

2:232 Temporary Rules for Public Participation at School Board Meetings During COVID-19 Emergency

In furtherance of the ongoing Federal and State mandates and recommendations regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the Board of Education of Winnetka Public School District No. 36 is adopting these temporary rules for public participation during School Board meetings for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During any COVID-19 related disasters declared by the Governor, the Board President may find it is not practical or prudent to hold meetings in person, in whole or in part. To reduce transmission risk and encourage social distancing, Board members shall be allowed to attend all such Board and committee meetings remotely, and the administration shall arrange for an electronic means to enable such remote attendance. During such meetings, all members of the Board or committee, wherever their physical location, will be verified and able to hear one another and hear all discussion and testimony, and all votes shall be by roll call. At least one Board or committee member or the Superintendent shall be physically present at the Administration building, unless not feasible due to disaster. The Board authorizes the administration to consider public health requirements and recommendations in determining whether to allow members of the public to be physically present at the Administration building and/or participate in person during Board meetings. To the extent the public may be physically present, the number and spacing of seats and other conditions may be limited based on public health requirements and recommendations, and the public shall be able to hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the body. To the extent the public's attendance at the regular meeting location is not feasible due to the disaster, the administration shall make alternative arrangements and provide notice to the public to ensure that any interested member of the public has contemporaneous access to the meeting and can hear all discussion, testimony, and roll call votes, such as by offering a telephone number or web-based link.

The administration also shall arrange a means for the public to provide public comments at meetings remotely. Such means may include email or written comments, which shall be read aloud at the meeting if sufficient time permits. To allow the Board to efficiently conduct business, an overall maximum of 30 minutes of public comment shall be provided, unless fewer public comments are received or the Board President chooses to expand the total time for public comment beyond 30 minutes. Based on the number of comments received, to preserve time, the Board President may decline to read written comments aloud or may read only such portions of written comments aloud as time permits, then make the written comments available on the District's website after the meeting. Please note that *Policy 2-230 Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board* applies to all comments, including the individual time limit of 3 minutes per comment under ordinary circumstances.

These temporary rules shall remain in effect until further notice and suspend any contrary policy provisions concerning physical attendance and electronic attendance at Board meetings.

LEGAL REF.:

Executive Order 2020-07 (March 16, 2020)
Executive Order 2020-18 (April 1, 2020)
Executive Order 2020-33 (April 30, 2020)
Executive Order 2020-39 (May 29, 2020)
Executive Order 2020-44 (June 26, 2020)
Executive Order 2020-47 (July 24, 2020)
5 ILCS 120/7(e) (eff. 6/12/20)

CROSS REF.:

2:230: Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings and Petitions to the Board
2:220: Board of Education Meeting Procedure
2:10: School District Governance
4:180 Pandemic Preparedness Preparedness: Management and Recovery

ADOPTED:

July 30, 2020