

CSBA Sample

Board Bylaw

Board Bylaws

BB 9322(a)

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS

Agenda Content

Governing Board meeting agendas shall reflect the district's vision and goals and the Board's focus on student learning.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

Note: Government Code 54954.2 requires Governing Board meeting agendas to briefly describe each item to be discussed, including closed session items, and states that a brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. For information regarding the different types of meetings and meeting location requirements, see BB 9320 - Meetings and Notices. For agenda requirements regarding closed session agenda items, see BB 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas.

Each agenda shall state the meeting time and place and shall briefly describe each business item to be transacted or discussed, including items to be discussed in closed session. (Government Code 54954.2)

(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

(cf. 9321 - Closed Session Purposes and Agendas)

The agenda shall provide members of the public the opportunity to address the Board on any agenda item before or during the Board's consideration of the item. However, the agenda need not provide an opportunity for public comment when the agenda item has previously been considered at an open meeting of a committee comprised exclusively of Board members, provided that members of the public were afforded an opportunity to comment on the item at that meeting and that the item has not been substantially changed since the committee considered it. (Government Code 54954.3)

The agenda for a regular Board meeting shall also provide members of the public an opportunity to provide comment on matters which are not on the agenda but which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. (Education Code 35145.5; Government Code 54954.3)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5, the agenda for a regular meeting must include the address of the location where the public can inspect any materials that are related to an open session item and are distributed to the Board less than 72 hours before that meeting. See section below entitled "Agenda Dissemination to Members of the Public."

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

Each agenda for a regular meeting shall list the address designated by the Superintendent or designee for public inspection of documents related to an open session item that have been distributed to the Board less than 72 hours before the meeting. (Government Code 54957.5)

Note: Government Code 54954.2 requires that the agenda include information regarding how, when, and to whom a request for a disability-related accommodation or modification may be made. See BB 9320 - Meetings and Notices. The following paragraph should be modified to reflect district practice as to when and to whom such a request should be made.

The agenda shall include information regarding how, when, and to whom a request should be made if an individual requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the Board meeting. (Government Code 54954.2)

Agenda Preparation

The Board president and the Superintendent, as secretary to the Board, shall work together to develop the agenda for each regular and special meeting.

(cf. 9121 - President)

(cf. 9122 - Secretary)

Note: Education Code 35145.5 **mandates** that the Board adopt reasonable regulations to ensure that members of the public can place matters directly related to district business on Board meeting agendas. The following paragraph, including the timeline, should be revised to reflect district practice. Districts are free to establish their own timeline for placing an item on the agenda, taking into account staff time and resources, as long as the established timeline is a reasonable one. In Caldwell v. Roseville Joint Union High School District, a federal district court upheld a district bylaw requiring members of the public to submit a written request in order to place items on a meeting agenda. The plaintiff had alleged that his First Amendment rights were violated when the district did not place his item on the agenda in response to his oral request because the district disagreed with his religious beliefs. However, the court held that the district's bylaw requiring that requests first be made in writing was content-neutral and thus a reasonable restriction.

Any Board member or member of the public may request that a matter within the jurisdiction of the Board be placed on the agenda of a regular meeting. The request shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent or designee with supporting documents and information, if any, at least one week before the scheduled meeting date. Items submitted less than a week before the scheduled meeting date may be postponed to a later meeting in order to allow sufficient time for consideration and research of the issue.

Note: In Mooney v. Garcia, a California appeals court reaffirmed the board's discretion in determining whether an agenda item is related to school district matters.

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

The Board president and Superintendent shall decide whether a request from a member of the public is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Items not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board may not be placed on the agenda. In addition, before placing the item on the agenda, the Board president and Superintendent shall determine if the item is merely a request for information or whether the issue is covered by an existing policy or administrative regulation.

Note: The following paragraph is **optional** and may be revised to reflect district practice.

If the Board president and Superintendent deny a request from a Board member to place an item on the agenda, the Board member may request the Board to take action to determine whether the item shall be placed on the agenda.

The Board president and Superintendent shall also decide whether an agenda item is appropriate for discussion in open or closed session, and whether the item should be an action item subject to Board vote or an information item that does not require immediate action.

Note: The following **optional** paragraph is for boards that use the consent agenda or calendar to take action on matters of a routine nature for which discussion may not be necessary. It is important for such boards to limit the use of the consent agenda to noncontroversial matters and to establish rules that help ensure that any use of the consent agenda does not reduce transparency in the board's conduct of district business or result in violation of the open meeting laws. In addition, boards should be aware that, by law, certain items may not be placed on the consent agenda. For example, pursuant to Government Code 54960.2, a board's decision to approve or rescind its unconditional commitment to refrain from taking certain actions in violation of the Brown Act must be made as a separate item and not on the consent agenda. See BB 9323.2 - Actions by the Board.

