board 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 should represent mid-fare selections for the hotel/meeting facility or general area. Tips are included with the meal charges. Expense vouchers must explain the meal charges incurred.

Miscellaneous Expenses

Board members may seek reimbursement for other expenses incurred while attending a meeting sponsored by organizations described herein by fully describing the expenses on the expense voucher, attaching receipts if possible.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20 and 5/10-22.32.

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

Approved: May 6, 2013

Board of Education

Board-Superintendent Relationship

The Board and Superintendent constitute the management team for the District. 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 hires, evaluates, and seeks the recommendations of the Superintendent as the District 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 day-to-day operations.

The Board of Education shall delegate all administrative duties, except those specifically designated as Board functions, to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Board. Individual Board members are not to be delegated administrative duties.

CROSS REF.: 3.40

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

Communications To and From the Board

The School Board welcomes communications from staff members, parents, 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) that is posted on the District's website. 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 with a majority of a Board-quorum.

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. Provide the Board, such as in the Board meeting packet, with all emails that are received and any feedback regarding them.

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

LEGAL REF.: 5 ILCS 120/
50 ILCS 205/20.

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

Adopted: May 4, 2015

School Board

Committees

Board Committees

The Board of Education may create Board committees as deemed necessary. Board committee assignments are made by the Board President after consultation with the other members of the Board in open session. If a vacancy should occur on any standing committee, the Board President will fill that vacancy until such time that the vacancy is permanently filled as above. Notice of Board committee meetings shall be given in the same manner as notice for special meetings, and Board committee meetings shall be open to the public. The Superintendent may attend all committee meetings. Board committees report directly and provide copies of minutes to the Board. Each Board committee will appoint a chair to report to the Board.

1. **Special Board Committees**

The Board Policy Committee may recommend the creation of new standing committees to the full Board. Special committees may be created for a specific purpose or to investigate a special issue. A special committee shall be automatically dissolved after presenting its final report to the Board or at the Board's discretion.

The Board may authorize the establishment of temporary citizens' committees, organized and conducted under procedures to be established by the Superintendent with the approval of the Board according to the specific tasks for which the committee is formed.

The purpose of such committees shall be to assist the Board and administration in answering specific questions relating to the topics for which the committee is established. Such committees are considered fact-finding groups with limited responsibilities. The Board retains the responsibility for making all final decisions on policies and programs for the District.

2. **Standing Board Committees**

Standing committees are created for an indefinite term to fulfill a continuing District need for investigation and monitoring of a specific issue. The following are Standing Board Committees:

- Building and Grounds committee has the following responsibilities:
 - (a) Review periodically all Board Policies related to the Building and Grounds and use of facilities by non-school groups.
 - (b) Review, prior to presentation to the Board-as-a-whole, the One-and-Five Year Capital Expenditure Plan.
 - (c) Recommend to the Board-as-a-whole, specific plans and specifications for capital development projects.
 - (d) Review periodically the level of custodial and maintenance services

- Finance - Audit committee has the following responsibilities:
 - (a) Review periodically financial conditions of the District including actual cash position, receipts-expenditures and the cash position of the District.
 - (b) Audit bills and review financial reports prior to each board meeting for that meeting.
 - (c) Review tentative budget for each fiscal year and levy request for each fiscal year.
 - (d) Review annual audits and reports prepared by certified public accountants for the District and its programs.

- Personnel committee has the following responsibilities:
 - (a) Review periodically all Board Policies affecting certified and non-certified personnel (Section 5)
 - (b) Assist the Superintendent and Board in deliberation on agenda items relating to personnel policies and decisions. (Maintain a high level of knowledge and expertise in personnel matters and policies).
 - (c) Establish recommendations, with the Superintendent's involvement, on negotiations format for certificated personnel position; and coordinate deliberations on clerical personnel-instructional aides positions, custodial-maintenance personnel and administrative personnel. Develop final coordination among all classifications of employees
 - (d) (FORMALLY) represent the Board in the negotiations process and/or meet and confer with representatives of employees.

