

Bylaws of the Board

9325.43

Attendance at Meetings via Electronic Communications

Recognizing the inherent responsibility and statutory duties of Board members, the Sharon Board strongly encourages members to attend and participate at all meetings of the Board. Though great importance is given to the physical presence of Board members at meetings, the attendance and participation of members electronically is authorized under limited conditions.

The Board recognizes that factors such as illness, travel, schedule conflicts and weather conditions can make impossible the physical presence of a Board member at a Board meeting, and that electronic communications can enable a Board member to participate in a meeting from a remote location.

A Board member shall be able to attend a Board meeting, and participate in Board deliberations and voting, through electronic communications, but only under extraordinary circumstances. The reason that such attendance is not reasonably practical shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting.

The Board authorizes the administration to provide the equipment required to implement this Board procedure.

Guidelines

A Board member who attends a meeting through electronic communications shall be considered present only if the member can hear everything said at the meeting and all those attending the meeting can hear everything said by that member. If the Board Chairperson determines either condition is not occurring, he/she shall terminate the Board member's attendance through electronic communications.

A quorum of Board members shall be physically present at a Board meeting when a Board member attends through electronic communications.

Any Board member wishing to attend a board meeting thorough electronic communications will:

- a. Notify the Board Chair and Superintendent as early as possible;
- b. Ensure that the remote location is quiet and free from background noise and interruptions;
- c. Participate in the entire Board meeting;
- d. Be permitted to cast votes via the electronic connection;
- e. Identify him/herself by name and be recognized by the Chair before speaking;
- f. When a member attends electronically, all votes shall be held by roll call.

First Reading

(cf. 9321 – Time, Place, Notification of Meetings)

(cf. 9322 – Public and Executive Sessions)

(cf. 9325.1 – Quorum)

(cf. 9325.4 – Voting Method)

(cf. 9326 – Minutes)

(cf. 9327 – Electronic Mail Communications)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-225 Meetings of government agencies, as amended by June 11 Special Session,

PA 08-3

Freedom of Information Commission Advisory Opinion #41 (April 9, 1980)

Bylaw adopted by the Board:

cps 11/10

rev 7/15