In order to promote efficient meetings, the Board may bundle a number of items and act upon them together by a single vote through the use of a consent agenda. Consent items shall be items of a routine nature and items for which Board discussion is not anticipated and for which the Superintendent recommends approval. When any Board member requests the removal of an item from the consent agenda, the item shall be removed and given individual consideration for action as a regular agenda item.

The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to comment on any consent agenda item that has not been previously considered. (Government Code 54954.3)

Any Board action that involves borrowing \$100,000 or more shall be discussed, considered, and deliberated upon as a separate item of business on the meeting agenda. (Government Code 53635.7)

(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

All public communications with the Board are subject to requirements of relevant Board policies and administrative regulations.

(cf. 1312.1 - Complaints Concerning District Employees)
(cf. 1312.2 - Complaints Concerning Instructional Materials)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 1312.4 - Williams Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the District)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

Agenda Dissemination to Board Members

Note: The following section is **optional** and should be modified to reflect district practice. Pursuant to Government Code 6252.7, when the Board, in the conduct of its duties, is authorized by law to access any writing of the district, including agenda and supporting documents, the district is prohibited from discriminating between or among Board members as to when and which records will be made available.

CSBA's Agenda Online, an electronic board meeting agenda service for use by districts, county offices of education, and the public allows development of and access to Board meeting agendas, supporting documents, and minutes from any computer that has Internet access. Further information can be found on CSBA's web site.

At least 72 hours before each regular meeting, each Board member shall be provided a copy of the agenda and agenda packet, including the Superintendent or designee's report; minutes to be approved; copies of communications; reports from committees, staff, and others; and other available documents pertinent to the meeting.

When special meetings are called, Board members shall receive, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, notice of the business to be transacted. (Government Code 54956)

Board members shall review agenda materials before each meeting. Individual members may confer directly with the Superintendent or designee to ask questions and/or request additional information on agenda items. However, a majority of Board members shall not, outside of a noticed meeting, directly or through intermediaries or electronic means discuss, deliberate, or take action on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

(cf. 9012 - Board Member Electronic Communications)

Agenda Dissemination to Members of the Public

Any agenda and related materials distributed to the Board shall be made available to the public upon request without delay. Only those documents which are disclosable public records under the Public Records Act and which relate to an agenda item scheduled for the open session portion of a regular meeting shall be made available to the public. (Government Code 54957.5)

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54954.2, the agenda for a regular meeting of the Board must be posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting on the district's web site, if it has one, and at a location that is freely accessible to the public. The Attorney General has determined in 78 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 327 (1995) that weekend hours may be counted as part of the 72-hour period for posting of the agenda prior to a regular meeting. In the same opinion, the Attorney General found that the term "freely accessible" requires that the agenda be posted in a location where it can be read by the public at any time, including evening hours, during the 72 hours immediately preceding the meeting. Also see BB 9320 - Meetings and Notices.

At least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting, the agenda shall be posted at one or more locations freely accessible to members of the public. (Government Code 54954.2)

Note: Government Code 54954.2 requires that the agenda for any meeting occurring on or after January 1, 2019, be posted on the homepage of the district web site, if it has one, in accordance with law. Districts that use an integrated agenda management platform, such as CSBA's Agenda Online, may provide a link to access agendas posted on the platform. Pursuant to Government Code 54954.2, the link must not be solely accessible through a contextual menu, and the agenda must be posted in a format which is retrievable, downloadable, indexable, electronically searchable by commonly used Internet search applications, and without any restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the agenda.

The Attorney General has opined (99 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 11 (2016)) that the Brown Act regular meeting online agenda posting provision contained within Government Code 54954.2 is not necessarily violated when a local agency's web site experiences technical difficulties that cause the agenda to become inaccessible to the public for a portion of the 72 hours that precede the scheduled meeting. If the local agency has otherwise substantially complied with the Brown Act agenda posting requirements, the legislative body may lawfully hold its regular meeting as scheduled.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall post the agenda on the homepage of the district web site. The posted agenda shall be accessible through a prominent direct link to the current agenda or to the district's agenda management platform in accordance with Government Code 54954.2. When the district utilizes an integrated agenda management platform, the link to that platform shall take the user directly to the web site with the district's agendas, and the current agenda shall be the first available. (Government Code 54954.2)

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)