- Board Policy committee has the following responsibilities:
 - (a) Review policy updates and make recommendations to the Administration and the Board.

- Co-Curricular/Activities committee has the following responsibilities:
 - (a) Primarily to confer with the Superintendent or his designee on matters relating to co-curricular programs. (Athletic and Student Activities).

- Student Discipline Hearing Committee (Full board) has the following responsibilities:
 - (a) Hold student discipline hearings as provided for under Policy 7.130.

All committees will submit minutes to the full Board for approval.

3. Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee

This committee assists the development of policy guidelines on student discipline. It is comprised of parents and teachers and may also include students and community representatives.

The committee reviews such issues as student discipline, disruptive classroom behavior, the dissemination of student conduct information, the development of school bus safety guidelines.

The committee submits a written report of its findings and recommendations by April 15th each year to the Board of Education. The Board considers the committee's recommendation when establishing and reviewing student discipline policy.

4. Behavioral Interventions Committee

This committee develops, implements, and monitors procedures for using behavioral interventions in accordance with Board Policy 7.230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*. Committee reports and recommendations are made to the School Board as requested by the Board.

Superintendent Committees

The Superintendent creates Superintendent committees as deemed necessary and makes all appointments. Superintendent committees report to the Superintendent.

CROSS REF.: 5.40, 6.170, 7.190, 7.280

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

School Board

Board Attorney

The School Board may enter into an agreement for legal services with a specific attorney or law firm. 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, or Board President, are 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 School Board retains the right to consult with or employ other attorneys and to terminate the service of any attorney.

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

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.: Shively v. Belleville Township High School District 201, 769 N.E.2d 1062 (Ill.App.5, 2002), *appeal denied*.
40 U.S.C. §541.
50 ILCS 510/1 et seq., Local Government Professional Services Selection Act.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.21.

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

Mailing Lists For Receiving Board Material

The Superintendent shall maintain a mailing list of the names and addresses each year of persons who file a written request to be on such a list. Those persons shall be mailed copies of the following, provided they have pre-paid the subscription fee, pro-rated if subscribing less than one year:

1. Board Agenda
2. Budgets
3. Audits
4. Official Board Minutes which will be mailed within 10 days after approval

The subscription fee will be set annually to cover reproduction and mailing costs. The subscription period shall be the same as the District's fiscal year.

CROSS REF.: 2.220

Adopted: December 12, 1994

Board of Education

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 of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).
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), amended by O.A. 99-235, eff. 1-1-16.
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 3 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 3 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 Meeting 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)

Approved: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

Organizational Board of Education Meetings

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 28 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.: 10 ILCS 5/2A-1 et seq.
105 ILCS 5/10-5, 5/10-16, and 5/10-16.5.

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: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

Board of Education 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 discussion or explanation 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

The order of business at regular Board of Education meetings shall be:

- I. OPENING OF MEETING
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America
 - c. Declaration of Quorum
 - d. Consent Agenda Requests
 - e. Approval of Agenda

- II. USUAL RECURRING AGENDA ITEMS
 - A. Approve Minutes of:
 1. Regular Meeting of ____ (date)
 2. Executive Session of ____ (date) (subject)
 3. Committee Meeting of ____ (date)

- B. Approve Current Bills, Payrolls, and Financial Documents
- III. MATTERS RELATING TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INSTRUCTION, STUDENT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES
- IV. MATTERS RELATING TO DISTRICT EMPLOYEES
- V. MATTERS RELATING TO BUSINESS, FINANCE, OPERATIONS, AND FACILITIES
- VI. MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND GOVERNANCE OF DISTRICT 234 AND ITS SCHOOLS
- VII. CALENDAR
- VIII. A. TAKE FORMAL ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA
- IX. RECOGNIZE VISITORS AND INVITE COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC
- X. CONDUCT BOARD FORUM
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XII. ADJOURN

Upon consent of a majority of members present, the regular order of business at any meeting may be suspended.

