

## School Board

### School Board Meeting Procedure <sup>1</sup>

#### Agenda

The School Board President is responsible for focusing the Board meeting agendas on appropriate content.<sup>2</sup> 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 extensive discussion 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 Upon the request of any Board member, an item will be withdrawn from the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda for independent consideration.<sup>3</sup>

Each Board meeting agenda shall contain the general subject matter of any item that will be the subject of final action at the meeting.<sup>4</sup> Items submitted by Board members to the Superintendent or the President shall be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting.<sup>5</sup> District residents may suggest

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<sup>1</sup> State law requires boards to have a policy concerning: (1) the public's right to record meetings (5 ILCS 120/2.05), and (2) if applicable, attendance by video or audio means (5 ILCS 120/7). Boards are not mandated to have a policy on the remaining topics covered in this policy. The following items are matters of local discretion: agenda preparation and contents, process for board members to have items placed on agenda, receipt and handling of residents' requests for agenda inclusions, and order of business.

<sup>2</sup> Appropriate agenda content includes establishing board processes, clarifying the district's purpose, delegating authority, defining operating limits, monitoring district progress, and taking legally required board action. See *IASB's Foundational Principles of Effective Governance* at: [www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance](http://www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/training-resources/foundational-principles-of-effective-governance).

<sup>3</sup> To comply with the Open Meetings Act's (OMA's) mandate that minutes contain a "summary of discussion on all matters proposed, deliberated, or decided," a board should include a list of consent items in the agenda. OMA also requires that any final action "be preceded by a public recital of the nature of the matter being considered and other information that will inform the public of the business being conducted." 5 ILCS 120/2(e). Some level of explanation of the consent agenda items must be verbally given before a board votes to approve a consent agenda. The Ill. Supreme Court has held that "the recital must announce the nature of the matter under consideration, with sufficient detail to identify the particular transaction or issue, but need not provide an explanation of its terms or its significance." *Bd. of Educ. of Springfield Sch. Dist. No. 186 v. Atty. Gen. of Ill.*, 77 N.E.3d 625, 636 (Ill. 2017).

<sup>4</sup> 5 ILCS 120/2.02(c). The Ill. Appellate Court held that OMA prohibits a board from voting on a matter at a regular meeting that is not on the pre-meeting published agenda. *Rice v. Bd. of Trustees of Adams Cnty.*, 326 Ill.App.3d 1120 (4th Dist. 2002).

<sup>5</sup> An alternative follows for those boards that want to give discretion to the board president to decide whether an item submitted by a board member should be added to a meeting agenda:

Any Board member may submit suggested agenda items to the Board President for his or her consideration.

inclusions for the agenda.<sup>6</sup> The Board will take final action only on items contained in the posted agenda; items not on the agenda may still be discussed.<sup>7</sup>

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.<sup>8</sup> 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.

### 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.<sup>9</sup> A vote of *abstain* or

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<sup>6</sup> See sample policy 2:230, *Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board*. In districts governed by a board of school directors, an appointed board official must give a resident of the district requesting consideration of a matter by the board a formal written response no later than 60 days after receiving the request. The response must establish a meeting before the board or list the reasons for denying the request. 105 ILCS 5/10-6.

Options follow to restrict the addition of new agenda items by district residents; the phrases between [ ] may be used together, separately, or eliminated:

Discussion items suggested by District residents may be added to the agenda [at the beginning of a regular meeting] [upon unanimous approval of those Board members present].

<sup>7</sup> An Ill. Atty. Gen. Public Access Counselor Opinion (PAO) found no violation of OMA when a board removed an item from the agenda within the 48-hour notice time period. PAO 14-3. Removals inform the public that the board does not plan to proceed on the topic.

<sup>8</sup> State law does not require this, except that 105 ILCS 5/10-16 requires members to receive a written notice of a special meeting that includes the meeting's purpose.

<sup>9</sup> In most situations, the failure of a member to vote has the effect of acquiescence or concurrence with the majority of votes cast. *Prosser v. Village of Fox Lake*, 91 Ill.2d 389 (Ill. 1982); *People v. Bertrand*, 978 N.E.2d 681 (Ill. App. 1st Dist. 2012). For example, a motion passes with a vote of two *yeas*, one *nay*, and four *abstentions*. A motion fails with a vote of two *yeas*, three *nays*, and two *abstentions*. A motion fails with a vote of three *yeas*, three *nays*, and one *abstain* because there is no majority. Exceptions include when a statute requires the *affirmative vote* of a majority or extra. Statutory exceptions include the following board actions:

1. Dismissing a teacher for any reason other than reduction of staff or elimination of that position requires approval by the majority of all members. 105 ILCS 5/24-12.
2. Directing the sale of district real property or buildings thereon must be approved by at least 2/3 of the board members, unless the sale is residential property constructed or renovated by students as part of a curricular program, in which case, the board could engage the services of a licensed real estate broker to sell the property for a commission not to exceed 7%, contingent upon the public listing of the property on a multiple listing service for a minimum of 14 calendar days and a sale of the property happens within 120 days. 105 ILCS 5/5-22.
3. Making or renewing a lease of school property to another school district or municipality or body politic and corporate for a term longer than 10 years, or to alter the terms of such a lease whose unexpired term exceeds 10 years, requires approval by at least 2/3 of the board's full membership. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.11.
4. Leasing any building, rooms, grounds, and appurtenances to be used by the district for school or administration purposes for a term longer than ten years, or to alter the terms of such a lease whose unexpired term exceeds ten years, requires approval by at least 2/3 of the board's full membership. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.12.
5. Obtaining personal property by lease or installment contract requires approval by an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the board members. *Personal property* includes computer hardware and software and all equipment, fixtures, and improvements to existing district facilities to accommodate computers. 105 ILCS 5/10-22.25a.
6. Adopting a supplemental budget after a successful referendum requires approval by a majority of the full board. 105 ILCS 5/17-3.2.

*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. <sup>10</sup>

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. <sup>11</sup>

### 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. <sup>12</sup> The minutes include: <sup>13</sup>

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 (OMA) authorizing the closed meeting;

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7. Petitioning the circuit court for an emergency election requires approval by a majority of the members. 10 ILCS 5/2A-1.4.
8. Expending funds in emergency situation in the absence of required bidding requires approval by at least 3/4 of the board. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.21(a)(xiv).
9. Exchanging school building sites requires approval by at least a 2/3 majority of the board. 105 ILCS 5/5-23.
10. Waiving the administrative cost cap requires approval by an affirmative vote of at least 2/3 of the board. 105 ILCS 5/17-1.5.
11. Authorizing an advisory question of public policy to be placed on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled election requires approval by a majority of the board. 105 ILCS 5/9-1.5.

<sup>10</sup> Voting sequence is at the board's discretion. A board may indicate how frequently it changes the voting sequence by adding *after each vote*, *monthly*, or *annually* to the end of the sentence. All board members, including officers, may make motions and vote.

<sup>11</sup> This paragraph's first sentence contains the requirements in 105 ILCS 5/10-7. The second sentence is optional and may be deleted or amended. Other optional provisions include:

- Option 1:** Any Board member may include a written explanation of his or her vote in the District file containing individual Board member statements; the explanation will not be part of the minutes.
- Option 2:** Any Board member may request that his or her vote be changed before the President announces the result.

If a board takes a roll call vote on all action items, it may substitute this paragraph with the following sentence:

The Board shall take a roll call vote on all matters requiring its action, including but not limited to, all questions involving the expenditure of money and all questions involving the closing of a meeting to the public.

<sup>12</sup> 105 ILCS 5/10-7 and 5 ILCS 120/2.06. The minutes are the only record showing that the board took official action, including necessary prerequisites to make such action legally sufficient. A non-member recording secretary (of a board of education) or clerk (of a board of directors) may be given these responsibilities. 105 ILCS 5/10-14.

<sup>13</sup> All items listed are required to be recorded in minutes **except** items 7-9; other items may be included at the board's discretion. 5 ILCS 120/2.06 and 120/2a; 105 ILCS 5/10-7. The Ill. Atty. Gen. Public Access Counselor (PAC) found a board's vague reference to a *personnel matter* insufficient to meet the requirements of #3. PAO 13-7.

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;<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup>

Every six months, or as soon after as is practicable, in an open meeting, the Board: (1) reviews minutes from all closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, and (2) determines which, if any, no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.<sup>16</sup> This is also referred to as a *semi-annual review*. The Board may meet in a prior closed session to review the minutes from closed meetings that are currently unavailable for public release, but it reports its determination in open session. <sup>17</sup>

The Board's meeting minutes must be submitted to the Board Treasurer at such times as the Treasurer may require. <sup>18</sup>

The official minutes are in the custody of the Board Secretary.<sup>19</sup> Open meeting minutes are available for inspection during regular office hours within 10 days after the Board's approval;<sup>20</sup> 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, except that Board members may access closed session minutes not yet released for public inspection (1) in the District's administrative offices or their official storage location, and (2) in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Superintendent or designated administrator, or any elected

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<sup>14</sup> The intent behind this optional item is to give an individual member a means of recording his or her support or opposition to a motion that was taken by oral vote; it will record that the individual took an alternative position to that of the majority without having the minutes recite unnecessary detail.