If a document which relates to an open session agenda item of a regular Board meeting is distributed to the Board less than 72 hours prior to a meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall make the document available for public inspection at a designated location at the same time the document is distributed to all or a majority of the Board. (Government Code 54957.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall mail a copy of the agenda or a copy of all the documents constituting the agenda packet to any person who requests the items. The materials shall be mailed at the time the agenda is posted or upon distribution of the agenda to a majority of the Board, whichever occurs first. (Government Code 54954.1)

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

Any request for mailed copies of agendas or agenda packets shall be in writing and shall be valid for the calendar year in which it is filed. Written requests must be renewed following January 1 of each year. (Government Code 54954.1)

Note: The following **optional** paragraph is for use by districts that charge a fee for mailing the agenda or agenda packet. Government Code 54954.1 authorizes districts to charge a fee for mailing the agenda or agenda packet as long as the fee does not exceed the cost of providing the service. Pursuant to Government Code 54957.5, a surcharge may not be imposed for providing the agenda and other public record documents in alternative formats to persons with disabilities.

Persons requesting mailing of the agenda or agenda packet shall pay an annual fee, as determined by the Superintendent or designee, not to exceed the cost of providing the service.

Any document prepared by the district or Board and distributed during a public meeting shall be made available for public inspection at the meeting. Any document prepared by another person shall be made available for public inspection after the meeting. These requirements shall not apply to a document that is exempt from public disclosure under the Public Records Act. (Government Code 54957.5)

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54954.1, upon request, the agenda and supporting documentation must be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 USC 12132). Examples of alternative formats, also referred to as "auxiliary aids and services," are listed in 28 CFR 36.303 and include accessible electronic and information technology, audio recordings, or Braille materials.

Upon request, the Superintendent or designee shall make the agenda, agenda packet, and/or any writings distributed at the meeting available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. (Government Code 54954.1)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

AGENDA/MEETING MATERIALS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35144 *Special meetings*

35145 *Public meetings*

35145.5 *Right of public to place matters on agenda*

GOVERNMENT CODE

6250-6270 *Public Records Act*

53635.7 *Separate item of business*

54954.1 *Mailed agenda of meeting*

54954.2 *Agenda posting requirements; board actions*

54954.3 *Opportunity for public to address legislative body*

54954.5 *Closed session item descriptions*

54956.5 *Emergency meetings*

54957.5 *Availability of public records*

54960.2 *Challenging board actions; cease and desist*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12101-12213 *Americans with Disabilities Act*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.160 *Effective communications*

36.303 *Auxiliary aids and services*

COURT DECISIONS

Mooney v. Garcia, (2012) 207 Cal.App.4th 229

Caldwell v. Roseville Joint Union High School District, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 66318

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

99 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 11 (2016)

78 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 327 (1995)

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Call to Order: A Blueprint for Great Board Meetings, 2015

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2014

ATTORNEY GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Legislative Bodies, rev. 2003

WEB SITES

CSBA, Agenda Online: <http://www.csba.org>

California Attorney General's Office: <http://www.oag.ca.gov>

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Policy Reference UPDATE Service

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CSBA Sample

Board Bylaw

Board Bylaws

BB 9324(a)

MINUTES AND RECORDINGS

Note: The following **optional** bylaw should be modified to reflect district practice.

The Governing Board recognizes that maintaining accurate minutes of Board meetings helps foster public trust in Board governance and provides a record of Board actions for use by district staff and the public.

(cf. 9000 - Role of the Board)
(cf. 9005 - Governance Standards)
(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

The secretary of the Board shall keep minutes and record all official Board actions. The Board's minutes shall be public records and shall be made available to the public upon request. (Education Code 35145, 35163)

(cf. 1340 - Access to District Records)
(cf. 9122 - Secretary)
(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

The minutes of Board meetings shall include, but not be limited to:

Note: Pursuant to Government Code 54952 and Education Code 35164, a "meeting" occurs when a majority of the Board is present and a Board action requires a majority vote of the Board. Thus, the minutes should reflect any occasion on which a member is not present for the entire meeting in order to document that a majority of the Board remained in attendance throughout the meeting.

1. A notation of which Board members are present, in person or by teleconference, and whether a member is not present for part of the meeting due to late arrival and/or early departure

(cf. 9250 - Remuneration, Reimbursement and Other Benefits)
(cf. 9320 - Meetings and Notices)

2. A brief summary of the Board's discussion on each agenda topic, rather than a verbatim record of each Board member's specific points of view during the discussion
3. A summary of the public comments made on agendized items and unagendized topics
4. The specific language of each motion and the names of the Board members who made and seconded the motion

MINUTES AND RECORDINGS (continued)

Note: Item #5 is for use by districts that maintain high schools and have one or more student Board members. Pursuant to Education Code 35012, student Board members are allowed to cast preferential votes on open session items before the official vote of the Board. Preferential votes are recorded in the minutes but not counted as a vote for the purpose of taking Board action. See BB 9150 - Student Board Members.

