

## 15. Meetings Procedure Policy

Members of the school community are encouraged to take an active interest in the school and its performance and are welcome to attend all Board meetings within the Public Attending Board Meetings Procedure (see page 25).

Board Meetings;

### General:

- Meetings are held as per the triennial review schedule with dates confirmed each December for the following year.
- Board minutes will be taken by a non-member paid on a commercial basis on contract.
- The quorum shall be more than half the members of the board currently holding office. \*
- Only apologies received from those who cannot be present must be recorded. Members who miss three consecutive meetings without the prior leave of the Board, cease to be members. An apology does not meet the requirement of prior leave. To obtain prior leave a trustee must request leave from the board at a Board meeting and the Board must make a decision. \*
- The Presiding Member shall be elected at the first meeting of each calendar year except in the general election year where it will be the first meeting of the newly elected Board. \*
- The Presiding Member may exercise a casting vote in the case of equality of votes, in addition to his/her deliberative vote. \*
- Any member with a declared conflict of interest in any issue shall not take part in any debate on such issues and may be asked to leave the meeting for the duration of the debate\* (refer to Conflict of Interest Policy).
- Only members have automatic speaking rights.
- The Board delegates (and minutes) powers under the relevant section of the Education and Training Act, 2020.
- The Board delegates (and minutes) authority to the Deputy Principal in the times of absence on the Principal.
- The amount the Presiding Member and other Board members are paid for attendance at board meetings is set by the Board. Currently the chair receives **\$75** per Board meeting and Board members receive **\$50** per Board meeting. There is no payment for committee or working party meetings.
- Attendance fees are non-taxable within the agreed nontaxable amounts of \$605 annually for trustees and \$825 for the chair.

### Time of Meeting:

- Regular meetings commence at **5.00pm** and conclude by **7.30pm**.
- A resolution for an extension of time may be moved but will not normally exceed 30 minutes.



- Any business remaining on the agenda at the conclusion of the meeting is transferred to the following meeting.

#### **Special Meetings:**

- A special meeting may be called by delivery of notice to the Presiding Member signed by at least a third of trustees currently holding office.

#### **Exclusion of the Public:**

- The meeting may, by resolution, exclude the public (going into committee) and news media from the whole or part of the proceedings in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act unless specifically asked to stay. The wording to be used in the motion to exclude the public is found in Schedule 2A of that Act. Excluding the public is most often used to ensure privacy of individuals or financially sensitive issues.\*

#### **Public Participation:**

- The Board meeting is a meeting held in public rather than a public meeting.
- Public participation is at the discretion of the Board.
- Public attending the meeting are given a notice about their rights to participation in the meeting. *Public Attending Board Meetings Procedure* (see p 25).

#### **Motions/Amendments:**

- A motion is a formal proposal for consideration. All motions and amendments moved in debate must be seconded unless moved by the Presiding Member and are then open for debate.
- Motions and amendments once proposed and accepted may not be withdrawn without the consent of the meeting.
- No further amendments may be accepted until the first one is disposed of.
- The mover of the motion has a right of reply.
- A matter already discussed may not be reintroduced at the same meeting in any guise or by way of an amendment.

#### **Tabling Documents:**

- When written information is used in support of a discussion, it should be tabled so that it can be examined by those present. It then forms part of the official record.

#### **Correspondence:**

- The Board should have access to all correspondence. Correspondence that requires the Board to take some action should be photocopied/scanned and distributed prior to the meeting. Other correspondence can be listed and tabled so that members can read it if required.

#### **Termination of debate:**

- All decisions are to be taken by open voting by all members present.



**Lying on the table:**

- When a matter cannot be resolved or when further information is necessary before a decision can be made, the matter can be left unresolved for future discussion.

**Points of order:**

- Points of order are questions directed to the Presiding Member, which require an answer or a ruling. They are not open to debate and usually relate to the rules for the running of a meeting.

**Suspension of Meeting Procedures:**

- Standing Orders may be suspended by resolution of the meeting.

**Agenda:**

- Agenda items are to be notified to the Presiding Member five days prior to the meeting.
- Late items will only be accepted with the approval of the Board and in rare circumstances where a decision is urgent.
- The order of the agenda may be varied by resolution at the meeting.
- All matters requiring a decision of the Board are to be agended as separate meeting items.
- All items in the agenda are to carry a recommended course of action and where appropriate be supplemented by supporting material in the agended documentation.
- The agenda is to be collated with the items placed in the agenda order and marked with the agenda number.
- Papers requiring reading and consideration will not normally be accepted if tabled at the meeting.
- Papers and reports are to be shared to the board two working days before the meeting.

**Minutes:**

- The Principal is to ensure that the secretarial services are provided to the Board.
- The minutes are to clearly show resolutions and action points and who is to complete the action.
- The minutes are distributed within 48 hours of the meeting if possible but definitely within five days prior to the next meeting.

*\* Denotes legal requirement*

*Review Schedule: Triennially*

*Last Reviewed: September 2021*

*Next review: September 2024*

*Signed:*