<sup>15</sup> Required by 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).

<sup>16</sup> Required by 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d). If a board is unable to conduct the review every six months, it must do so as soon after as is practicable, taking into account the nature and meeting schedule of the board. *Id.* A board may also conduct the review more frequently. For the sake of brevity and to align with the closed meeting exception in 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) that continues to refer to a public body's *semi-annual* review of its closed session minutes, this policy's exhibits use the term *semi-annual*, even though that term was removed from 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d).

While board notes from closed sessions may be confidential under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), they may be discoverable by the opposing party in a lawsuit. *Bobkoski v. Cary Sch. Dist.* 26, 141 F.R.D. 88 (N.D. Ill. 1992).

The failure to strictly comply with the semi-annual review does not cause the written minutes or related verbatim record to become public, provided that the board, within 60 days of discovering its failure to strictly comply, reviews the closed session minutes and reports the result of that review in open session. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(d).

<sup>17</sup> 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(21) allows boards to discuss the confidentiality needs of closed meeting minutes in closed meetings.

<sup>18</sup> Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-7.

<sup>19</sup> Optional provision: "A copy of the minutes is kept in a secure location appropriate for valuables."

<sup>20</sup> Required by 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).

Board member.<sup>21</sup> The minutes, whether reviewed by members of the public or the Board, shall not be removed from the District's administrative offices or their official storage location except by vote of the Board or by court order. <sup>22</sup>

The Board's open meeting minutes shall be posted on the District website within ten days after the Board approves them; the minutes will remain posted for at least 60 days. <sup>23</sup>

#### Verbatim Record of Closed Meetings

The Superintendent, or the Board Secretary when the Superintendent is absent, shall audio record all closed meetings.<sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup>

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. <sup>26</sup>

Individual Board members may access verbatim recordings in the presence of the Recording Secretary, the Superintendent or designated administrator, or any elected Board member.<sup>27</sup> Access to the verbatim

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<sup>21</sup> 5 ILCS 120/2.06(f). The listed individuals in the statute are matched to the titles in the IASB Policy Reference Manual. If the board wishes to mirror the statutory language, delete: ~~the Recording Secretary, the Superintendent or designated administrator, or any elected Board member~~ and replace with: "a records secretary, an administrative official of the public body, or any elected official of the public body."

See the discussion in paragraph two of f/n 27 below about what *in the presence of* means.

<sup>22</sup> Id.

<sup>23</sup> Posting on the website is required *only if* the district has a website that is maintained by a full-time staff member; if not, this sentence may be omitted. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(b).

<sup>24</sup> Boards must keep a verbatim record of their closed meetings in the form of an audio or video recording. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a). This sample policy uses audio recording only; a board that uses a video recording should amend this policy and exhibit 2:220-E1, *Board Treatment of Closed Meeting Verbatim Recordings and Minutes*.

The interests of continuity, efficiency, and ease of holding someone accountable suggest that the superintendent be made responsible for making and storing the verbatim recordings. If the superintendent is not present, e.g., during discussions concerning the superintendent's contract, the tasks should be given to a board member.

<sup>25</sup> Alternatively, use: "is maintained within the District's administrative offices or their official storage location."

<sup>26</sup> This paragraph paraphrases 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c). No notification to, or the approval of, a records commission or the State Archivist is needed if a recording is destroyed under the conditions listed.

<sup>27</sup> 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e). The listed individuals align with the other titles used in the IASB Policy Reference Manual. If the board wishes to mirror the statute, delete: ~~the Recording Secretary, the Superintendent or designated administrator, or any elected Board member~~ and replace with: "a records secretary, an administrative official of the public body, or any elected official of the public body."

The intent of the *in the presence of* language is meant to protect both (1) the verbatim recordings/closed session minutes (see f/n 21 above), and (2) the board members requesting access to them. It ensures that a school district official is present at all times when a requesting board member accesses the verbatim recording/closed session minutes. The requirement is meant to prevent misuse and removal of the verbatim recording/closed session minutes from the district offices or official storage location. It is also meant to protect the board member who requests the access from being alone and in a situation where the board member could potentially be accused of tampering with or taking the verbatim recording/closed session minutes.