Formal action on all agenda items for each meeting shall be taken at the conclusion of the meeting unless a majority of the Board agrees through resolution to vote upon a motion prior to the conclusion of the meeting. For purposes of this policy "conclusion of the meeting" means the last item(s) of business prior to adjournment.

Consent Agenda

A "Consent Agenda" shall be prepared and distributed by the Superintendent to members of the Board of Education, containing those specific motions which may be consolidated into one resolution to be voted upon simultaneously, at least three days prior to the Board meeting at

which the resolution shall be voted upon. Final action on the Consent Agenda must be preceded by a public recital of the nature of the matter(s) being considered.

An individual Board member may remove any item from the Consent Agenda at any time during the meeting so it may be voted on as a separate motion.

The Board shall vote by separate motion on items removed from the Consent Agenda and on all items not placed on the Consent Agenda immediately following vote on the Consent Agenda.

Education Meetings

The order of business at regular or special School Board meetings designated as "Education Meetings" held for the primary purposes of receiving reports and information from teams, departments, and committees, among others, as requested by the Board shall be:

- I. Opening of Meeting
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Pledge to the Flag of the United States of America
 - c. Declaration of Quorum
- II. Receive Reports and Information
- III. Formal Action (if any)
- IV. Recognition and Comments from Employees and Public
- V. Adjournment

"Education Meetings", after the Call to Order, may be moved to classroom or other parts of the school building.

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 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.

At least semi-annually in an open meeting, the Board: (1) reviews minutes from all closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, and (2) decides which, if any, no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection. The Board may meet in a

prior closed session to review the minutes from closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release.

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. The minutes shall not be removed from the Superintendent's office except by vote of the Board or by court order.

The Board's open meeting minutes shall be posted on the District website within 10 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 listen to verbatim recordings when that action is germane to their responsibilities. 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.

Rules of Order

Unless State law or Board-adopted rules apply, the Board President, as the presiding officer, will use Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (10th Edition), 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, and 120/2.06.
105 ILCS 5/10-6, 5/10-7, 5/10-12, and 5/10-16.

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

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board

At each regular and special open meeting, the members of the public and District employees may comment on or ask questions of the 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 him or herself and be brief. Ordinarily, such comments shall be limited to 5 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 5 minutes.
3. The Board President may deny a person the opportunity to speak for more than 5 minutes. The President may also deny such opportunity to a person who has previously addressed the Board on the same subject.
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*.

Public participation shall not exceed a total of 30 minutes at any Board meeting unless an exception is granted by the Board.

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

Adopted: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

Board Policy Development

School Board governance requires written policies. Written policies ensure legal compliance, establish board processes, articulate district ends, delegate authority, and define operating limits. Board policies also provide the process for monitoring progress toward district ends.

Policy Development

Anyone may propose new policies, changes to existing policies, or elimination of existing policies. Staff suggestions should be processed through the superintendent. suggestions from all others may 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 be affected by 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 school attorney when appropriate.

Policy Adoption and Dissemination

Policies or policy revisions will not be adopted at the Board meeting at which they are introduced, except when appropriate for a consent agenda because no Board discussion is required, or to meet emergency conditions or special events. Further Board consideration will be given at a subsequent meeting(s) and after opportunity for community input.

The School Board policies are available for public inspection in the administrative office during regular office hours. Copy requests can be made under the District's Access to Public Records Policy.

Board Policy Review and Evaluation

The School Board will monitor its policies and consider whether any modifications are required. The Board may use an annual policy review calendar.

Superintendent Implementation

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

Suspension of Policies

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

CROSS REF.: 2.150, 3.40

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

District Handbooks - Review And Approval

Handbook Development

Handbooks have been developed by the administration to address specific items for the different sectors of Ridgewood High School.

Handbook Adoption

The Board of Education will review these Handbooks to ensure that all items which refer to policy reflect the Board's intent and will aid in the evaluation of Board policies.

The Board of Education will annually review and approve the following Handbooks prior to the first day of classes for each school year:

1. Administrative Handbook
2. Parent/Student Handbook
3. Faculty Handbook
4. Support Staff Handbook
5. Coach's Handbook
6. Athlete Code Handbook
7. Crisis Handbook

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

Board of Education

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 materials 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 5 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 5 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 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 *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.

