

MEETING CONDUCT**Meeting Procedures**

All Board of Education meetings shall begin on time and shall be guided by an agenda prepared and delivered in advance to all Board members and to other persons upon request.

The Board president shall conduct Board meetings in accordance with Board bylaws and procedures that enable the Board to efficiently consider issues and carry out the will of the majority.

Quorum

A majority of the number of filled positions on the Board constitutes a quorum. (Education Code 5095, 35165)

Unless otherwise provided by law, affirmative votes by a majority of all the membership of the Board are required to approve any action under consideration, regardless of the number of members present. (Education Code 35164)

Abstentions

The Board believes that when no conflict of interest requires abstention, its members have a duty to vote on issues before them. When a member abstains, his/her abstention shall be considered to concur with the action taken by the majority of those who vote, whether affirmatively or negatively.

Public Participation

Members of the public are encouraged to attend Board meetings and to address the Board concerning any item on the agenda or within the Board's jurisdiction. So as not to inhibit public participation, persons attending Board meetings shall not be required to sign in, complete a questionnaire, or otherwise provide their name or other information as a condition of attending the meeting.

In order to conduct Office of Education business in an orderly and efficient manner, the Board requires that public presentations to the Board comply with the following procedures:

1. The Board shall give members of the public an opportunity to address the Board either before or during the Board's consideration of each item of business to be discussed at regular or special meetings. (Education Code 35145.5, Government Code 54954.3)

2. At a time so designated on the agenda, members of the public may bring before the Board, at a regular meeting, matters that are not listed on the agenda. The Board may refer such a matter to the County Superintendent or designee or take it under advisement, but shall not take action at that time except as allowed by law. The matter may be placed on the agenda of a subsequent meeting for action or discussion by the Board. (Education Code 35145.5, Government Code 54954.2)
3. Without taking action, Board members or Office of Education staff members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by the public about items not appearing on the agenda. Additionally, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a Board or staff member may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his/her own activities. (Government Code 54954.2)

Furthermore, the Board or a Board member may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, ask staff to report back to the Board at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to place a matter of business on a future agenda. (Government Code 54954.2)

4. The Board need not allow the public to speak on any item that has already been considered by a committee composed exclusively of Board members at a public meeting where the public had the opportunity to address the committee on that item. However, if the Board determines that the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard it, the Board shall provide an opportunity for the public to speak. (Government Code 54954.3)
5. A person wishing to be heard by the Board shall first be recognized by the president and shall then proceed to comment as briefly as the subject permits.

In general, individual speakers will be allowed three minutes to address the Board on each agenda or nonagenda item, and the Board will limit the total time for public input on each item to 20 minutes. However, in exceptional circumstances when necessary to ensure full opportunity for public input, the Board president may, with Board consent, adjust the amount of time allowed for public input and/or the time allotted for each speaker. Any such adjustment shall be done equitably so as to allow a diversity of viewpoints. The president may also ask members of the public with the same viewpoint to select a few individuals to address the Board on behalf of that viewpoint. In order to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the Board, any member of the public who utilizes a translator shall be provided at least twice the allotted time to address the Board, unless simultaneous translation equipment is used to allow the Board to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.

6. The Board president may rule on the appropriateness of a topic. If the topic would be more suitably addressed at a later time, the president may indicate the time and place when it should be presented. The Board shall not prohibit public criticism of its policies, procedures, programs, services, acts or omissions. (Government Code 54954.3)
7. The Board president shall not permit any disturbance or willful interruption of Board meetings. Persistent disruption by an individual or group shall be grounds for the chair to terminate the privilege of addressing the Board. The Board may remove disruptive individuals and order the room cleared if necessary; in this case, members of the media not participating in the disturbance shall be allowed to remain, and individual(s) not participating in such disturbances may be allowed to remain at the discretion of the Board. When the room is ordered cleared due to a disturbance, further Board proceedings shall concern only matters appearing on the agenda. (Government Code 54957.9)

Recording by the Public

The County Superintendent or designee shall designate locations from which members of the public may broadcast, photograph or tape record open meetings without causing a distraction.

If the Board finds that noise, illumination or obstruction of view related to these activities would persistently disrupt the proceedings, these activities shall be discontinued or restricted as determined by the Board. (Government Code 54953.5, 54953.6)

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE*1040 Duties of boards**5095 Powers of remaining board members and new appointees**32210 Willful disturbance of public school or meeting a misdemeanor**35164 Vote requirements**35165 Effect of vacancies upon majority and unanimous votes by seven member board*GOVERNMENT CODE*54953.5 Audio or video tape recording of proceedings**54953.6 Broadcasting of proceedings**54954.2 Agenda; posting; action on other matters**54954.3 Opportunity for public to address legislative body; regulations**54957 Closed sessions**54957.9 Disorderly conduct of general public during meeting; clearing of room*COURT DECISIONS*Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School District,, (C.D. Cal. 1996) 936 F. Supp. 719*ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS*59 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 532 (1976) 61 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 243, 253 (1978)**63 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 215 (1980)**66 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 336, 337 (1983)**76 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 281 (1993)*

Bylaw

Adopted: 11/17/99

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**HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Eureka, California**