Consult the board attorney about:

recordings is available at the District's administrative offices or the verbatim recording's official storage location.<sup>28</sup> Requests shall be made to the Superintendent or Board President. While a Board member is listening to a verbatim recording, it shall not be re-recorded or removed from the District's main office or official storage location, except by vote of the Board or by court order. <sup>29</sup>

Before making such requests, Board members should consider whether such requests are germane to their responsibilities, service to District, and/or Oath of Office in policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*. 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. <sup>30</sup>

#### Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means <sup>31</sup>

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.

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1. The practice of sending an *appointed* board member to be present with a board member who requests access to verbatim recordings/closed session minutes. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e) states, "any *elected* official of the public body;" appointed is not listed but is mentioned elsewhere in the language of this section of the law;
2. Access to verbatim recordings/closed session minutes by other officials employed by the district, e.g., superintendent or other high-level administrators and even the board attorney; and
3. How this law affects the sharing of closed session minutes with board members prior to a meeting at which the closed session minutes will be approved.

The intent of P.A. 99-515, which amended 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e), was to manage a board member's *individual* request for access to these items in the board member's individual capacity (see sample policy 2:80, *Board Member Oath and Conduct*), not change prior practices in regard to other officials and board attorneys or the required work of school boards under various laws. While many attorneys do not interpret the law to restrict access or change procedures for these other high-level school officials and attorneys employed by the district, some attorneys do, and it is important to obtain legal advice on this specific issue.

<sup>28</sup> Id.

<sup>29</sup> Id.

<sup>30</sup> This paragraph is optional. It provides boards an opportunity to discuss and encourage each member to carefully think about purposes for their requests to listen to verbatim recordings, which historically has been and should continue to be to "access information relevant to the exercise of duties" for the public body. Intra-board conflicts may escalate if the recording is used to confirm or dispute who said what. Prior to P.A. 99-515, OMA did (and still does) allow boards to release these types of information. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e). Board members should evaluate whether their requests under 5 ILCS 120/2.06(e) are "relevant to the exercise of their duties" before making such requests. Confirming or disputing who said what diverts resources away from operations of the district in educating its students. Additional considerations in listening to verbatim recordings may include personnel and student records confidentiality issues, which should be discussed with the board attorney.

<sup>31</sup> 5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7, amended by P.A.s 103-311 and 104-438. See also 105 ILCS 5/10-6 (regular and special meetings) and 5/10-12 (quorum). In order to allow attendance by video or audio means, a board must adopt a policy conforming to the restrictions in OMA. The statute requires the board member who wishes to attend remotely to notify the "recording secretary or clerk of the public body." The policy includes the superintendent as a possible person to receive the notice. Everything in this section is required aside from provisions on the length of notification that is given the secretary and the process for accommodating the request. Alternatively, a board may: (1) prohibit members from participating by video or audio means by omitting this section, (2) add other requirements, or (3) alter the 24-hour notification. Note that the statute does not contemplate someone either approving or denying a request, only that the request be accommodated if the notification is provided.

In a non-binding opinion, the PAC found a public body violated OMA when it allowed a board member to join a closed session meeting remotely without first taking action at that particular meeting in open session to approve the remote participation. 2019 PAC 57660. Therefore, even with the adoption of this policy to approve remote participation, best practice is to ensure the public is informed of any board members that are participating remotely for a particular board meeting. Consult the board attorney for advice on whether the board should take action every time it wishes to permit a member to participate remotely or in those instances where a board member objects to such participation.



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, (3) a family or other emergency, (4) unexpected childcare obligations, or (5) performance of *active military duty* as a *service member*. 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.

#### No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video; Disaster Declaration <sup>32</sup>

The ability of the Board to meet in person with a quorum physically present at its meeting location may be affected by the Governor or the Director of the Ill. Dept. of Public Health issuing a disaster declaration related to a public health emergency.<sup>33</sup> The Board President or, if the office is vacant or the President is absent or unable to perform the office's duties, the Vice President determines that an in-person meeting or a meeting conducted under the **Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video Means** subhead above, is not practical or prudent because of the disaster declaration; if neither the President nor Vice President are present or able to perform this determination, the Superintendent shall serve as the duly authorized designee for purposes of making this determination. <sup>34</sup>

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Conflicting obligations to an employer may provide a permissible reason for a board member's attendance by video or audio conference. PAO 24-7. A board member does not have to show that it would be unfeasible to commute from a work assignment to the meeting location to participate remotely. *Id.*

OMA borrows the definition for *active military duty* from the Service Member Employment and Reemployment Act, 330 ILCS 61/1-10. 5 ILCS 120/7(a), amended by P.A. 104-438. It means any full-time military service regardless of length or voluntariness, including, but not limited to, annual training, full-time National Guard Duty, and State active duty. 330 ILCS 61/1-10. *Service member* means a resident of Illinois who is a member of any component of the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard of any state, D.C., a commonwealth, or territory of the U.S. 5 ILCS 120/7(a), amended by P.A. 104-438.

