

Policy Code 2302: Electronic Participation in Board Meetings

The Washington County Board of Education (the "Board") is committed to conducting its meetings in compliance with the North Carolina Open Meetings Law. To enable all Board members to participate fully in Board meetings, the following requirements shall apply whenever a Board member can only participate in a Board meeting through electronic means:

1. A quorum of the Washington County Board of Education ("the Board") must be physically present at the meeting.
2. The remote participant must be able to hear the Board's discussion and any presentations made to the Board during the meeting.
3. Technical arrangements must be made so that the remote participant's comments can be heard by all present for the meeting, including the public.
4. The remote participant must notify the Board Clerk sufficiently in advance of the meeting to ensure that all requirements for remote participation, including technical and equipment needs can be addressed in advance of the meeting.
5. The remote participant may not vote on any matter.
6. The remote participant will not be included in determining whether a quorum is present for the meeting.
7. The remote participant may not participate in a closed session.
8. The remote participant may not participate in any quasi-judicial proceeding.
9. The Board minutes must reflect that the remote participant was not physically present.
10. A Board member is discouraged from participating remotely in more than 3 regular Board meetings in a 12-month period.
11. In the event of a declared State of Emergency and/or when health or safety of the public, Board members or school system staff may be adversely affected by the presence of Board members in the same meeting room the following rules apply:
 - a. The Board may meet electronically pursuant to this policy without a quorum physically present in the Board meeting space so long as a quorum of the Board is participating whether the individuals are acting remotely or present at the meeting.
 - b. Remote participants may vote on matters before the Board as if they are present for the meeting.
 - c. The Board may hold a closed session if otherwise allowed by law when it would be unreasonable to wait until a future in-person meeting to hold the closed session, and when the Board can confirm that the technology being used does not allow anyone who would not be allowed to participate in the closed session to intercept or participate in the closed session.
 - d. The Board should take reasonable precautions to limit voting actions to those items which must be voted on at that time or within the time that an in-person meeting could safely and conscientiously occur.
 - e. The Board shall make a reasonable attempt to allow for:
 - i. Real time transmission of audio of the meeting to the public, and if such transmission is not possible, then a reasonable attempt to publish the audio and video, if any, on the town's website as soon as reasonably possible;
 - ii. Public participation during a public comment period if the meeting is a regular meeting and the only regular meeting of the Board that month; and

- iii. Public participation for any public hearings required by law for the decisions being made during the meeting.
- f. The Board should also consider taking action at the next meeting where a quorum is physically present to ratify any actions taken electronically under this provision which occurred without a physically present quorum and without all the necessary votes for the action physically present in the meeting space.

Carlos Redduk
Board Chairperson

ATTEST:

J. Mann
Secretary of the Board (Superintendent)

Date adopted: March 23, 2020

Motion to adopt by Board member Ruffin Gill

Motion seconded by Board member Lois Clark

Vote: 5 YES 0 NAYS