

MEETING CONDUCT

1. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- A. “Electronic equipment” means any technology that facilitates real-time public access to meetings, including, but not limited to, telephonic, video or other conferencing platforms.
- B. “Electronic transmission” means any form or process of communication not directly involving the physical transfer of paper or another tangible medium, which (A) is capable of being retained, retrieved and reproduced by the recipient, and (B) is retrievable in paper form by the recipient.

2. Meeting Conduct

- A. Meetings of the Rocky Hill Board of Education (the “Board”) shall be conducted by the Chairperson in a manner consistent with the adopted bylaws of the Board and the provisions of law, including the Freedom of Information Act.
- B. All Board meetings shall commence at, or as close as practicable to, the stated time, provided there is a quorum.
- C. All regular and special Board meetings shall be guided by an agenda that will have been prepared and delivered in advance to all Board members and other designated persons and made available to the public in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
- D. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Board except as otherwise provided by these bylaws.
- E. In the event that a Board meeting is interrupted by any person or group of persons so as to render the orderly conduct of such meeting unfeasible and order cannot be restored by the removal of individuals who are willfully interrupting the meetings, the Chairperson may order the room cleared and continue in session.
 - 1. Only matters appearing on the agenda may be considered in such a session.
 - 2. Duly accredited representatives of the press or other news media, except those participating in the disturbance, shall be allowed to attend any session.
 - 3. Nothing in these bylaws prohibit the Board from establishing a procedure for readmitting an individual or individuals not responsible for willfully disturbing the meeting.

3. Smoking

- A. Smoking of any kind, including using an electronic nicotine or cannabis delivery system or vapor product, will not be permitted in any room in which a meeting of the Board is being conducted, nor during the time immediately prior to the meeting.
- B. When applicable, a sign notifying the public that no smoking is allowed in the room designated for the meeting will be prominently posted.

4. Procedures for Board Member Participation By Means of Electronic Equipment

- A. Effective July 1, 2021, until April 30, 2022, the Board shall provide Board members the opportunity to participate in meetings by means of electronic equipment except that the Board is not required to adjourn or postpone a meeting if a Board member loses the ability to participate because of an interruption, failure, or degradation of that member's connection by electronic equipment, unless the member's participation is necessary to form a quorum. Conditions for participation are as follows:
 - 1. If a quorum of the Board members attends a meeting, other than an executive session, by means of electronic equipment from the same physical location, members of the public must be permitted to attend such meeting in such physical location.
 - 2. Any physical or demonstrable material that is used in the course of the proceedings must be present in the physical location, if any, where the public is located.
 - 3. All those in attendance at the meeting, at whatever location, must be able to hear and identify all participants in the proceeding, including their individual remarks and votes.
 - 4. Any vote taken at a meeting during which a Board member participates by means of electronic equipment shall be taken by roll call, unless the vote is unanimous.
 - 5. The minutes of the meeting shall record a list of Board members who attended the meeting in person and a list of Board members who attended the meeting by means of electronic equipment.

Any Board member who participates orally in a meeting conducted by means of electronic equipment shall made a good faith effort to state such member's name and title, if applicable, at the outset of each occasion that such member participates orally during an uninterrupted dialogue or series of questions and answers.

- B. After April 30, 2022, Board member participation in meetings by means of electronic equipment shall be governed by all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and guidance, as appropriate in effect at the time of such participation.

- C. When a Board member is participating in a meeting by means of electronic equipment, the Chairperson shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the conditions enumerated above are met. In addition, the Chairperson shall take the necessary steps to ensure that a Board member participating by means of electronic equipment has adequate opportunity for participation in Board discussion, including the opportunity to take the floor and make motions.

4. Public Address

- A. The Board may permit any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction during a portion of the Board's regular meetings so designated for such purpose.
 - 1. Two minutes may be allotted to each speaker on a subject matter not listed on the meeting agenda. The Board may modify these limitations at the beginning of a meeting if the number of persons wishing to speak makes it advisable to do so.
 - 2. A Board member shall be appointed by the Chairperson prior to the meeting to act as timekeeper for the meeting, if deemed necessary by the Chairperson.
 - 3. No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the Chairperson, of that person's privilege of address.
 - 4. All speakers must identify themselves by name and address.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes

June Special Session, Public Act No. 21-2, "An Act Concerning Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items to Implement the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2023."

- 1-200 Definitions
- 1-206 Denial of access to public records or meetings. Appeals. Notice. Orders. Civil penalty. Petition for relief from vexatious requester. Service of process upon commission. Frivolous appeals. Appeal re state hazardous waste program records.
- 1-225 Meetings of government agencies to be public. Recording of votes. Schedule and agenda of certain meetings to be filed and posted on web sites. Notice of special meetings. Executive sessions.
- 1-232 Conduct of meetings.
- 19a-342 Smoking prohibited. Exceptions. Signs required. Penalties.

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