<sup>32</sup> 5 ILCS 120/2.01 and 120/7(e)(1)-(10). See also 105 ILCS 5/10-6 (regular and special meetings) and 5/10-12 (quorum). During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, Ill. Gov. Pritzker issued Executive Order (EO) 2020-07 pursuant to 20 ILCS 3305/7 (disaster proclamation due to public health emergency) that temporarily suspended OMA's physical quorum requirement. The Governor extended this OMA relief through subsequent Executive Orders as the crisis continued. In June of 2020, 5 ILCS 120/7 was enacted, immediately requiring public bodies to meet a number of conditions before suspending the physical quorum requirement. Boards must remember that public comment is still required when a quorum is not physically present at the meeting location.

<sup>33</sup> The phrase "due to public health emergency" aligns with Ill. Emergency Management Agency Act (IEMAA), 20 ILCS 3305/4 and 7, which provides the governor with the power to declare a disaster. 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(1) uses the phrase "related to public health concerns because [the governor has declared] a disaster" and while not aligning with IEMAA text, means "public health emergency." For ease of understanding and alignment with IEMAA, this policy uses "public health emergency."

To avoid confusion, note that the triggers under 5 ILCS 120/7(e) for when a school board may conduct its meetings by audio or video conference without the physical presence of a quorum are a bit more broad than the School Code's triggers to implement remote and/or blended remote learning days (RLD/BRLDs). OMA states (1) the "governor **or the director of IDPH** has issued a disaster declaration of a disaster as defined in 20 ILCS 3305/ ...." This means that it is possible for the board to meet remotely if the director of IDPH declares a disaster under OMA, but that may not mean a district must implement RLD/BRLDs because the School Code states that the governor must declare the disaster.

<sup>34</sup> 5 ILCS 120/7(e)(2) states "the head of the public body as defined in [the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 ILCS 140/2(e), FOIA]." FOIA defines *head of the public body* to mean the *president* or "such person's duly authorized designee." 5 ILCS 140/2(e). Sample policy 2:110, *Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers*, designates the vice president to perform the duties of the president if that office is vacant or he or she is absent or unable to perform the office's duties.

The individual who makes this determination for the Board shall put it in writing, include it on the Board's published notice and agenda for the audio or video meeting and in the meeting minutes,<sup>35</sup> and ensure that the Board meets every OMA requirement for the Board to meet by video or audio conference without the physical presence of a quorum. <sup>36</sup>

#### Rules of Order

Unless State law or Board-adopted rules apply, the Board President, as the presiding officer, will use the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as a guide when a question arises concerning procedure. <sup>37</sup>

#### Broadcasting and Recording Board Meetings

Any person may record or broadcast an open Board meeting.<sup>38</sup> 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, 120/2.06, and 120/7, Open Meetings Act.  
105 ILCS 5/10-6, 5/10-7, 5/10-12, and 5/10-16.

CROSS REF.: 2:80 (Board Member Oath and Conduct), 2:110 (Qualifications, Term, and Duties of Board Officers), 2:150 (Committees), 2:200 (Types of School Board Meetings), 2:210 (Organizational School Board Meeting), 2:230 (Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board)

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For practical purposes if a disaster is declared due to a public health concern, this policy designates the superintendent as “[the president or vice president’s] duly authorized designee” pursuant to the authority of 5 ILCS 140/2(e) for the board to move forward with the required determination to meet by audio or video with no physical presence of a quorum.

<sup>35</sup> While this phrase of the sentence is not required in OMA, many attorneys agree that transparency best practices in this situation include the individual making the determination to: (1) put it in writing referring to the specific disaster declaration applicable to the board’s jurisdiction and the public health concern/public health emergency that applies to not having an in-person meeting; and (2) include that written determination (a) on the board’s published notice and agenda for the audio or video meeting, and (b) in the meeting minutes.

<sup>36</sup> See sample exhibit 2:220-E9, *Requirements for No Physical Presence of Quorum and Participation by Audio or Video During Disaster Declaration*.

<sup>37</sup> Boards are not required to follow any particular rules of order. Rules, however, must be in writing and available for public inspection, in order to have any legal effect. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.5.

<sup>38</sup> The public’s right to record meetings must be addressed in board policy. 5 ILCS 120/2.05. However, a provision requiring advance notice to record a meeting is invalid. PAO 12-10.