Provisions 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 requestor to the District's website if a requested record is available there. If the requestor 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: October 19, 2015

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 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
2. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
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 (Illinois Human Rights Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)
7. Bullying, 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7
8. Misuse of funds received for services to improve educational opportunities for educationally disadvantaged or deprived children
9. Curriculum, instructional materials, and/or programs
10. Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180
11. Illinois Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112
12. Provision of services to homeless students
13. Illinois Whistleblower Act, 740 ILCS 174/.
14. Misuse of genetic information (Illinois Genetic Information Privacy Act (GIPA), 410 ILCS 513/ and Titles I and II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), 42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq.)
15. 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 procedure, the Complaint Manager will address the complaint promptly and equitably. A student and/or parent/guardian filing a complaint under this procedure may forego any informal suggestions and/or attempts to resolve it and may proceed directly to the 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 hereunder 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 procedure 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 bullying and cyber-bullying, 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.

Investigation

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 parent(s)/guardian(s) 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 (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 or any collective bargaining agreement, or (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 procedure about the status of the investigation. Within 30 school business days of 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. If a complaint of sexual harassment contains allegations involving the Superintendent, the written report shall be filed with the Board, which will make a decision in accordance with the following section of this policy. The Superintendent will keep the Board informed of all complaints.

Decision and Appeal

Within 5 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 first class U.S. mail 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, the Board shall affirm, reverse, or amend the Superintendent's decision or direct the Superintendent to gather additional information. Within 5 school business days of the Board's decision, the Superintendent shall inform the Complainant and the accused of the Board's action.

This grievance procedure 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 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 the complaint process in this policy. If possible, the Superintendent will appoint 2 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, addresses, and telephone numbers of the Nondiscrimination Coordinator and the Complaint Managers.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:

Name
Librarian at Ridgewood High School
Address
7500 West Montrose Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706
Telephone: 708-456-4242

Complaint Managers:

Name
Librarian at Ridgewood High School
Address
7500 West Montrose Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706
Telephone: 708-456-4242

Name
Dean of Students at Ridgewood High School
Address
7500 West Montrose Avenue
Norridge, IL 60706
Telephone: 708-456-4242

- LEGAL REF.: Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. §621 et seq.
Americans With Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.
Equal Employment Opportunities Act (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act), 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq.
Equal Pay Act, 29 U.S.C. §206(d).
Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000ff et seq.
Immigration Reform and Control Act, 8 U.S.C. §1324a et seq.
McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. §791 et seq.
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.
Title IX of the Education Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.

105 ILCS 5/2-3.8, 5/3-10, 5/10-20.7a, 5/10-22.5, 5/22-19, 5/24-4, 5/27-1, 5/27-23.7, and 45/1-15.

Illinois Genetic Information Privacy Act, 410 ILCS 513/.

Illinois Whistleblower Act, 740 ILCS 174/.

Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/.

Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act, 820 ILCS 180, 56 Ill.Admin.Code Part 280.

Equal Pay Act of 2003, 820 ILCS 112/.

Employee Credit Privacy Act, 820 ILCS 70/.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.240 and 200-40.

CROSS REF.: 5:10 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Recruitment), 5:20 (Workplace Harassment Prohibited), 5:30 (Hiring Process and Criteria), 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), 7:20 (Harassment of Students Prohibited), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 8:70 (Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities), 8:110 (Public Suggestions and Concerns)

Adopted: February 22, 2016

School Board

Membership in Illinois High School Association

The District shall be a member of the Illinois High School Association, a non-profit organization of recognized high schools in the State of Illinois, and shall participate in the approved interscholastic activities sponsored by the said Association and its member schools, and shall abide by the Constitution so published.

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016

School Board

Membership in the Metro Suburban Conference

The District shall be a member of the Metro Suburban Conference, and shall participate in interscholastic and academic activities sponsored by the conference and its member schools.

Reviewed and Adopted: February 22, 2016