5. Preferential votes cast by student Board member(s) (Education Code 35012)

(cf. 9150 - Student Board Members)

6. Any action taken by the Board, and the vote or abstention on that action of each Board member present (Education Code 35145; Government Code 54953)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 49073.2, as added by SB 1036 (Ch. 788, Statutes of 2018), the district is prohibited from including in its minutes a student's directory information, as defined in Education Code 49061, or a parent/guardian's personal information, as defined in Education Code 49073.2, when the student or parent/guardian requests that such information be excluded. For further information about the types of information that are categorized as directory information, see AR 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information.

Upon request by a student's parent/guardian, or by the student if age 18 or older, the minutes shall not include the student's or parent/guardian's address, telephone number, date of birth, or email address, or the student's name or other directory information as defined in Education Code 49061. The request to exclude such information shall be made in writing to the secretary or clerk of the Board. (Education Code 49073.2)

(cf. 5125.1 - Release of Directory Information)

Note: The following paragraph is **optional** and may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Board agenda shall include a statement of the option and process for students and parents/guardians to request that such information be excluded from the minutes.

The Superintendent or designee shall distribute a copy of the "unapproved" minutes of the previous meeting(s) with the agenda for the next regular meeting. The Board shall approve the minutes as circulated or with necessary amendments.

Note: The following **optional** paragraph is for use by districts which have their approved minutes signed by a Board officer or designee and should be modified to reflect the appropriate position.

Upon approval by the Board, the minutes shall be signed by _____.

Note: Pursuant to 5 CCR 16023, minutes and official actions of the Board must be classified and retained in accordance with 5 CCR 16022. See BP/AR 3580 - District Records.

CSBA's Agenda Online, an electronic board meeting agenda service, allows for the development, storage, and access to Board meeting agendas, supporting documents, and minutes from any computer with Internet access. Further information can be found on CSBA's web site.

MINUTES AND RECORDINGS (continued)

Official Board minutes and recordings shall be stored in a secure location and shall be retained in accordance with law.

(cf. 3580 - District Records)

Note: Although Government Code 54957.2 permits keeping of minutes for closed sessions, districts should consult with legal counsel before making it a practice to do so. Should a court determine that a district has violated the Brown Act, Government Code 54960 allows the court to compel the Board to record its closed sessions. See BB 9323.2 - Actions by the Board.

Any minutes or recordings kept for Board meetings held in closed session shall be kept separately from the minutes or recordings of regular and special meetings. Minutes or recordings of closed sessions are not public records. (Government Code 54957.2)

(cf. 9321.1 - Closed Session Actions and Reports)

Recording or Broadcasting of Meetings

Note: The following **optional** section addresses the recording or broadcasting of meetings by the district.

Pursuant to Government Code 54953.5 and 54953.6, any person attending an open meeting may record or broadcast the meeting, unless the Board makes a reasonable finding that the recording or broadcast cannot continue without noise, illumination, or obstruction of view which would persistently disrupt the meeting. See BB 9323 - Meeting Conduct for language regarding recording by the public.

The district may tape, film, stream, or broadcast any open Board meeting. At the beginning of the meeting, the Board president shall announce that a recording or broadcasting is being made at the direction of the Board and that the recording or broadcast may capture images and sounds of those attending the meeting. As practicable, the recorder or camera shall be placed in plain view of meeting participants.

Any district recording may be erased or destroyed 30 days after the meeting. Recordings made at the direction of the Board during a meeting are public records and, upon request, shall be made available for inspection by members of the public on district equipment without charge. (Government Code 54953.5)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

MINUTES AND RECORDINGS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35012 Number of members; terms; student board members

35145 Public meetings

35163 Official actions, minutes and journals

35164 Vote requirements

49061 Student records; definitions

49073.2 Privacy of student and parent/guardian personal information

GOVERNMENT CODE

54952.2 Meeting defined

54953 Meetings

54953.5 Audio or video recording of proceedings

54953.6 Broadcasting of proceedings

54957.2 Closed sessions; clerk; minute book

54960 Violations and remedies

PENAL CODE

632 Unlawful to intentionally record a confidential communication without consent

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

16020-16027 Classification and retention of records

Management Resources:

CSBA PUBLICATIONS

Call to Order: A Blueprint for Great Board Meetings, 2015

The Brown Act: School Boards and Open Meeting Laws, rev. 2014

WEB SITES

CSBA, Agenda Online: <http://www.agendaonline.com>